

Chapter 8: Archaeological Excavation on Beaver Island

by Deborah L. Rotman, Kasia Ahern, Rhiannon Duke, Bianca Fernandez, and Jackie Thomas

The archaeological field investigation was conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (38 FR 44716) and current guidelines of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. All activities were conducted under the direction of Dr. Deb Rotman, Director of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Professional Specialist, Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame.

Field investigations were conducted between July 5-22, 2010 at the Peter Doney Gallagher Homestead (20CX201) (Figure 8.1). Standing structures included a domestic residence, a well house with shed, and an outhouse. No barns or other agricultural outbuildings were extant.

Field conditions were of mixed quality. Some days were lovely with mild temperatures and bright sunshine. More than 1/3 of our field days, however, were affected by extreme heat with temperatures over 90° and heat indices well over 100°. Field technicians were all students from the University of Notre Dame, including Kasia Ahern, Bianca Fernandez, and Jackie Thomas. Rhiannon Duke was primarily responsible for oral history and archival work while we were on Beaver Island, but also joined us in the field one day.

Ground conditions at the time of the investigation consisted of over-grown lawn with 0% surface visibility (Figure 8.2). Methods of investigation included hand-excavated units. We excavated 14 units during the course of the project for a total of 14 m² (Figure 8.3). Units were placed around the yard, sampling the midden deposits near the front door, in the front yard, near the rear door, in the rear yard, and in an area of a clearly identified trash dump behind the well house.

Units were excavated in arbitrary 3 cm or natural levels depending on the stratigraphy present (plow zone versus buried A-horizon). Excavation was terminated 10 cm into culturally sterile subsoil. All soil was screened through ¼ inch mesh. The trash dump was excavated in this manner as well. All cultural materials recovered from the site were analyzed and temporarily curated at the University of Notre Dame along with all attendant documentation (Accession #2010.01). Upon completion of the analyses and final reporting, all project materials – notes, maps, artifacts, and other data – will be curated with the Beaver Island Historical Society.

After each day's excavation was completed, the clearly provenienced artifact bags were transported to the archaeological laboratory at the Central Michigan University Biological Station. Upon arrival at the laboratory, each bag was catalogued and assigned an inventory number. The contents of each bag were cleaned, sorted, counted, and weighed. Preliminary processing and analysis occurred while still on Beaver Island. Additional processing and more detailed analyses were completed in the Reyniers lab at the University of Notre Dame during two dedicated weeks at the end of the field season (July 25-August 5, 2010) and the subsequent academic year. Laboratory processing, identification, and cataloguing were completed according to standard archaeological protocol and in compliance with guidelines established by the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Department of Natural Resources.



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Figure 8.2. Field conditions on the first day of excavation at the Gallagher Homesite (20CX201). Photograph taken by the author.

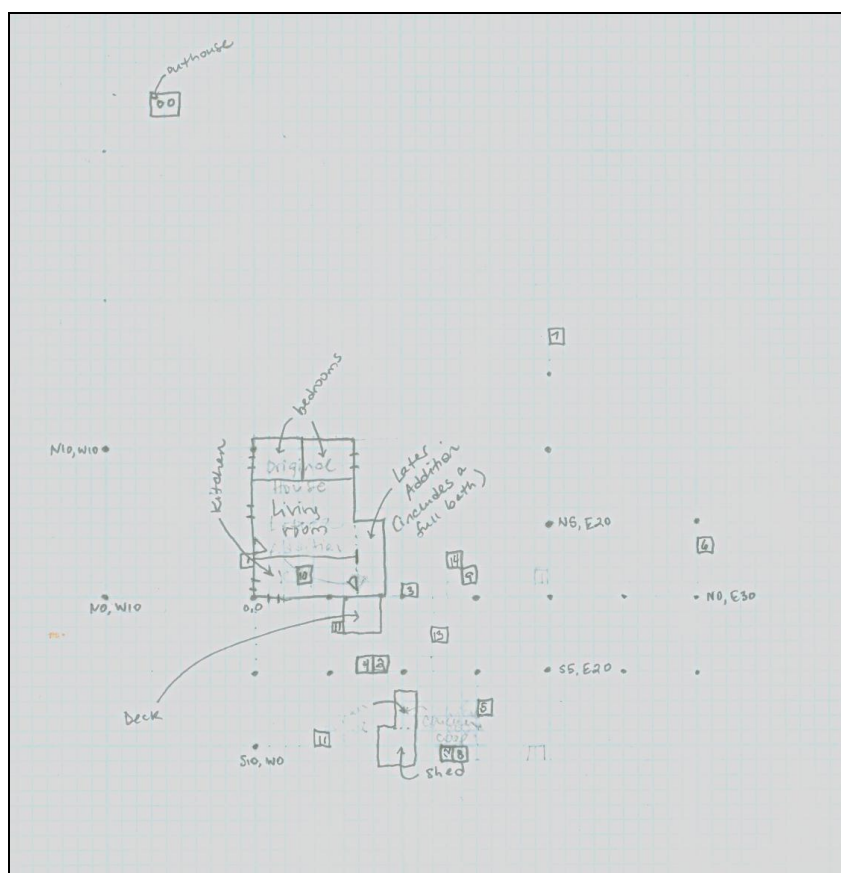


Figure 8.3. A hand-sketched site map showing locations of excavation units. Each square = 1 m². North is to the top of the page. A properly drafted field map will be included in the final report.

Unit Summaries

We excavated 14 1 x 1 m units during the course of the project for a total of 14 m². Each team of student excavators prepared a narrative summary of the excavation of each test unit, which are presented below:

Unit Number: 1

Coordinates: N3 W1

Excavators: Jacqueline Thomas, Catherine Ahern, Bianca Fernandez, Deb Rotman

Dates of Excavation: 6 July, 2010- 8 July, 2010

The unit location was chosen because of its proximity to the front of the homestead. The excavation team thought the unit would have a good amount of cultural deposits because the residents of the house may have swept debris out and around the front door and on to the front lawn. The unit matrix was excavated using a trowel throughout the entire excavation. A Constant Volume Sample (CVS) of 1 liter (1L) was taken at the SW corner of the unit for every level, beginning with Level 2. The soil recovered during the entire excavation was screened through quarter inch (1/4in) mesh. The soil was described using the 10YR Munsell Color Chart. Starting at Level 2, there was a noticeable difference between the color of the soil closer to the house and that of the soil farther from the house. The datum for this unit was in the southwest (SW) corner. Levels 0-6 were excavated on July 6, 2010. Levels 7-12 were excavated on July 7, 2010. Levels 13-17 were excavated on July 8, 2010.

Level 0

The excavation objectives for Level 0 were to clear the level of grass, check for surface features, and prepare the unit for excavation. The beginning elevations (cm) were as follows: SW 10, NW 8, Center 4.5. The unit had a significant upward slope toward the house (east). The site had an active ground surface and an un-manicured lawn so the first thing that was done to the level was to clear it of the grass. No artifacts were observed on the surface of the unit. The soil of this level was moist and had no inclusions.

Level 1

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 1 were as follows: NE N/A, SE N/A, SW 10, NW 8, Center 4.5. The excavation objectives for this level were to remove the active humus layer and to check for features and artifacts. The humus layer was removed with a spade. The layer was about twice (2X) as thick closer to the side of the house. There were no distinct features observed. The artifact density is low; several nails, warped metal, glass, lead piece and an asbestos siding sample were recovered. The soil color and texture are homogeneous across the level. The soil had a Munsell number of 2/2, described as “very dark brown”. The texture of the soil was sandy loam. The moisture content was damp, but not wet. The inclusions in the soil were a few pebbles and were found on the east side of the matrix. The depth of excavation for this level began at 4.5cm and ended at 12cm.

Level 2

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 2 were as follows: NE 11, SE 12, SW 11.5, NW 10.5, Center 9. The excavation objectives for this level were to level out the soil of the unit and begin the excavation of the anticipated culture levels. The artifact density of this level continues to be low. The artifacts were classified primarily as architectural debris. The artifacts recovered included four round nails and samples of asbestos siding. It rained briefly during the excavation of this level. The differences observed may be related to deposits within the dripline (thus a higher moisture content) and those beyond the dripline with a lower moisture content; hence, the color difference. The Munsell reading for the soil farther from the house was 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”, and the reading for the soil closest to the house was 2/1 which is described as “black”. The soil texture farther from the house was gritty, sandy loam while the soil closer to the house had a loam texture that was less sandy. The soil farther from the house was moist while the soil

closer to the house was damp. There were a few pebbles found in protruding from the soil that was farther from the house. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 2 were as follows: NE 12, SE 12, SW 11.6, NW 12.5, Center 12. The depth of excavation began at 9cm and ended at 12cm.

Level 3

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 3 were as follows: NE 12, SE 12, SW 11.5, NW 12.5, Center 12. The excavation objective for this level was to continue the excavation of the midden. The artifact density increased. The artifacts recovered included lots of nails, both round and square, a straight pin, a possible prehistoric toy in the shape of a ceramic sphere. The square nails were particularly exciting because they are indicative of the 19th century. The soil closer to the house was classified with the Munsell number 2/1 and had a color description of “black”. The texture was sandier and less loamy than in the previous level. There were lots of pebbles and bigger rocks. The soil further from the house had a Munsell reading of 4/3, or “brown, and had fewer, smaller pebbles than the soil closer to the house. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 3 were as follows: NE 14, SE 15, SW 14.5, NW 16.5, Center 13. The depth of excavation began at 11.5cm and ended at 16.5cm.

Level 4

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 4 were as follows: NE 14, SE 15, SW 14.5, NW 16.5, Center 13. The excavation objective was again to excavate the matrix and to sample cultural deposits and observe soil changes. The artifact density was slightly lower in this level compared to the previous level. The artifacts recovered included nails and a door hinge. The soil around the recovered nails had been rusting. The soil closer to the house had a Munsell reading of 2/1, or “black, and was sandier than that farther from the house. It was damp and had protruding pebbles and fine roots. The soil farther from the house had a Munsell reading of 3/3, or “dark brown”, and was sandy, fine, and had not as much loam as the soil closer to the house. This soil was drying and contained pebbles and fine roots. The depth of excavation began at 13cm and ended at 17cm. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 4 were as follows: NE 16.5, SE 16, SW 15.5, NW 17, Center 16.5.

Level 5

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 5 were as follows: NE 16.5, SE 16, SW 15.5, NW 17, Center 16.5. The excavation objective for this level was to continue to sample cultural deposits and observe soil changes. The artifact density increased in this level. The artifacts recovered included nails and a sherd. The large number of nails recovered may correspond with the original construction of the house. The soil closer to the house had a Munsell reading of 3/1, or “very dark gray”, and had a grainy sand texture. This soil was drying. Closer to the house, there were many more fine, long roots protruding from the soil. The soil farther from the house had a Munsell reading of 3/4, or “dark yellowish brown”, and had a grainy texture. This soil was damp. Pebbles were found across the level. The depth of excavation of this level began 13cm and ended at 20cm. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 5 were as follows: NE 19, SE 20, SW 18, NW 18, Center 20.

Level 6

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 6 were as follows: NE 19, SE 20, SW 18, NW 18, Center 20. The excavation objective was to continue the sampling of the midden and observe changes in soil color and texture. There was an increased artifact density. The artifacts recovered included were nails, which are classified as architectural debris. The soil closer to the house had a Munsell reading of 3/1, or “very dark gray” and had a texture that was finer and more grainy than in the previous level. This soil was classified as “drying” and had inclusions of pebbles and roots. The soil further from the house had a Munsell reading that was 4/3, or “brown” and the texture was considered sandy, grainy and fine. This soil was damper than the soil close to the house. The soil generally had more of an orange tint to it, which may have been inclusions within the matrix rather than the possibility that it was interface with culturally sterile subsoils because the quantity of these soils in the matrix did not increase as the excavation continued. This soil included bigger pebbles and longer rocks. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 6 were as follows: NE 21, SE 20, SW 21, NW 20, Center 20. The depth of excavation is 18cm to 21cm.

Level 7

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 7 were as follows: NE 21, SE 20, SW 21, NW 20, Center 20. Overall, the soil continued to get lighter in this level, but the soil closer to the house was still darker than the soil farther from the house. The artifact density was higher than the previous level. The artifacts recovered included a spectacle lens, a piece of metal, possible fragment of pencil/metal, and some nails. The soil closer to the house had a Munsell reading of 3/1, or “very dark gray”, and the texture is grainy and sandy. This soil is much more damp than the soil further from the house because of the dripline. The soil farther from the house had a Munsell reading of 4/3, or “brown”, and was damp. The texture was also grainy and sandy. There were pebbles and bigger rocks across the level. Some of the pebbles appear to be from the decaying corporate foundation, although gravel is distributed evenly across. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 7 were as follows: NE 23, SE 21, SW 22, NW 22.5, Center 22. The depth of excavation began at 20cm and ended at 23cm.

Level 8

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 8 were as follows: NE 23, SE 21, SW 22, NW 22.5, Center 22. The excavation objective was to continue to sample the midden and obtain any artifacts from the level. Before beginning the excavation of this level, a soil probe was used near the center of the west wall of the unit. The probe revealed that there are still approximately 10cm of the same soil matrix/midden to be excavated. The artifact density was moderate. Artifacts recovered included nails, a piece of pipe, a piece of plaster, and a metal piece. The soil color and texture were consistent with that of the previous level. The soil closer to the house had a Munsell reading of 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The soil farther from the house had a Munsell reading of 4/3, or “brown”. Both soils were damp and had pebbles and big rocks embedded in them. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 8 were as follows: NE 25, SE 25, SW 25, NW 25, Center 25. The depth of excavation began at 21cm and ended at 25cm.

Level 9

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 9 were as follows: NE 25, SE 25, SW 25, NW 25, and Center 25. The artifact density was moderate, but slightly higher than that of the previous level. The artifacts recovered include suspender buckles, nails, and a metal piece. Excavating this level uncovered larger rocks and many pebbles, which were more heavily concentrated on the south side of the unit. The soil color change from dark brown to a significantly lighter brown in mostly the center of the unit so three soil samples were tested with the Munsell kit. The soil was still very dark along the east side of the house (along the dripline). The soil closest to the house had a Munsell reading of 3/1, or “very dark gray”. The Munsell reading for the soil farthest from the house was 4/3, or “brown”. The soil in the center of the unit had a Munsell reading of 4/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. The inclusions found in the soil were pebbles, larger rocks, and some fine roots. The soil had a texture that was sandy/grainy and damp overall, with the dampest region being that closest to the house, along the drip line. The ending elevations for Level 9 were as follows: NE 27, SE 27, SW 27, NW 27, Center 27. The depth of excavation began at 25cm and ended at 27cm.

Level 10

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 10 were as follows: NE 27, SE 27, SW 27, NW 27, Center 27. The excavation objectives were to continue to trowel the unit and to recover artifacts found in this level. The artifact density was low. Artifacts recovered included nails and a sherd. The soil color was lighter farther away from the house (from the center to the west side of the unit). The soil closer to the house had a Munsell reading of 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The soil farther from the house had a Munsell reading of 3/4, or “very dark grayish brown”. The soil was damp, but drying and continued to consist of fine, grainy sand. There continued to be many rocks and smaller pebbles across the unit, but they were still more heavily concentrated on the south side of the unit. There were still many roots in the soil, especially on the east side, closest to the house. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 10 were as follows: NE 29, SE 29, SW 29, NW 29, Center 29. The depth of excavation began at 27 and ended at 29cm.

Level 11

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 11 were as follows: NE 29, SE 29, SW 29, NW 29, Center 29. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to trowel the unit and to recover the artifacts found in the level. The artifact density of the level was low. Artifacts recovered include nails and sherds. The soil color was more uniform across the unit, but still at its darkest right along the side of the house. The soil closer to the house had a Munsell reading of 2/2, or “very dark brown”. The soil farther from the house had a Munsell reading of 4/3, or “brown”. The pebbles are more evenly dispersed across the unit, but still maintain a slightly higher concentration on the south end of the unit. Overall, the soil was sandy, grainy, and damp, with the dampest region being that along the wall of the house. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 11 were as follows: NE 31, SE 31, SW 31, NW 31, Center 31. The depth of excavation began at 29cm and ended at 31cm.

Level 12

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 12 were as follows: NE 31, SE 31, SW 31, NW 31, Center 31. The soil probe was used and showed that 23cm of additional midden were to be excavated so it was decided to increase the depth of excavation to 4cm for each proceeding level of the unit. The artifact density for this level was low, revealing a few nails. The Munsell reading for the soil closest to the house was 4/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. The Munsell reading for the soil farther from the house was 4/3, or “dark yellowish brown”. The soil dried up due to the sunlight. The larger rocks were fewer on this level but there were still many pebbles. There were still fine roots found, especially on the east side of the unit. The soil was still composed of a fine, grainy sand and was damp, but drying. Earthworms were present in the soil, indicating that there was enough organic material in the soil to still possibly reveal cultural material. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 12 were as follows: NE 35, SE 35, SW 35, NW 35, Center 35. The depth of excavation began at 31cm and ended at 35cm.

Level 13

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 13 were as follows: NE 35, SE 35, SW 35, NW 35, Center 35. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to trowel the unit and to recover any artifacts. Artifact density at the level was low, revealing only a few nails. The soil finally began showing color and texture uniformity, including along the drip line. The Munsell reading for the soil closer and farther from the house was 3/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. The soil was grainy and damp. There were pebbles and fine roots included in the sand. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 13 were as follows: NE 39, SE 39, SW 39, NW 39, Center 39. The depth of elevation began at 35cm and ended at 39cm.

Level 14

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 14 were as follows: NE 39, SE 39, SW 39, NW 39, Center 39. The excavation objectives were to continue to trowel the midden until no more artifacts were recovered. The artifact density was low and the only artifact recovered was a single large bolt. The soil continues to be uniform in color and texture and moisture content. The Munsell reading for the soil was 4/3, or “brown”. The texture of the soil was fine, sandy and grainy. The sun was out so the soil was drying. There were small pebbles and very fine and sparse roots across the level. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 14 were as follows: NE 43, SE 43, SW 43, NW 43, Center 43. The excavation began at 39cm and ended at 43cm (Figure 8.4).

Level 15

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 15 were as follows: NE 43, SE 43, SW 43, NW 43, Center 43. The excavation objectives for this level were to excavate the soil and obtain artifacts from the level. At the start of this level, a 50cmx50cm square with a 5cm depth was troweled in the SW corner in order to determine whether there was cultural material in the level. The sample taken revealed that there were some



Figure 8.4. South wall profile at the base of level 14. Photograph taken by Jackie Thomas. Used by permission.

artifacts (two small metal pieces). There were no artifacts recovered from the rest of the level. The artifacts that were recovered from the sample could have been from an earlier level and had accidentally been included in the Level 15 sample, which would explain why there was no other cultural materials found in the level. The Munsell reading for the soil was $3/4$, or “dark yellowish brown”. The soil was grainy and sandy and was drying. There were still pebbles and roots dispersed across the unit. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 15 were as follows: NE 48, SE 48, SW 48, NW 48, Center 48. The depth of excavation began at 43cm and ended at 48cm. The unit was probed and uncovered that the subsoil was not much deeper below this level.

Level 16

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 16 were as follows: NE 48, SE 48, SW 48, NW 48, Center 48. The excavation objectives were to excavate the level until the soil was culturally sterile. Only the east half of the unit (along the wall of the house) was excavated during this level. The middle wall that was created in the unit kept caving in, so it was necessary to keep fixing it and to make sure the walls were tidy enough for profiling. There were no artifacts recovered from this level, therefore it was determined that the culturally sterile subsoil had been reached. There was a definite soil color change at this level. There were sections of ashy gray as well as reddish/orange. The Munsell reading for the soil closer to the house was $5/6$, or “yellowish brown”. The reading for the soil farther from the house was $3/4$, or “dark yellowish brown”. The soil was very sandy and drying. The inclusions of the soil were pebbles and a few very fine roots. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 16 were as follows: NE 69, SE 69, SW 69, NW 69, Center 69. The depth of excavation began at 48cm and ended at 69cm.

Profile

A profile of the south wall was taken for Unit 1 (Figure 8.5). The profile of this unit includes 4 major zones of soil and three smaller zones. There was an active humus layer on top. The first zone, (marked on the profile as Roman numeral I), was also a drying humus layer and had a Munsell reading of 2/2, or “very dark brown”. The second zone (II) was a layer composed of loam, roots, and pebbles. The Munsell reading for this zone was 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The third zone (III) was a gravel layer and had a Munsell reading of 3/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. This zone had drying, grainy sand. The fourth zone (IV) was a small pocket that had a Munsell reading of 3/3, or “dark brown” and was sandy with a lot of rock inclusions. The fifth zone (V) was composed of fine, drying sand and rocks and had a Munsell reading of 3/6, or “dark yellowish brown”. It was the largest zone of the profile. The sixth zone (VI) was another smaller zone that was composed of drying inorganic subsoil and had a Munsell reading of 4/6, or “dark yellowish brown”. The seventh zone (VII) was a small pocket zone that had a Munsell reading of 3/1, or “very dark gray”.

Overall, the unit produced a relatively small amount of artifacts. This could possibly be indicative of how the families used their space. Perhaps, they tried to keep the area in front of their house tidy. It is also possible that the family did not have a high socioeconomic status and therefore were particularly resourceful with their belongings, not disposing of many before getting multiple uses out of them.

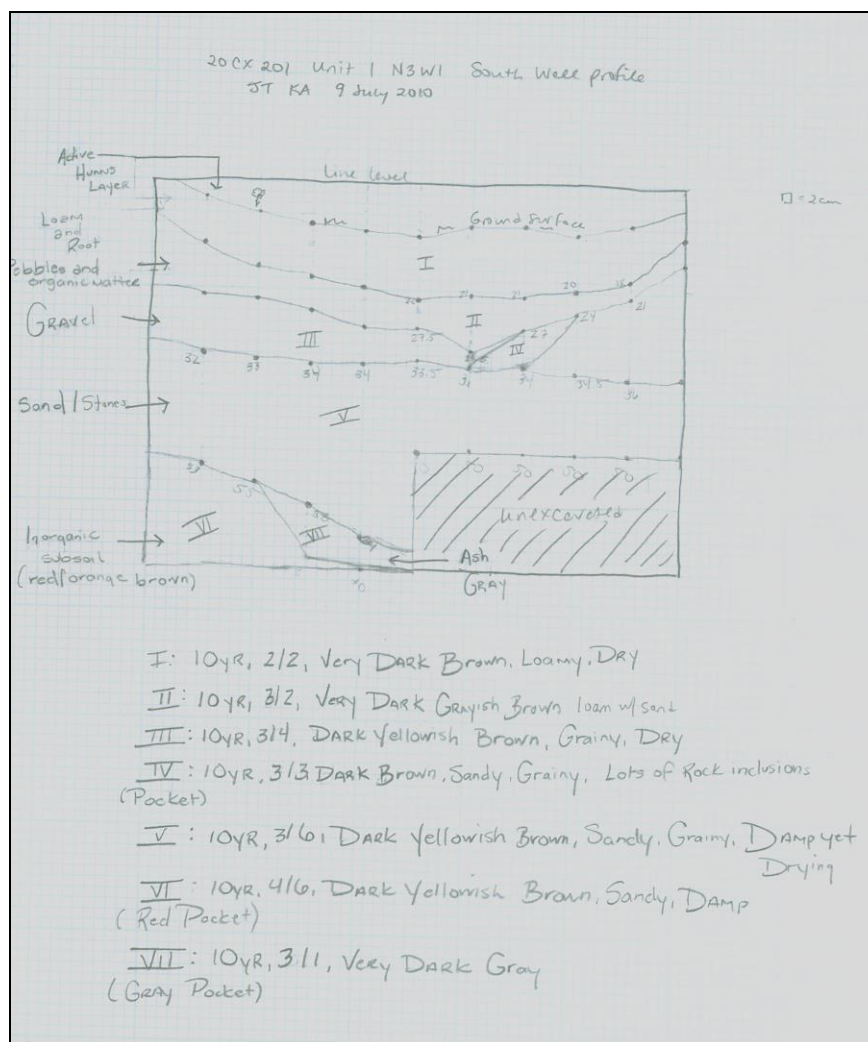


Figure 8.5. A hand-sketched profile of the south wall of Unit 1. A properly drafted profile will be included in the final report.

Unit Number: 2

Coordinates: S5 E8

Excavators: Bianca Fernandez, Deb Rotman

Dates of Excavation: 7 July, 2010- 9 July 2010

The unit location was chosen because it was the space between the back porch (a recent addition) and the possible shed/chicken coop. The excavation team thought the unit would have a fair amount of cultural deposits because the area would have had a great deal of traffic to and from the home. The residents of the home may have also swept out debris to keep the front yard cleaner. The unit matrix was excavated using a trowel as well as some shovel skimming depending on how many centimeters needed to be removed per unit. A Constant Volume Sample (CVS) of 1 liter (1L) was taken at the SW corner of the unit for every level, beginning from Level 2. Additional CVS samples were collected as well as for the various zones that emerged as excavation progressed. The soil recovered during the entire excavation was screened through quarter inch (1/4in) mesh. The soil was described using the 10YR Munsell Color Chart. Starting at Level 2, it was decided to work with the natural slope of the land instead of keeping the unit level at one consistent level. The goal for the measurement difference was 5 cm. The datum for this unit was in the southwest (SW) corner. Levels 0-3 were excavated on July 7, 2010. Levels 5-6 were excavated on July 8, 2010. Levels 7-10 were excavated on July 9, 2010. The Unit 2 west profile was done on July 12, 2010. Level 11 was excavated on July 14, 2010. The Unit 2 and 4 profile was done on July 15, 2010.

Level 0

The objectives for Level 0 were to clear the level of grass, check for surface features, and prepare the unit for excavating the subsequent levels. The beginning elevations (cm) were as follows: NE 6.5, SE 16, SW 9, NW 7, Center 8. The unit had a significant downward slope toward the shed/chicken coop (southeast). The site had an active ground surface and an un-manicured lawn so the first thing that was done to the level was to clear it of the grass. There was a great deal of overgrowth in the area. Some artifacts discovered on the surface of the unit, including a shell (on the interface between the line strung from SW to SE and the area outside the unit) and a piece of aluminum foil.

Level 1

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 1 were as follows: NE 6.5, SE 16, SW 9, NW 7, Center 8. The excavation objectives for this level were to remove the active humus layer and sod and to excavate for cultural deposits. The excavators began the process of removing the active humus layer. It was decided that it would be more prudent to work with the slope of the land and not keep the unit at one measurement. The unit obviously slopes to the south. The goal was to keep about a 5 cm difference between the northern and southern elevations. There were no distinct features observed. There is still some sloping towards the south. The SW quadrant was found to be more pebbly. The sod was trowel cut and screened through a 1/4" mesh. The artifact density is relatively low and consists of modern items: cloth, plastic, pieces of paper, oyster shells, a screw and a blue plastic ribbon. The soil color and texture are homogeneous across the level. The soil had a Munsell number of 3/2, described as "very dark grayish brown". The texture of the soil was loam with sand. The moisture content was dry. The inclusions in the soil were a few pebbles especially in the SW quadrant. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 1 were as follows: NE 11, SE 17, SW 15, NW 10, Center 14. The depth of excavation for this level began at 6.5cm and ended at 17cm, but it is important to keep in mind the goal of 5 cm between the southern and northern quadrant.

Level 2

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 2 were as follows: NE 11, SE 17, SW 15, NW 10, Center 14. The excavation objectives for this level were to level out the soil of the unit with a difference in the elevation of the northern portion and southern portion of 5 cm and the center at approximately 2.5 cm difference between them as well as begin the excavation of the anticipated culture levels. The artifact density of this level continues to be low. The artifacts were a plastic object and a piece of shingle. Once more, because the unit slopes southward toward the chicken coop/shed, it was more prudent to follow the natural contours of

the land. The excavation of the level was 2 cm thick across the unit. The Munsell reading was 3/2 which is described as “very dark grayish brown”. The soil texture was gritty, loam with sand. The moisture content was dry for the most part and the SE corner is a bit damper. Some of the main inclusions were rocks and pebbles. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 2 were as follows: NE 12, SE 17.5, SW 17, NW 12, Center 15. The depth of excavation began at 10cm and ended at 17 cm (2 cm on slope).

Level 3

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 3 were as follows: NE 12, SE 17.5, SW 17, NW 12, Center 14. The excavation objective for this level was to continue the excavation of the midden keeping the slope in mind, aiming at a 4 cm excavation throughout to get past the rock and pebble layer. Based on what was observed from the stratigraphy of unit 1, the excavators decided to increase our excavation interval from 2 cm to 4 cm. Unit 1 demonstrated that there is a greater depth to excavate than previously expected. The matrix was removed both through shovel skimming and troweling and the deposits were screened through ¼” in mesh. The artifact density is still very low. The artifacts recovered included some nails and a piece of black plastic (maybe electrical tape). There is really nothing noteworthy. The Munsell reading was 3/3 which is described as “dark brown”. The soil texture was sandy loam. The moisture content was dry. Some notable inclusions were a high pebble content and a deep root system in the SE quadrant. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 3 were as follows: NE 17, SE 21.5, SW 21, NW 16, Center 17. The depth of excavation began at 12 cm and ended at 21cm (4 cm on a slope).

Level 4

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 4 were as follows: NE 17, SE 21.5, SW 21, NW 16, Center 17. The excavation objective was again to excavate the matrix another 4 cm throughout and to sample cultural deposits. Removed the matrix by shovel skimming and trowel work. The shovel skimming helped to speed up the process. The artifact density was higher in this level compared to the previous level. The artifacts recovered included brick pieces, nails, ceramic sherd, and rusted metal pieces. There was a mottling of soil: dark brown/black with reddish tints. It was due to possible intrusions. There was root activity and earthworms that can all account for the variation of the soil color. Overall, the Munsell reading was 3/2 which is described as “very dark grayish brown” with some areas mottled with soil with a Munsell reading of 4/3 which is described as “brown”. The texture was loamy sand. The moisture content is very dry. Some of the major inclusions were pebbles, some large intrusive rocks, and roots. Some of the large rocks will probably be removed in the next level. It is becoming very difficult to continue with the slope of the land. The excavators may decide to level it out come next level. The depth of excavation began at 16 cm and ended at 27.5 cm. (4 cm on slope). The ending elevations (cm) of Level 4 were as follows: NE 25, SE 27.5, SW 27, NW 24.5, Center 25.

Level 5

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 5 were as follows: NE 25, SE 27.5, SW 27, NW 24.5, Center 25. The excavation objective for this level was to continue to sample the midden and bring the entire unit down to level. There was a higher artifact density and variety and more domestic objects were seen than in previous levels. The artifacts recovered included nails, bone, brick, glass, metal, and ceramic. The matrix was shovel skimmed and troweled and the deposits were screened through a ¼” mesh. A plan view was drawn up to differentiate between Zone A and Zone B. The soil matrix in the SW corner (now referred to Zone A) was more compact than the surrounding matrix. The Munsell reading for Zone A was 3/3 which is described as “dark brown”. The texture was sandy and somewhat compact. The moisture content was somewhat moist. Zone B was a highly mottled matrix with very loose and both light and dark soils. The Munsell reading for zone B was 6/3 which is described as “pale brown” and 4/2 which is described as “dark, grayish brown”. The texture was sandy and brown, loamy sand (respectively). The moisture content was very dry. It is a highly mottled matrix, with very loose and both light and dark soils. The excavators removed some very large rocks, but they did not seem to be in a meaningful arrangement. The roots persist in some scattered parts of the unit. The different zones will be excavated separately. The depth of excavation of this

level began at 25 cm and ended at 31 cm (4 cm with slope). The ending elevations (cm) of Level 5 were as follows: NE 30.5, SE 31, SW 31, NW 30.5, Center 31.

Level 6

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 6 were as follows: NE 30.5, SE 31, SW 31, NW 30.5, Center 31. The excavation objective was to sample the two cultural zones. The matrix was troweled out and no shovel skimming was used. The matrix was screened through ¼" in mesh. CVS was taken from Zone A (SW corner) and Zone B (NE corner). As digging went underway, there was a noticeable differentiation of soil colors and an additional zone, Zone C, was created. Some roots were still growing. Earthworms were being found. At the base of the level, the three distinct zones were visible. Zone A was marked at level 5 and was more compact than the other layers. The Munsell reading was 3/4 which is described as "dark yellowish brown". The texture was sand. The moisture content was damp. Some inclusions were the large rocks that more or less marked off the zone. The artifacts found in Zone A were nails. Zone B was a dark and damper area. The Munsell reading was 3/2 which is described as "very dark grayish brown". The texture was sandy loam. The moisture content was damp. There is a possible buried A horizon with possible cultural deposits buried underneath. The artifacts found in Zone B were glass, nails, and burnt wood. Zone C was the sandy layer and much lighter in color. The Munsell reading was 6/3 which is described as "pale brown." The texture was sand. The moisture content was dry. Throughout all three zones, the inclusions were pebbles and roots. The overall artifact density level was moderate. A profile was drawn to differentiate the different zones. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 6 were as follows: NE 35, SE 36, SW 36, NW 35, Center 37. The depth of excavation is 31 cm to 37cm.

Level 7

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 7 were as follows: NE 35, SE 36, SW 36, NW 35, Center 37. The three zones were sampled and excavated separately. During the excavation, parts of zone A overlaid parts of zone C (the southeast corner), so zone A was excavated out before finishing the excavation on zone C. Two large rocks were removed in zone A. Lots of rocks were found in all the zones. There was a low artifact density throughout. It was hard to keep the zones separate because of the loose nature of the sand. Zone A appeared to be one land surface. Zone C was clearly a fill zone and appeared to be a buried A horizon. Zone C looked like sand that had been brought over from the beach because it is very pale in color and contains water-worn stones. Some charcoal flecks were found in zones A and C. The Munsell reading from zone A was 3/6 which is described as "dark yellowish brown". The texture was loamy sand, and the moisture content was moist. The Munsell reading from zone B was 3/3 which is described as "dark brown". The texture was sand with loam, and the moisture content was very moist. The Munsell reading from zone C was 5/4 which is described as "yellowish brown". The texture was sand, and the moisture content was dry. The inclusions throughout the various zones were rocks, pebbles and some minor thin roots. A few pictures were taken before the beginning of the excavation. The artifacts recovered from zone A were charcoal fleckings. The artifacts recovered from zone B was plaster and maybe some items that were more than rocks. The artifacts recovered from zone C were some metal and/or wood. A CVS was collected for each of the zones. A profile was drawn at the base of the level to give a visual representation of the zones at level 7. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 7 were as follows: NE 41, SE 41, SW 41, NW 41, Center 41. The depth of excavation began at 35 cm and ended at 41cm.

Level 8

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 8 were as follows: NE 41, SE 41, SW 41, NW 41, Center 41. The excavation objective was to continue to sample three cultural zones. Everything was removed by trowel and screened on a ¼" mesh. A CVS was collected for each of the zones. The artifact density was low. The artifact recovered from zone A was a nail. The artifacts recovered from zone B were nails, charcoal, and cut brick. No artifacts were recovered from zone C. At the base of level 8, most of the area was zone B with a small zone A area in the SW corner and zone C in the SE. The large rocks that marked the boundary of zone A were removed. It was still challenging to get the proper depths because the matrix is loose and sandy in many areas. The Munsell reading for zone A was 3/3 which is described as "dark brown". The texture was

sand with a bit of loam and loose. The moisture content was slightly damp. The Munsell reading for zone B was 3/2 which is described as “very dark grayish brown” mottled with 4/6 which is described as “dark yellowish brown”. The texture was compact loamy sand. The Munsell reading for zone C was 5/3 which is described as “brown”. The texture was very loose sand, and the moisture content was very dry. Some of the inclusions were pebbles and roots throughout. A profile was drawn up of the different zones. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 8 were as follows: NE 46, SE 47, SW 47.5, NW 46.5, Center 45. The depth of excavation began at 41 cm and ended at 47.5 cm.

Level 9

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 9 were as follows: NE 46, SE 47, SW 47.5, NW 46.5, and Center 45. The excavation objective was to sample the zone matrices. All the matrices were removed only with a trowel. The deposits from each zone were screened separately through ¼” mesh. A CVS was collected for each of the zones (A-C). Zone C was nearly gone at the base of this level with only a small vestige remaining along the southern boundary of the unit. Zone A was also nearly completely excavated. The subsoil dominated the balance of the unit with the exception of a new zone (D) which is very dark and greasy and contained animal bone. A small bit of zone B also contained a bit of bone near the southern boundary. Bone was found in the interface between zone A and B. The Munsell reading for zone A was 3/3 (“dark brown”). The texture was somewhat loose sand with a bit of loam. The moisture was mostly dry. The Munsell reading for zone B was 3/2 (“very dark grayish brown”). The texture was compact, loamy sand. The moisture content was mostly dry. The Munsell reading for zone C was 6/3 (“pale brown”). The texture was very loose sand. The moisture content was very dry. The Munsell reading for zone D (new zone) was 2/1 (“black”). The texture was sand with organic material as well as greasy with charcoal inclusions. The moisture content was moist. It contained animal bone. The Munsell reading for the subsoil was ¾ (“dark yellowish brown”). The texture was sand with silt and gravel inclusions. A profile was drawn to visually illustrate the various zones and the subsoil. The ending elevations for Level 9 were as follows: NE 51, SE 51, SW 51, NW 51, Center 51. The depth of excavation began at 47.5 cm and ended at 51.

Level 10

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 10 were as follows: NE 51, SE 51, SW 51, NW 51, Center 51. The excavation objectives were to excavate down to the subsoil on the rest of the unit and investigate further on zone D. The matrix was removed by trowel only and each zone was done separately. All the deposits were screened through a ¼” mesh screen. No artifacts were recovered from zone C. Bone was recovered from zone A at the interface with zone D. Additional bone fragments were recovered from zone B as well. More bone fragments were recovered from zone D. Zone D along the western boundary appears to be catching the ephemeral edge of some cultural activity, possibly of a hearth fire pit. The excavation of the unit was discontinued in order to begin excavation a unit immediately adjacent to the west. No CVS was collected because there was too little matrix to warrant constant volume sampling. A few photos were taken of the plan view prior to excavation of this level. The only artifacts recovered were animal bone, mostly in zone D. The Munsell reading for zone D was 2/1 (“black”). The texture was ashy sand. The moisture content was dry. Some of the inclusions were animal bone and charcoal fleckings. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 10 were as follows: NE 51, SE 51, SW 60, NW 51, Center 51. The depth of excavation began at 51 and ended at 60 cm.

Profile

A profile of the west wall was taken for Unit 2. The profile of this unit includes 7 major zones of soil and various large rocks, mostly on the left side. There was an active humus layer on top. The first zone, (marked on the profile as 1), was the active humus layer with sandy loam and a Munsell reading of 2/2, or “very dark brown”. The second zone (2) was a layer composed of sandy loam, roots, and the former humus layer. The Munsell reading for this zone was 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The third zone (3) was sand with a hint of loam and referred to in the various levels as Zone A. It had a Munsell reading of ¾, or “dark yellowish brown”. The fourth zone (4) was a small pocket that had a Munsell reading of 5/4, or “yellowish brown” and was sand. The fifth zone (5) was composed of sandy loam and the possible buried A horizon and

a Munsell reading of 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The sixth zone (6) was a small zone that was composed of sandy loam with charcoal and ash as well as a possible feature. It had a Munsell reading of 2/1, or “black” and referred to zone D in our prior levels. The seventh zone (7) was a series of small pockets that are partially separated by a rock and is the beginning of the subsoil. It is moist and sandy and had a Munsell reading of 3/6, or “dark yellowish brown.”

Overall, the unit did not produce many interesting artifacts until digging into the possible feature in zone D, which is also part of the reason why the excavation on this unit is being suspended. The bones found in level 10 and the greasy, black soil found around them suggest a possible fire pit or hearth that merits some further excavation. Part of the reason for the low artifact density may also be due to the possibility that the family did not have many financial funds and were very resourceful and careful about taking care of their belongings, not disposing of them until absolutely necessary.

Unit 2 was excavated further once unit 4 got deep enough.

Level 11

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 11 were as follows: NE 51, SE 51, SW 60, NW 51, Center 51. The excavation objectives were to remove the matrix to the level of the adjacent unit 4. The matrix was shoveled out and five gallon buckets were sample screened. The rest was just chucked out. Excavation was being done in culturally sterile soils. It was a curious level, but the unit itself consists of a complex overlay of coils. It would be worth excavating the two units south of units 2 and 4 in a future field season. The area is clearly cultural because of the stones that line the bottom and the sides of what could be a trench, but without artifacts, it is difficult to interpret. There are no features identified, at least none to which a number as assigned. There was no CVS collected. There were no artifacts recovered. For the description of the soils, see the unit final profile.

Profile (Unit 2 and 4)

A profile of the southern wall was taken for Unit 2 and 4 (Figure 8.6). The profile of this unit includes 6 major and 2 minor zones of soil and various large rocks, mostly in the center, creating a feature of some sort. There was an active humus layer on top. The first zone, (marked on the profile as 1), was the active humus layer with dry sandy loam and a Munsell reading of 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The second zone (2) was a pebbly layer composed of sandy loam, roots, and the former humus layer. The Munsell reading for this zone was 4/3, or “brown”. The third zone (3) was sandy loam with more comparatively more moisture content. It had a Munsell reading of 3/3, or “dark brown”. The fourth zone (4) was dry sand that serves as a clean filler layer. It had a Munsell reading of 5/4, or “yellowish brown”. The fifth zone (5) was composed of damp sandy loam and had a Munsell reading of 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The sixth zone (6) was the sub-soil layer with a Munsell reading of 3/6 or “dark yellowish brown”. The first of two minor zones is the seventh zone (7) that is the relatively dry sand lens with a Munsell reading of 5/6, or “yellowish brown.” The eighth level (8) is a loam lens consisting of dry sandy loam and with a Munsell reading of 4/3, or “brown”.

Overall, the unit did not produce many interesting artifacts until digging into the possible feature in zone D, which is also part of the reason why the excavation on this unit is being suspended. The bones found in level 10 and the greasy, black soil found around them suggest a possible fire pit or hearth that merits some further excavation, a possibility for future summer excavations. The feature could not be properly identified because there were no cultural deposits to be found in that area. It is a complex soil composition and merits more excavation and research.

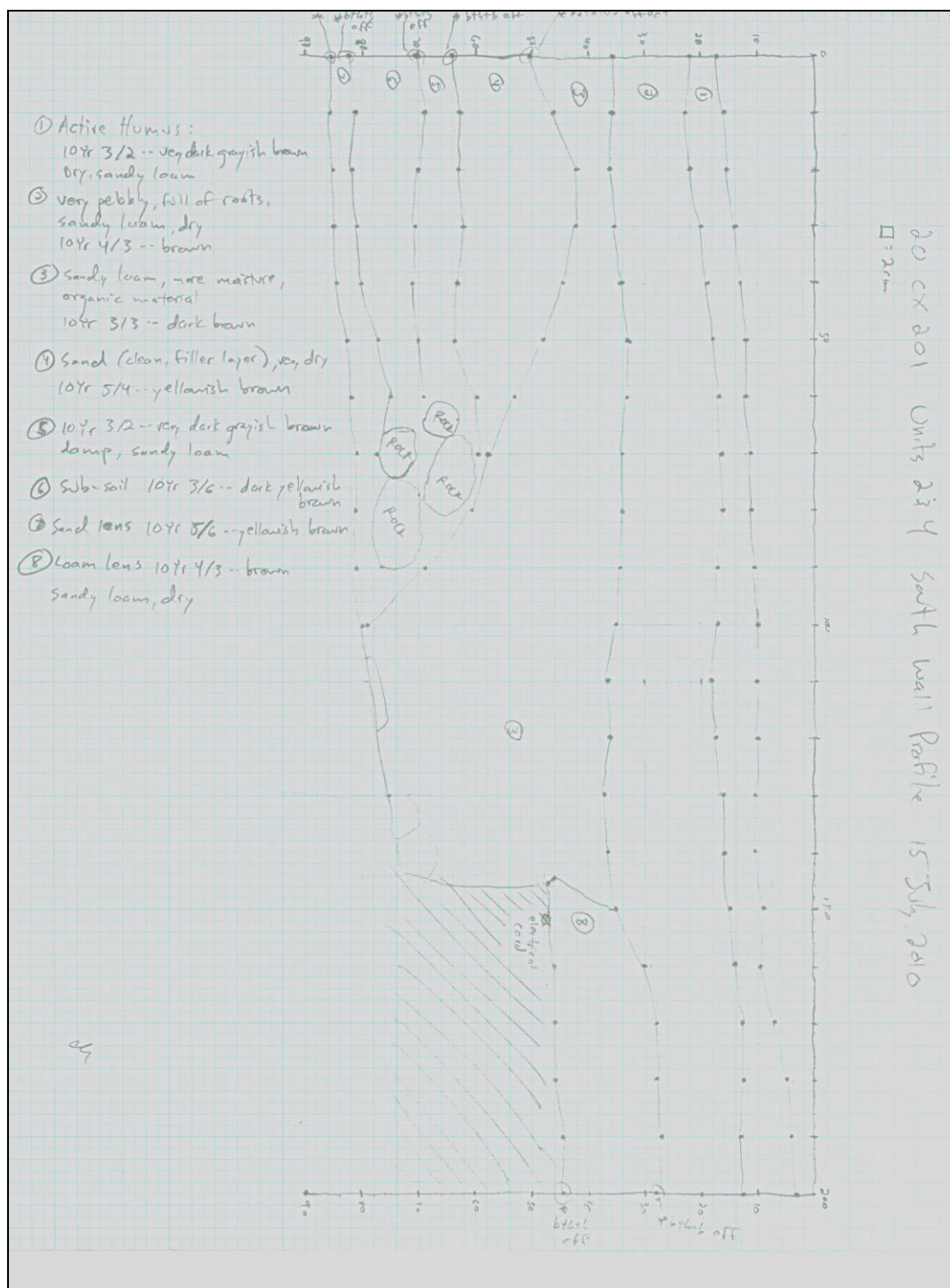


Figure 8.6. A hand-sketch profile of the south walls of Units 2 and 4. A properly drafted profile will be included in the final report.

Unit Number: 3

Coordinates: N0 E10

Excavators: Kasia Ahern, Miranda Rooy

Dates of Excavation: 12 July, 2010- 13 July, 2010

The location for this unit was chosen because of its proximity to the original back door of the homestead. The unit was expected to have a good amount of cultural material because it appeared to be in the pathway from the house to the area where the original barn had been located. The excavation team thought that materials may have been carried back and forth from the house along a pathway that corresponded with the location of this unit. The unit matrix was excavated using a trowel throughout the entire excavation. A Constant Volume Sample (CVS) of 1 liter (1L) was taken at the SW corner of the unit for every level, beginning with Level 2. The soil recovered during the entire excavation was screened through quarter inch (1/4in) mesh. The soil was described using the 10YR Munsell Color Chart. There was very clear stratigraphy for this unit. The datum for this unit was in the southwest (SW) corner. Levels 0-6 were excavated on July 12, 2010. Levels 7-9 were excavated on July 13, 2010.

Level 0

The excavation objectives for Level 0 were to clear the level of the grass and active humus layer, to look for artifacts on the surface, and to prepare the unit for excavation. The elevations (cm) taken of Level 0 were as follows: NE 8.5, SE 13, SW 10, NW 5, Center 8. The unit had an upward slope toward the north. There were no distinct features observed on the surface level. Artifacts found on the surface included a glass shard. The first thing that was done was the clearing of the larger grass blades.

Level 1

The beginning elevations for Level 1 were as follows: NE 8.5, SE 13, SW 10, NW 5, Center 8. A spade was used to clear the unit of the active humus layer. The artifact density for this unit was high. Artifacts recovered in this level included glass shards, asphalt siding, a pipe, a canning jar seal, twist ties, a Band-Aid, tape, animal bone, and a metal stake. The Munsell reading for the soil in this level was 3/1, described as “very dark gray”. The texture of the soil was described as “sandy loam”. The moisture content of the soil was dry and there were some pebbles and rocks protruding from the soil. Some of the active humus layer remained in this level. An interpretation based on artifacts found for this unit was that the unit is a midden. The ending elevations for Level 1 were as follows: NE 8.5, SE 16, SW 13, NW 10, Center 14. The depth of excavation began at 5 cm and ended at 16cm.

Level 2

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 2 were as follows: NE 8.5, SE 16, NW 10, Center 14. The excavation objectives for this level were to excavate the level, check for artifacts, and to level out the unit. The string around the unit broke on the east side so a new piece of string was added to repair it. The artifact density for this level was high. Artifacts recovered included glass shards, nails, metal pieces, ceramic sherds, potsherds, and cement pieces. The soil color seemed to get a little lighter in this level. The Munsell reading for this level was 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The moisture content of the soil was dry. There was a higher concentration of rocks found on the west side of the unit and the soil on that side looked slightly lighter as a result. For the most part, however, the soil color was uniform across the unit. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 2 were as follows: NE 16, SE 17, SW 16, NW 16, Center 16. The depth of excavation began at 8.5cm and ended at 17cm.

Level 3

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 3 were as follows: NE 16, SE 17, SW 16, NW 16, Center 16. The excavation objectives for this level were to excavate the level, check for artifacts, and continue to even out the level. The artifact density for this layer was relatively low. Artifacts included nails and metal pieces. The soil appeared a little darker than the previous layer. The soil color and texture appeared uniform across the level. The Munsell reading for this level was 2/2, or “very dark brown”. The moisture of the soil

was damp, but drying and the texture was sandy, but with more gravel. A gravel layer was reached. There were lots pebbles and roots found in the soil. There were also a lot of worms in the soil, which is indicative of the presence of cultural material. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 3 were as follows: NE 18.5, SE 18.5, SW 19, NW 18, Center 18. The depth of excavation for this level began at 16cm and ended at 19cm.

Level 4

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 4 were as follows: NE 18.5, SE 18.5, SW 19, NW 18, Center 18. The excavation objectives for this level were to read the end of the gravel layer and to find and recover artifacts. The artifact density for this level was moderate. Artifacts recovered in this level included nails, metal pieces, ceramic sherds, and bone. The soil seemed to be darker across the unit. The Munsell reading for this level was 3/1, or “very dark gray”. The soil was described as “sandy gravel”. The moisture content of the soil was dry. There were many pebbles and one large rock in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 4 were as follows: NE 23.5, SE 25, SW 25, NW 22, Center 23. The depth of excavation began at 18cm and ended at 25cm.

Level 5

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 5 were as follows: NE 23.5, SE 25, SW 25, NW 22, Center 23. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to excavate the midden, to recover any artifacts found, and even out the level’s measurements. The artifact density for this level was moderate. Artifacts recovered in this level included nails, one glass shard, and some metal pieces. The soil color and texture remained uniform across the unit. The Munsell reading for this level was 4/3, or “brown”. The soil texture was described as “grainy sand” and the moisture content was dry. There were rocks and roots in the soil. The soil seemed to be getting lighter and redder. During the excavation of this level, it was very hot out and the soil was drying up very quickly. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 5 were as follows: NE 29.5, SE 28, SW 27.5, NW 26, Center 29. The depth of excavation began at 22cm and ended at 29.5cm.

Level 6

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 6 were as follows: NE 29.5, SE 28, SW 27.5, NW 26, Center 29. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to excavate the midden, recover artifacts found, and level out the unit. The artifact density for this level was moderate. Artifacts recovered included possible ironware sherds, nails, a possible bullet shell, metal pieces, and washers. Several ceramic potsherds were found in the SE corner of the unit. During the excavation of the level, it was very hot out and, as a result, soil was getting very dry. The soil was much finer and softer than in previous levels. The soil color and texture was uniform across the unit. The Munsell reading for this level was 3/3, or “dark brown”. There were roots and pebbles in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level were as follows: NE 31, SE 31, SW 31, NW 31, Center 31. The depth of excavation for this level began at 26cm and ended at 31cm.

Level 7

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 7 were as follows: NE 31, SE 31, SW 31, NW 31, Center 31. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to trowel the midden and to recover any artifacts. The artifact density for this level was low. Artifacts recovered for this level included nails and metal pieces. The Munsell reading for this level was 3/3, or “dark brown”. The soil was fine, sandy and grainy across the unit. The soil was damp and there were pebbles and a lot of fine roots protruding from it. Due to the low artifact density, it seemed that the subsoil was almost reached. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 7 were as follows: NE 35, SE 35, SW 35, NW 35, Center 35. The depth of excavation began at 31cm and ended at 35cm.

Level 8

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 8 were as follows: NE 35, SE 35, SW 35, NW 35, Center 35. The excavation objectives for this level were to trowel the midden until no more artifacts were recovered. No artifacts were recovered in this level. The Munsell reading for this unit was 4/3, or “brown”. The soil was damp, but drying due to sunlight. The soil still contained a lot of fine roots and rocks. The soil was uniform

in texture and color across the unit. It appeared to be lighter and redder than the previous levels. Once again, this was indicative of the subsoil being reached and the end of the culturally significant material in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 8 were as follows: NE 39, SE 39, SW 40, NW 39, Center 39. The depth of excavation for this level began at 35cm to 39cm.

Level 9

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 9 were as follows: NE 39, SE 39, SW 40, NW 39, Center 39. The excavation objectives for this level were to trowel the midden until no more artifacts were found and the subsoil was reached. A 50cmx50cm square with a 5cm depth was excavated in the SW corner of the unit. This was done to ensure that there were no more artifacts in the midden. The rest of the unit was not excavated. No artifacts were recovered in this level. The soil color changed dramatically to a reddish/orange color as the excavation continued. The subsoil was clearly reached. The Munsell reading for this level was 5/6 or “yellowish brown”. The soil texture was described as “grainy sand” and was damp, but drying. There were roots and pebbles in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 9 were as follows: NE 39, SE 39, SW 49, NW 39, Center 39. The depth of excavation of the level began at 39 cm and ended at 49cm.

Profile of Unit 3

A profile of the west wall of Unit 3 was completed (Figure 8.7). There were 4 major zones of soil and 1 smaller distinct pocket zone. The first soil zone (I) was composed of loam and sand and had a Munsell reading of 3/1, or “very dark gray”. The second zone (II) was dry and was composed of gravel and sand. The Munsell reading for this zone was 3/3, or “dark brown”. The third zone (III) was dry and was composed of fine, grainy sand. There were inclusions of bigger rocks and roots. The Munsell reading for this zone was 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The fourth zone (IV) was damp, but drying and was composed of fine sand. The Munsell reading for this zone was 4/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. The fifth zone (V) was a small pocket zone that was composed of fine sand and was damp, but drying. The Munsell reading for this zone was 5/6, or “yellowish brown”.

Overall, the unit produced a moderate variety and amount of artifacts. Because of the artifact density of this unit, it was decided to create another unit east of this unit in order to determine if there is a higher density of artifacts as one excavates along the path to where the original barn had been.

Unit Number: 4

Coordinates: S5 E7

Excavators: Bianca Fernandez, Deb Rotman

Dates of Excavation: 12 July, 2010- 14 July 2010

The location for this unit was chosen because it was adjacent to Unit 2 which did not yield very many artifacts but there was interesting feature that was upturned in the later levels and the excavators thought it would be prudent to dig the site next to it to investigate the feature further. As with Unit 2, it was the space between the back porch (a recent addition) and the possible shed/chicken coop. The unit matrix was excavated using a trowel as well as some shovel skimming depending on how many centimeters needed to be removed per unit. A Constant Volume Sample (CVS) of 1 liter (1L) was taken at the SW corner of the unit for every level, beginning from Level 2 and excluding level 14. . Additional CVS samples were collected as well as for the various zones that emerged as excavation progressed. The soil recovered during the entire excavation was screened through quarter inch (1/4in) mesh. The soil was described using the 10YR Munsell Color Chart. The datum for this unit was in the southeast (SE) corner, reused from Unit 2. Levels 0-8 were excavated on July 12, 2010. Levels 8-11 were excavated on July 13, 2010. Levels 12-14 were excavated on July 14, 2010. The Unit 4 south wall profile, combined with the Unit 2 south wall, was done on July 15, 2010.

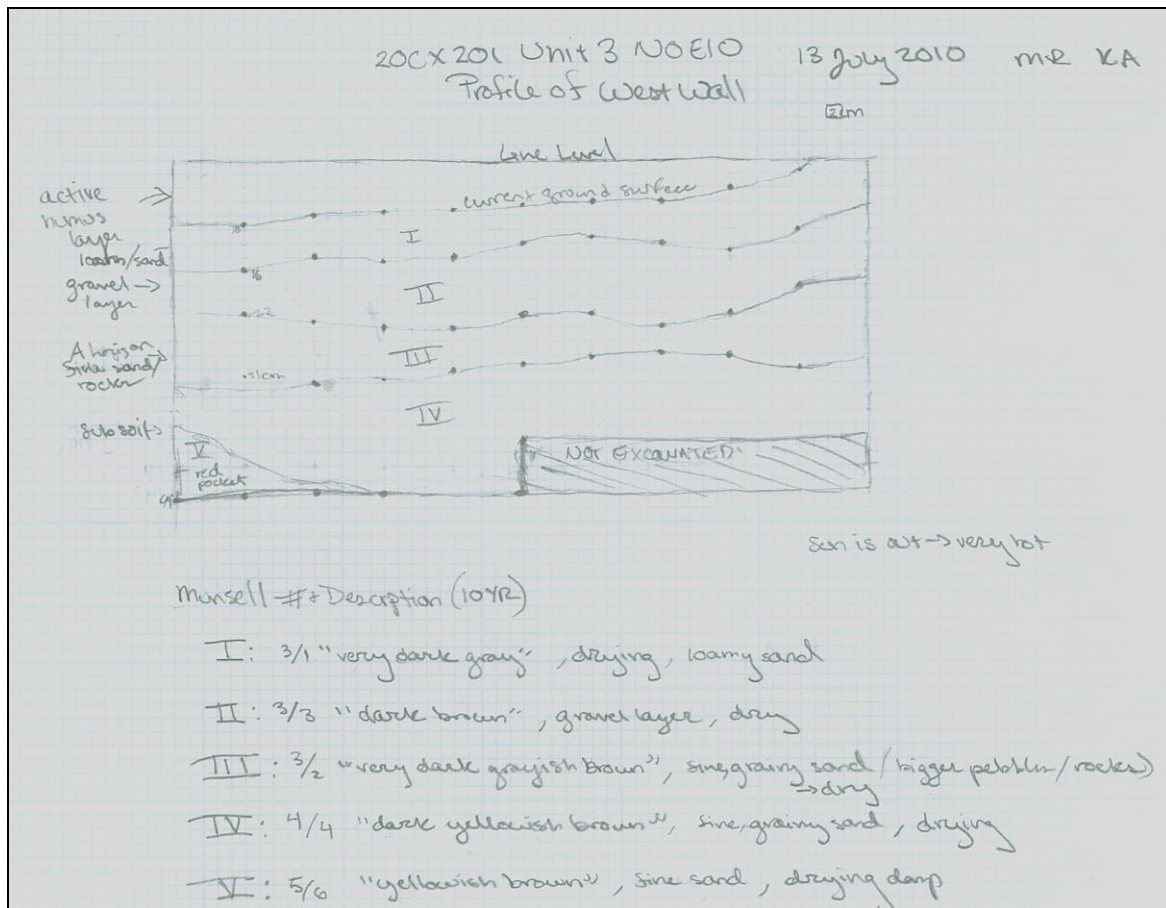


Figure 8.7. A hand-sketched profile of the west wall of Unit 3. A properly drafted profile will be included in the final report.

Level 0

The objective for Level 0 was to document the unit at the beginning of the excavation and to clear the level of grass, check for surface features, and prepare the unit for excavating the subsequent levels. The beginning elevations (cm) were as follows: NE 2, SE 8.5, SW 3.5, NW 6.5, Center 5. The unit had a significant downward slope toward the shed/chicken coop (southeast). The site had an active ground surface and an un-manicured lawn so the first thing that was done to the level was to clear it of the grass. There was a great deal of overgrowth in the area. No artifacts were observed on the surface. The datum stake was reused from Unit 2.

Level 1

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 1 were as follows: NE 2, SE 8.5, SW 3.5, NW 6.5, Center 5. The excavation objectives for this level were to remove the active humus layer and sod. The excavators began the process of removing the active humus layer, which was very active. There were pebbles throughout the level. The unit had approximately 6 cm difference in elevation between the northern and southern half. The artifact density was moderate: 20th century debris including electrical tape, cut tack and blue plastic. The soil had a Munsell number of 3/2, described as "very dark grayish brown". The texture of the soil was sandy loam. The moisture content was quite dry. The inclusions in the soil were pebbles less than 1 cm in diameter. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 1 were as follows: NE 11, SE 14, SW 8.5 NW 11, Center 10.5. The depth of excavation for this level began at 2 cm and ended at 14 cm.

Level 2

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 2 were as follows: NE 11, SE 14, SW 8.5 NW 11, Center 10.5. The excavation objectives for this level were to begin sampling cultural deposits and to bring the entire unit down to the same level: 14 cm. The east corner caved in a bit because of placing weight carelessly upon the eastern wall. There was a moderate artifact density: nails, grommet, and ceramic piece (teacup). The matrix was removed by trowel. The soil was screened through a ¼" mesh. The level was very gravelly and homogenous throughout with more pebbles visible on the SE corner. The Munsell reading was 3/2 which is described as "very dark grayish brown". The soil texture was loam and sand. The moisture content was dry for the most part but moist in some areas. The inclusions consisted of roots and rocks. Some of the main inclusions were rocks and pebbles. A CVS was collected. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 2 were as follows: NE 14, SE 14, SW 14, NW 14.5, Center 14. The depth of excavation began at 8.5 cm and ended at 14 cm.

Level 3

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 3 were as follows: NE 14, SE 14, SW 14, NW 14.5, Center 14. The excavation objective for this level was to continue the excavation of the midden keeping the slope in mind, aiming at a 4 cm excavation throughout to get past the rock and pebble layer as well as keeping the unit level. The soil was shovel skimmed and then leveled with the trowel. The soil was passed through a ¼" mesh. The artifact density was moderate: 2 pieces of glass, nails, plaster, and brick pieces. There were various earthworms that could mean disturbed soils. The soil was mostly the same as level 2. A CVS was collected. The Munsell reading was 3/2 which is described as "very dark grayish brown". The soil texture was sandy loam. The moisture content was dry. Some notable inclusions were a high pebble content, root system and rocks. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 3 were as follows: NE 20, SE 20, SW 20, NW 20, Center 20. The depth of excavation began at 14 cm and ended at 20 cm.

Level 4

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 4 were as follows: NE 20, SE 20, SW 20, NW 20, Center 20. The excavation objective was again to excavate the matrix another 4 cm throughout and to keep the unit leveled. Removed the matrix by trowel work. The soil was sifted with a ¼" mesh. The artifact density was high: bone, nails and charcoal. Three nails were found near the west wall, leaving the soil rusty in color. The Munsell reading was 3/3 which is described as "dark brown". The texture was sandy loam. The moisture content was dry. Some of the major inclusions were pebbles, rocks, and roots. A CVS was collected. The depth of excavation began at 20 cm and ended at 24 cm. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 4 were as follows: NE 24, SE 24, SW 24, NW 24, Center 24.

Level 5

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 5 were as follows: NE 24, SE 24, SW 24, NW 24, Center 24. The excavation objective for this level was to continue to sample the midden and excavate 4 cm. The soil was dug with a trowel and was sifted through a ¼" mesh screen. There were many ants and some earthworms which may likely indicate disturbed soil. The artifact density is a bit higher than the previous level: prehistoric ceramic, nails, plastic?, and charcoal. A CVS was collected. The Munsell reading 3/2 which is described as "very dark grayish brown". The texture was sandy loam. The moisture content was dry. The inclusions were pebbles and some roots. The depth of excavation of this level began at 24 cm and ended at 29 cm. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 5 were as follows: NE 29, SE 28, SW 28, NW 28, Center 28.

Level 6

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 6 were as follows: NE 29, SE 28, SW 28, NW 28, Center 28. The excavation objective was to sample the midden by zones. There was a soil color change, but it was so dry that it was a bit difficult to map the soil color changes and differentiate the zones because the matrix would dry out so quickly. The level was dug with trowels and the soil was sifted on a ¼" mesh. The soil was not dug down 4 cm like in the previous level because there was an obvious soil stratigraphy. Three new zones were differentiated (Zones A, B, and C). The base of the unit is all Zone A. It is consistent in color and

texture all across and dominates the base of the unit. In Unit 2, Zone A was the active A-horizon while zone B was the buried A-horizon, but in this unit, the soil horizons seemed to have been reversed. There was interest in seeing the final stratigraphy to make more sense of it all. No artifacts were recovered. A plan view was drawn of the base of the level with the three zones. The Munsell reading for Zone A was 3/3 which is described as “dark brown”. The texture was compact sand with loam. The moisture content was dry. The Munsell reading for Zone B was 3/1 which is described as “very dark gray”. The texture was semi-compact sandy loam. The moisture content was dry. It was the humus layer. The Munsell reading for Zone C was 5/3 which is described as “brown.” The texture was loose sand. The moisture content was very dry. Zone C was mottled with soil with a Munsell of 3/1 which is described as “very dark gray”. The texture was sandy loam and the moisture content was very dry. This sand was probably used as clean fill. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 6 were as follows: NE 29, SE 31, SW 30, NW 28.5, Center 30. The depth of excavation is 28 cm to 31cm.

Level 7

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 7 were as follows: NE 29, SE 31, SW 30, NW 28.5, Center 30. The excavation objective for the level was the sample the separate cultural zones. A CVS was collected for every zone except for Zone C because it was just soil fill and there wasn't much to excavate. The separate zones were excavated separately trying to follow the natural stratigraphy. All the soil was removed by trowel and sifted in a 1/4" mesh. The earthworms and ants were still visible. At the base of the level, Zone B and C no longer exist. Zone A had the highest artifact density of the three zones but it was still a bit low. Zone A had ceramic pieces and nails. Zone B had charcoal. Zone C had a nail, probably at the interface between B and C. The Munsell reading was 3/3 which is described as “dark brown”. The texture was softer and a mix of sand with loam. The moisture content was slightly damp but dries quickly. The notable inclusion was the pebbles. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 7 were as follows: NE 34, SE 34, SW 34, NW 34, Center 33.5. The depth of excavation began at 28.5 cm and ended at 34 cm.

Level 8

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 8 were as follows: NE 34, SE 34, SW 34, NW 34, Center 33.5. The excavation objective was to remove 4 cm of matrix. Everything was removed by trowel and screened on a 1/4" mesh. At the beginning of the level, the matrix appeared to be one consistent color and texture across. The day prior when level 7 was done, the sun was bright and the day was hot, so the soil dried out very quickly, making it difficult to see the soil differences. Level 8 was started in the morning the next day and it was possible to see the soil differences. A plan view was drawn. The excavation was terminated early in the north half of the unit in order to follow the natural stratigraphy. The matrix in the southern half of the unit was labeled Zone A to be consistent with level 6 in this unit and that which we observed in Unit 2. Similarly, the matrix in the north half was labeled Zone B also to be consistent with Unit 2 and Level 6. The new matrix on the western edge is Zone E, since it is clearly not the same as Zone D from Unit 2. A CVS was collected from a SW corner. No artifacts were found. The Munsell reading for Zone A was 3/2 which is described as “very dark grayish brown”. The texture was sandy loam, which was slightly damp and slightly compact. It could be a possible buried A-horizon. The Munsell reading for Zone B was 3/3 which is described as “dark brown”. The texture was sand with loam and lots of gravel. The moisture content was damp. It may have been a former land surface. The Munsell reading for Zone E was 3/6 which is described as “dark yellowish brown”. The texture was very compact sand, and the moisture content was damp. It could be subsoil or a fill zone. An inclusion to note was the small gravel. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 8 were as follows: NE 36, SE 38, SW 38, NW 36, Center 38. The depth of excavation began at 33.5 cm and ended at 38 cm.

Level 9

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 9 were as follows: NE 36, SE 38, SW 38, NW 36, Center 38. The excavation objective was to sample the cultural deposits from the three zones present following the natural stratigraphy or 4 cm in depth, whichever came first. The deposits were removed only with trowels, and each zone was screened separately through 1/4" mesh. A CVS was taken for Zones A and B. At the base

of the level, Zone E had vanished. The artifact density is very low. Only one object was removed from Zone A (nail), and one object from Zone B (metal fray), and no artifacts were recovered from Zone E. Zones A and B are roughly the same size as the base of the previous level, although Zone B may be contracting slightly. The level may demonstrate the interface of two buried land surfaces. A plan view was drawn of the base of the level. The Munsell reading for zone A was 3/2 (“very dark grayish brown”). The texture was compact sandy loam. The moisture content was slightly damp. The zone may be a buried A-horizon. The Munsell reading for zone B was 3/3 (“dark brown”). The texture was sand with loam. The moisture content was damp. There was lots of gravel and what appeared to be some vestige of a former land surface. The ending elevations for Level 9 were as follows: NE 40, SE 40, SW 40, NW 40, Center 40. The depth of excavation began at 36 cm and ended at 40.

Level 10

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 10 were as follows: NE 40, SE 40, SW 40, NW 40, Center 40. The excavation objective was to sample the two cultural zones present by following the natural stratigraphy or digging 4 cm, whichever came first. The deposits were all removed with a trowel and sifted through 1/4” mesh. The two zones (A and B) were screened separately. A CVS was taken from each of the zones. The excavator encountered a buried power line in the western half of the unit, the disturbance from which may explain why the zones were difficult to interpret and unexpected in plan view (Figure 8.8). Zone D that was observed in Unit 2 reappeared even though it is a bit farther north than expected. Excavation was terminated upon encountering Zone D, but it was at target depth anyway. No artifacts were recovered, but the possible feature could be a trash pit. A plan view was drawn, and the boundaries drawn are ephemeral. The Munsell reading for Zone A was 3/3, which is described as “dark brown”. The texture was slightly compact sand. The moisture content was somewhat damp. It had very few inclusions. It may be a fill zone. The Munsell reading for Zone D was 2/1 which is described as “black” and mottled with 3/2 which is described as “very dark grayish brown”. The texture was somewhat compact sand. The moisture content was moist. The Munsell reading for the fill zone was 3/4 which was described as “dark yellowish brown”. The texture was sand and had some gravel inclusions. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 10 were as follows: NE 44, SE 44, SW 44, NW 44, Center 44. The depth of excavation began at 40 and ended at 44 cm.



Figure 8.8. Plan view, base of excavation level 10 in Unit 4. Photograph by the author.

Level 11

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 11 were as follows: NE 44, SE 44, SW 44, NW 44, Center 44 (East half only). On the level form, it was written as 41 for the beginning elevations, but it was probably transferred incorrectly. The excavation objective was to excavate the possible feature. The deposits were all removed with a trowel and sifted through 1/4" mesh. Only the East half of the level was dug in order to avoid the buried electrical wire. A CVS was done for Zone A and D. The deposits were screened separately by zone. When the area was dug, the dark stain was taking up a greater proportion of the center half of the unit, but there was no definite shape. No artifacts were recovered from it other than some pieces of plaster. A plan view was drawn up of the unit. The Munsell reading for Zone A was 3/4, which is described as "dark yellowish brown". The texture was of sand with some gravel inclusions. The Munsell reading for Zone D was 2/1 which is described as "black". The texture was of sand, which some possible charcoal or organic matter, but it is still unknown. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 11 were as follows: NE 47, SE 47, SW 47, NW 47, Center 47. The depth of excavation began at 44 and ended at 47 cm.

Level 12

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 12 were as follows: NE 47, SE 47, SW 47, NW 47, Center 47. Only the east side of the unit was excavated because of the buried power line on the west portion of the unit. The excavation objective was to sample cultural deposits from the two zones and determine the nature of the dark stain, if possible. All the deposits were troweled, with no shovel skimming. All the matrices were screened through a 1/4" mesh. A CVS was taken for each of the two zones (D and non- Zone D) The dark stain continues to be amorphous, with no artifacts found. The excavators were uncertain as to what it could be. In the surrounding matrix, only a single bit of plaster was found. The Munsell reading for Zone D was 2/1, or "black", sand with varying bits of loam. The moisture content was slightly damp. In the surrounding matrix, the Munsell reading was 3/4, or "dark yellowish brown" sand with varying bits of loam. The moisture content was slightly damp as well. Some of the inclusions included gravel in the non-Zone D matrix. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 12 were as follows: NE 51, SE 51, SW 51, NW 51, Center 51. The depth of excavation began at 47 and ended at 51 cm.

Level 13

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 13 were as follows: NE 51, SE 51, SW 51, NW 51, Center 51. The excavation objective was to sample the two cultural zones and determine the nature of the dark stain, if possible. The deposits were troweled out, not shovel skimmed, and the deposits were screened separately depending on the zone. A CVS sample was collected for each of the zones (A and D). The Zone D stain has been mostly nebulous with irregular edges, although the boundary has occasionally been well-defined for short stretches, but no artifacts have been found. Based on what was observed in Unit 2, there was some filling in this area. It is possible that the deposit could be from the kitchen stove. A cut nail was found in Zone D and a modern round nail was found in Zone A which may have come from the interface with the builders trench for the buried electrical wire. Only a smattering of the dark stain persists. The Munsell reading for Zone A was 3/4, or "dark yellowish brown". The texture was sand with loam. The moisture content was damp with some gravel inclusions. The Munsell reading for Zone D was 2/1, or "black". The texture was sand. The moisture content was moist. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 13 were as follows: NE 55, SE 55, SW 55, NW 55, Center 55. The depth of excavation began at 51 and ended at 55 cm.

Level 14

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 14 were as follows NE 55, SE 55, SW 55, NW 55, Center 55. The excavation objective was to remove the last of the dark stain, so only the Zone D matrix was troweled. The surrounding subsoil (Zone A) was not excavated. All the deposits were screened through a 1/4" mesh. A CVS was not collected because there was too little matrix to sample. But the stain continued deeply, which surprised the excavators. It was all culturally sterile matrix, however, so the excavators continued digging, following the natural stratigraphy. At this point, only the SE quadrant was being excavated. At 73 cm, another clear line appeared at the base of the level. It was 3/2 instead of 4/6, clearly very different in appearance. The buried electrical line was running right through it. A probe was done and

indicated another buried land surface at least 20 cm thick. The NE quadrant was then excavated, finding no artifacts. At that point, the eastern half was completely excavated. The excavation was suspended until Unit 2 was brought down to the same level. After bringing Unit 2 to the same depth, the excavation of this unit was terminated at this level. Opening units to the south of units 2 and 4 may be necessary to discover what the possible feature is. It is difficult to decipher and understand what the feature is. No artifacts were recovered. The Munsell reading for Zone A was 3/4, which is described as “dark yellowish brown”. The texture was sand with loam. The moisture content was dry and had some gravel inclusions. The Munsell reading for Zone D was 2/1, or “black”. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 14 were as follows: NE 73, SE 73, SW 73, NW 73, Center 73. The depth of excavation began at 55 and ended at 73 cm.

Profile (Unit 2 and 4)

A profile of the southern wall was taken for Unit 2 and 4 (see again Figure 8.5). The profile of this unit includes 6 major and 2 minor zones of soil and various large rocks, mostly in the center, creating a feature of some sort. There was an active humus layer on top. The first zone, (marked on the profile as 1), was the active humus layer with dry sandy loam and a Munsell reading of 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The second zone (2) was a pebbly layer composed of sandy loam, roots, and the former humus layer. The Munsell reading for this zone was 4/3, or “brown”. The third zone (3) was sandy loam with more comparatively more moisture content. It had a Munsell reading of 3/3, or “dark brown”. The fourth zone (4) was dry sand that serves as a clean filler layer. It had a Munsell reading of 5/4, or “yellowish brown”. The fifth zone (5) was composed of damp sandy loam and had a Munsell reading of 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The sixth zone (6) was the sub-soil layer with a Munsell reading of 3/6 or “dark yellowish brown”. The first of two minor zones is the seventh zone (7) that is the relatively dry sand lens with a Munsell reading of 5/6, or “yellowish brown.” The eighth level (8) is a loam lens consisting of dry sandy loam and with a Munsell reading of 4/3, or “brown”. For Unit 4, in specific, the zones are only 1, 2, 3, and 8. At the bottom of zone 3, it some large rocks were visible, which may be a possible clue as to what the feature may be, if anything at all.

Overall, the unit did not produce many interesting artifacts until digging into the possible feature in zone D, which did not yield any cultural deposits. It is unclear as to what the feature could be, and after excavating deeply and continuing the suspended excavation on Unit 2, it was still nearly impossible to determine. It seems to be a fire pit of some kind because there are large rocks lining Zone D, but it may be necessary to dig two units south of Units 2 and 4 in order to get a better understanding of the possible feature.