

Unit Number: 11

Coordinates: S10 E4

Excavators: Deb Rotman, Jim Rotman

Dates of Excavation: 19 July 2010

The location for this excavation unit was chosen because it was near Units 2 and 4 and in front of the shed and chicken coop. 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 southwest (SW) corner. All the levels were excavated on July 19, 2010 (Figure 8.19).

Level 0

The objectives for Level 0 were to observe the surface and take the beginning measurements. The beginning elevations (cm) were as follows: NE 10.5, SE 15, SW 12, NW 6, Center 11.5. The unit's surface was unmanicured lawn/grass and was an active land surface. One object was found on the surface: tinfoil.

Level 1

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 1 were as follows: NE 10.5, SE 15, SW 12, NW 6, Center 11.5. The excavation objective for this level was to remove the sod. The sod was shovel skimmed off and the deposits were trowel sorted and screened through a 1/4" mesh screen. There was a low artifact density: window glass, brick, nail, screw, coal and cinders, unglazed redware flower pot, and caulk. The soil had a Munsell number of 3/1, or 'very dark gray.' The soil was dry, sandy loam with some gravel inclusions, especially on the west half. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 1 were as follows: NE 16, SE 21, SW 18, NW 13, Center 18. The depth of excavation began at 6 cm and ended at 21 cm, with the sod.



Figure 8.19. Volunteer Jim Rotman (left) and Principal Investigator Dr. Deb Rotman documenting their excavation progress in Unit 11. Photograph by Cindy Pikaart. Used by permission.

Level 2

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 2 were as follows: NE 16, SE 21, SW 18, NW 13, Center 18. The excavation objective was to level out the unit to about 18 cm. The deposits were troweled and the soil was screened through a ¼" mesh. The north half of the unit was leveled out to 18 cm in order to work towards leveling the entire unit to 21 cm. There was a low artifact density, including window glass and plaster. In addition, only a sample of the plaster was recovered and collected. The Munsell reading for the soil was 3/1, or 'very dark gray.' The soil was dry, sandy loam with some gravel inclusions. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 2 were as follows: NE 18, SE 21, SW 18, NW 18, Center 18. The depth of excavation began at 16 cm and ended at 18 cm, in the north half only.

Level 3

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 3 were as follows: NE 18, SE 21, SW 18, NW 18, Center 18. The excavation objective for this level was to remove the soil to bring the unit to an even level of 21 cm. The matrix was removed by trowel and screened through a ¼" mesh. There was still a fine root system due to the active humus layer. The artifact density was very low: a bolt, clear container glass, and plaster. Not all the plaster was collected, only a small sample. The soil was classified with the Munsell number 3/2, or 'very dark grayish brown'. The soil was dry, sandy loam with some gravel inclusions, which are similar to the previous level. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 3 were as follows: NE 21, SE 21, SW 21, NW 21.5, Center 21. The depth of excavation began at 18 cm and ended at 21 cm.

Level 4

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 4 were as follows: NE 21, SE 21, SW 21, NW 21.5, Center 21. The excavation objective was again to excavate 4 cm of matrix or until the soil color changes. The matrix was removed with a trowel and the soil was screened through a ¼" mesh. The artifact density continued to be low: ceramic, window glass, and plaster. Same as previous levels, only a small sample of the plaster was collected. The soil had a Munsell reading of 4/2, or 'dark grayish brown.' The soil was dry sand with a bit of loam and there were a great deal of gravel inclusions. The soil became more compact, and there were more gravel inclusions. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 4 were as follows: NE 25, SE 25, SW 25, NW 25, Center 25.

Level 5

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 5 were as follows: NE 25, SE 25, SW 25, NW 25, Center 25. The excavation objective for this level was to remove 4 cm of matrix. The deposits were troweled out and screened through a ¼" mesh. The artifact density increased and most came from the southwest quadrant. They included glass/bottle finish, plaster, ceramic, and window glass. As in prior levels, only a small sample of the plaster was collected even though there was much less in this level than prior levels. The soil had a Munsell reading of 5/2, or 'grayish brown' mottled with 5/4, or 'yellowish brown.' The soil was very dry sand with loam with gravel inclusions. The soil was very compact and the gravel continued to be high. The depth of excavation of this level began 25 cm and ended at 29 cm. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 5 were as follows: NE 29, SE 29, SW 29, NW 29, Center 29.

Level 6

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 6 were as follows: NE 29, SE 29, SW 29, NW 29, Center 29. The excavation objective was to remove 4 cm of matrix. The deposits were troweled out and screened through a ¼" mesh. There were different soils that appeared in the plan view, especially in the SE quadrant. Zone A, on the Se corner, had a Munsell reading of 3/2, or 'dark grayish brown' with a soil that was slightly compact, moist, sandy loam. It had lots of artifact activity. Zone B was also located on the SE corner. It had a Munsell reading of 3/4, or 'dark yellowish brown'. The soil was loose mostly loose gravel and mostly small bits, with very little soil matrix. Zone C consisted of two pars. Part I was located on the south of the unit and

had a Munsell reading of 3/3, or 'dark brown.' The soil was very compact, dry sandy loam mottled with 5/4, or 'yellowish brown' sand. Part II was located in the northern portion of unit and had a Munsell reading of 5/4, or 'yellowish brown'. The soil was loose, dry sand mottled with 3/3, or 'dark brown', sandy loam. The soil was very compact as excavation of the level began, but by the base of the level, essentially all of it is gone. There were a fair amount of artifacts yet, especially on the SW corner. They included window glass, ceramics, and plaster, only in zone C. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 6 were as follows: NE 33, SE 33, SW 33, NW 33, Center 33. The depth of excavation is 29 cm to 33 cm.

Level 7

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 7 were as follows: NE 33, SE 33, SW 33, NW 33, Center 33. The excavation objective was to excavate the different zones down 4 cm. The different zones were screened separately through the ¼" mesh. Zone A seemed like a post hole, but it was too shallow and contained no artifacts. It disappeared at the base of the level. Zone B was all gravel with very little matrix and no artifacts. The Munsell reading for some of the soil was 5/3, or 'brown.' The soil was very dry and very loose sand, especially when compared with the neighboring soils. Zone C had a munsell reading of 6/3, or 'pale brown.' The soil was very dry, compact sandy loam. Few artifacts were recovered, including only a single fragment of container glass from the SW corner of the zone and a possible bone fragment. Another area, Zone D, was identified. It had a Munsell reading of 4/3, or 'brown.' The soil was dry, compact sandy loam, but it was not as compact as Zone C. It was monstrously challenging to excavate because the soil was very compact. The excavators went a bit deep because it was difficult to control the depth with the soil being so compact. It is possible that there could be a possible fill zone because of the sand areas. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 7 were as follows: NE 40, SE 40, SW 39, NW 40, Center 40. The depth of excavation began at 33 cm and ended at 40 cm.

Level 8

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 8 were as follows: NE 40, SE 40, SW 39, NW 40, Center 40. The excavation objective was to remove 4 cm of matrix. The matrix was troweled out separately from each zone and screened through a ¼" mesh. The plan view consisted of basically all the gravel across the base of the unit, with some vestiges of Zone C soil in the area of Zone D, as was shown in the plan view of the base of level 7. The artifact density was low, but the excavators were still in cultural zones, because plaster was found in the matrix. Also, they were clearly not in the cultural sterile subsoil that has been discovered in the other units. The soil was very compact in Zone C and D and still very loose in Zone B. Zone B had gravel and some soil that had a Munsell reading of 6/3, or 'pale brown' sand. Zone C had a Munsell reading of 5/3, or 'brown' with some gravel, but not as much as in Zone B. Both Zones B and C have dry sand. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 8 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.

Level 9

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 9 were as follows: NE 44, SE 44, SW 44, NW 44, Center 44. The excavation objective was to remove 4 cm of matrix. The deposits were troweled out and screened through a ¼" mesh. There were no artifacts found. The deposits are beginning to resemble those from Units 2 and 4. The Munsell reading for the soil was 6/4, or 'light yellowish brown'. The soil was dry sand with gravel inclusions. The gravel of Zone B appeared to be a natural vein. The ending elevations for Level 9 were as follows: NE 49, SE 49, SW 49, NW 49, Center 49. The depth of excavation began at 44 cm and ended at 49 cm.

Level 10

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 10 were as follows: NE 49, SE 49, SW 49, NW 49, Center 49. The excavation objectives was to excavate only the SW quadrant. The deposits were shovel skimmed and screened through a ¼" mesh. It was decided to excavate 10 cm of soil in the SW quadrant. It was decided that they were in culturally sterile glacial till that meant the termination of the excavation. No artifacts were found. The Munsell reading for the soil excavated was 6/4, or 'light yellowish brown.' The soil was dry loose

gravel and sand with gravel inclusions. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 10 were as follows: NE X, SE X, SW 59, NW X, Center X.

Profile

A profile of the west wall was made for Unit 11 (Figure 8.20). The profile of this unit includes a total of 7 different zones. The first zone, (marked on the profile as Roman numeral I), was the active humus layer and had a Munsell reading of 2/1, or “black”, sandy loam. The second zone (II) was the former humus layer with some gravel inclusions. The Munsell reading was 2/2, or ‘very dark brown.’ The third zone (III) was a possible rodent burrow. It was culturally sterile. The Munsell reading was 3/3, or ‘dark brown’ and the soil was sand with loam. The fourth zone (IV) was a gravel lens with a Munsell reading of 4/3, or ‘brown’. The soil was sand with loam. The fifth level (V) was a sand lens with a Munsell reading of 6/4, or ‘light yellowish brown’. The soil was sand. The sixth zone (VI) was a pocket of unknown with a Munsell reading of 4/6, or dark yellowish brown.’ The seventh zone (VII) had a Munsell reading of 5/6, or ‘yellowish brown’, and the soil was very compact, dry sand.

Overall, the unit produced a relatively small amount of artifacts and was very difficult to excavate. The varying zones and levels of compact soil may indicate that the inhabitants parked their car in front of the chicken coop/shed.

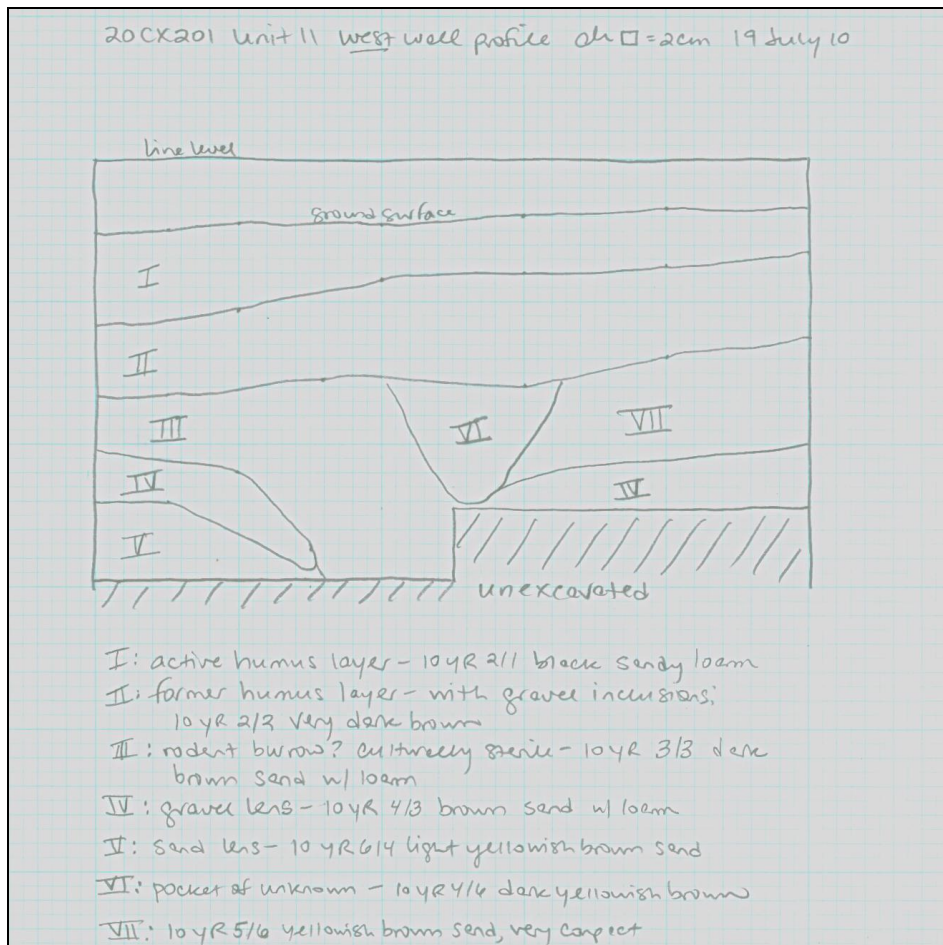


Figure 8.20. A hand-sketched profile of the west wall of Unit 11. A properly drafted profile will be included in the final report.

Unit Number: 12

Coordinates: S11, E12.5

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

Dates of Excavation: 19 July 2010-21 July 2010

The location for Unit 12 was chosen based upon the success experienced with both Unit 5 and Unit 8, which can most likely be attributed to that fact that they are in close proximity to lilac trees, which often signals the location of a privy. The pleasant aroma from the flowers will mask any offensive scent. These units are also located right next to the storage shed of the house where old household items and trash frequently meet their resting place. The majority of the unit was troweled by hand with the exception of some shovel work early on. A CVS (1L) was not taken for this unit because the team realized after sifting past CVS samples that they were not uncovering any data that they would have missed with a regular screen in the field. Measurements of unit depth (cm) were taken in the beginning of every level and at the end of every level. A typical level excavation goal is 4 cm and once the soil was troweled it was sifted in a quarter inch (1/4 in) sifter. Before the end of a level a Munsell soil sample was taken to test the soil color of each level. The datum stake for this unit was placed in the SW corner and the Unit was placed to the West of Unit 8. This unit was opened up on the 19th of July 2010 with Levels 0 and 1. Levels 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were all excavated on the 20th of July with Level 9 and the Unit 12 Soil profile finishing up on the 21st of July 2010.

Level 0

The objectives for this level were to first set out a grid and then to scour the surface or ground level of the unit and pick up any loose artifacts. This site is very wild and when it came time to mark out the grid, the stakes that are usually used were of no use because hidden beneath the vegetation were more bottles and cans, consequently nails proved to be more effective. Each nail was flagged with tape so the team would be able to see them in the brush. The unit was then manually cleared after some bushwhacking with a sickle. The unit was then raked and manicured. Artifacts from the ground recovered were beverage cans and bottles. The team morale is high and each member is looking forward to continuing excavation in this area because of the artifacts recovered from Unit 8.

Level 1

The objectives for this level were to remove the compacted top soil and sod from the unit and well as clear away and collect any of the artifacts that maybe lodged and embedded within the soil. After attempting to shovel to the sod the team was unable to penetrate the top layer and resorted to manually troweling the soil to loosen it up. There were serious root systems present in this level that were very thick and bark-like. About 10 bricks were removed from this level, which was probably a contributing factor to why the shoveling was ineffective. The team discovered that the bricks were actually hand made because of the curved edges and scraping on the back of the brick. When making bricks the mixture was poured into molds and the back of the mold was scraped to remove excess mixture. There were also large metal objects present within the matrix such as a metal coal grate. This level was one of the most time consuming but necessary levels but by the end of the afternoon of the 19th of July the team was starting to see some definite walls in formation.

The team continued on this level on the morning of 20 July 2010. The soil had a dark hue from the morning dew and with fresh eyes the unit looked considerably better from yesterday. The team continued to trowel the surface and work to clear away and dislodge roots and debris. The team was still at the humus layer in this level with very thick roots and lots of grubs indicating disturbed soil. It should be noted that the NW corner will probably be off in meter by meter measurements because of the locations of where the stake should be placed is right over a brick making the nail unsteady in addition to being on a slope from the NW down. Artifacts recovered from this level were bits of a record, two more dog tags in addition to the 7 found in Unit 8, mortar, bricks (10+), shingles, and a coal grater. A Munsell soil color sample indicated that the soil color was 3/1 or Very Dark Gray that it was a bit damp with a sandy loam texture. Inclusions include roots that were both thick and thin and no pebbles yet. Ending elevations that the team was able to take from this level were as follows NE: 9, SE: 12, SW: 11, NW: 9, and Center: 8 (cm).

Level 2

The beginning elevations of this level were NE: 9, SE: 12, SW: 11, NW: 9, and Center: 8 (cm). The excavation objectives for this level were to remove the massive and chunky roots that were making it impossible to dig with in place, dislodge all the bricks and rocks if able to within the layer, and finally to work on creating a uniform level. The team troweled the unit and spent time ripping, hacking, and cutting into tree roots. There are many shards of PVC pipe in the unit but the team has already taken a small sample so the rest it was sifted and disregarded. This also applies to all the bricks that the team dug up. Some important notes about this level was that the team ran into some sizeable rocks, the nails marking the walls of the unit kept coming out because of the uneven ground, and the unit is on a slope from the NW down. The team noticed that it seems that this Unit will most likely follow a similar pattern that Unit 8 did. Artifacts recovered from this level included some ceramic sherds, a straight razor, a glass vial, and a possible coin. The Munsell pointed out that the soil was 3/2 or Very Dark Grayish Brown that was dry with a grainy and sandy texture. Inclusions for this level were huge rocks, some small pebbles towards the east wall, and of course thick and thin root systems. The ending elevations for this level we as follows NE: 21, SE: 20, SW: 18, and NW: 17, and Center: 19 (cm).

Level 3

The beginning elevations (cm) for this level were as follows NE: 21, SE: 20, SW: 18, NW: 17, and Center: 19. The goal excavation depth for this level was to have a uniform level of 22 cm by the end. When Unit 8 was completed there was a definite “bath tub” effect that took place. When a large rock unearthed from the NW corner, the team suspected that there could be a possible feature present there and they kept this mind as they continued excavating. The team didn’t collect all of the metal, shingle, and brick pieces they encountered, only some samples of each. This was in part because it a full size brick would not have provided any more information than a small sample. When the team was conducting intermittent measurements just to check on where they were at in the excavation depths they discovered that the readings were off and the soil was shallower than previously measured. Since troweling was proving ineffective in this unit, shovel skimming was introduced to expedite the digging process, which helped immensely. The walls and small nooks were still troweled but the majority of the level was excavated by shovel. Artifacts that were recovered from this level were sherds of ceramics-plain and possibly Blue Willow, a red handle or clamp, amethyst glass, small glass vial, shingles, and many glass shards. A possible explanation for the appearance of the amethyst glass and the shingles together is that when removing the roots the team might have manually pulled them up causing artifacts to become scattered. The lesson learned by the team was that when dealing with roots, remember to cut them at the base as they are revealed. The Munsell soil sample yielded a result of 3/2 or Very Dark Grayish Brown with a dry moisture content and a good concentration of both sand and loam. There were still some big rocks and roots in the unit as well. The ending elevations for this unit were as follows NE: 22, SE: 22, SW: 22, NW: 22, and Center: 22 (cm). The goal of a uniform excavation depth was reached!

Level 4

The beginning elevations for this level were NE: 22, SE: 22, SW: 22, NW: 22, and Center: 22 (cm). The excavation objectives for this next level are to dig 4 more cm to reach a uniform 26 cm in the unit. The new system the team has been using of one person troweling the unit and the other team member sifting and being the scribe is working out very well and making the team much more efficient. At first there was a low artifact density in this level yet later on in the level the unit yielded significant artifacts consisting of many ceramic sherds in various styles (salt glazed, blue print, and even pink), embossed glass, end of a utensil, and amethyst glass. The ceramics were generally found in pockets of the unit. There was also a definite soil change present especially within the SW corner that could be just because of rust coming from a piece of hardware but the team will continue to keep a sharp eye on it. The sides of this unit are very hard to keep sharp, the soil is very sandy and it slides everywhere. A Munsell description of the soils shows that it was 3/2

or Very Dark Grayish Brown and seems a bit more damp than previous levels. The soil texture was sandy loam and inclusions discovered were rocks and some thick and thin roots, as well as earthworms. The earthworms were a pleasant surprise because they inhabit culturally disturbed soil, which exactly what the team is looking for. The ending elevations for this level were as follows NE: 26, SE: 26, SW: 26, NW: 26, and Center: 26 (cm).

Level 5

The beginning elevations for this level were NE: 26, SE: 26, SW: 26, NW: 26, and Center: 26 (cm). The excavation objectives for this unit were to excavate 4 cm more into the unit unless there is an obvious change in soil color and texture. In this level there were major root systems resurfacing but not as thick as higher in the level. There were also many objects embedded within the dirt walls such as plain white ceramics lodged in the southern wall, there are also many in the NW corner. The soil the walls are difficult to keep intact, which is the case with the wall on the East side. The artifact density for this level was high and contained many ceramic sherds (blue), glass shards (amber, amethyst, and aquamarine), radiocarbon rods, and a button. There were also plenty of rusted metal pieces but the team only took a couple of samples because they cannot provide much of the information that the team is seeking. The Munsell color soil sample indicated that the soil was 3/2 or Very Dark Grayish Brown that was damp with the texture of loamy sand. The inclusions were roots (thick and thin), pebbles, and medium sized rocks. The ending elevations for this level were as follows NE: 30, SE: 30, SW: 30, NW: 30, and Center: 30 (cm).

Level 6

The beginning elevations for this level were NE: 30, SE: 30, SW: 30, NW: 30, and Center: 30 (cm). The excavation objectives for this unit were to continue to trowel the midden four more cm into the unit ending with a final measurement of 34 cm and maintaining a uniform level. There was a fair bit of decomposing wood on the east wall with white fragments accompanying it as well. There is also a serious amount of soil, which reminds the team that this unit is certainly larger than Unit 8. This unit is also difficult to level out because the datum stake seems to keep changing height, which is most likely because of the loose soil surrounding it. Artifacts recovered in this level include ceramic sherds (some plain, transfer print, and Blue Willow), Aquamarine and clear glass shards, and a possible leather scrap. The Munsell soil color chart described this soil was 3/2 or Very Dark Grayish Brown with the texture of sandy loam. The inclusions from this level were major rocks as well as tiny and medium root systems. The ending elevations for this level were a uniform 34 cm across the unit.

Level 7

The beginning elevation for this unit was 34 cm and the excavation objectives for this unit was to trowel the midden 4 more cm till this unit is level with Unit 8. The team is starting to see a definite soil color change in the NW corner and feels that this could possibly be the subsoil. There is a mottling of soils going on at this level and is taking place primarily in the NW corner at the beginning and then proceeding to spread towards the SW. The team continued to trowel and shift dirt through $\frac{1}{4}$ in mesh screens and realized that there was a low artifact density. The only artifacts recovered were shards of glass, scraps of metal, and rods of charcoal. A Munsell soil test revealed that the soil was classified as 3/1 or Very Dark Gray with a dry moisture content and sandy loam texture. The color of the subsoil was classified as 4/6 or Dark Yellowish Brown with the texture of sand and the subsoil was exhibiting slightly damp moisture content. For both soil groups the inclusions included root systems, there was one main thick root that was splitting the unit in half from the East to the West. The ending elevations for this level were as follows NE: 38, SE: 38, SW: 39, NW: 38.6 and Center: 38 (cm).

Level 8

The beginning elevations for this level were as follows NE: 38, SE: 38, SW: 39, NW: 38.5, and Center: 38 (cm). The excavation objectives were to continue to trowel the midden 4 more cm as well as to explore the "bridge" that exists between the two units. The team suspects that this common wall will yield many good artifacts. The unit was trowled by hand and there was a definite soil color change present because the color has shifted from Very Dark Gray Brown to Yellowish Brown. There is a marbling or mottling of

soils towards the East where the soil ends up as a dark sandy loam. Artifacts are still present in this unit and this could be because of the East Wall or “bridge” which has retained the darker soil hue. The team has concluded that they are definitely reaching the subsoil because the cultural deposits are becoming smaller and are not as prevalent. The artifacts recovered were aquamarine glass shards, scrap metal shards, and a carbon radio stick. It should be noted that on the SE side the soil is very dark and many charcoal bits are present. Some but not all of these bits were collected to sample. The team thought that the presence of charcoal indicated that perhaps some sort of burning took place here. A Munsell soil color description for the soil indicated 3/1 or Very Dark Gray with a slightly damp and sandy loam texture to it. The subsoil tested as 4/6 or Dark Yellowish Brown with a slightly damp and sandy texture. Inclusions were observed as both thick and thin root systems as well as pebbles. The ending excavation elevations for this unit were as follows NE: 42, SE: 42.5, SW: 42, NW: 42, and Center: 43 (cm).

Level 9

The initial elevations for this level were NE: 42, SE: 42.5, SW: 42, NW: 42 and Center: 43 (cm). The objectives for this level of excavation were to continue to trowel the midden and reach the subsoil while paying close attention to the East for possible cultural deposits. In a description of the excavation it should be noted that the team dug more than 4 cm because the artifact density is low and the team was interested in leveling Unit 12 off to be at the same depth as Unit 8. At a depth of 50 cm the entire unit is subsoil. Level 9 is the final level for this unit. Although the team did not make the two units completely level, they felt that since they had already reached subsoil in Unit 12 and excavated the “bridge” between the units the team was safe in leaving Unit 12 at 50 cm. The wall scrapings from the “bridge” in the East Wall were sifted and analyzed. The artifact density for Level 9 was barren with the exception of a strange artifact that is possibly a fossil or a plain rock. The object in question has ridges, is curved, and maybe hollow. A Munsell soil sample of the subsoil yielded that it was 4/6 or Deep Yellowish Brown with a very sandy and fine texture that goes through a sifter with ease and is light to dig. The subsoil was somewhat damp and the inclusions for this level were still root systems that were going strong. There is the occasional big rock, for instance there was a particularly large one in the West wall. The ending elevations for this level were a uniform 50 cm in all corners and the Center.

Unit 12 Soil Profile

At the end of each unit a soil profile of one of the walls is created to document the progression of the dig and stratigraphy of the soil (Figure 8.21). The soil is conducted by selecting a wall, stringing a line level across and carpenter’s rule beneath. The layers of the soil are then noted and measured using a measuring tape from the line level to the bottom of each layer. A Munsell of each layer is also conducted after measuring and these measurements are then plotted and documented on a graph. The soil profile was made of the entire south wall of Units 8 and 12. Throughout the profiling it was duly noted that both units were suffering from an acute “bath tub” effect with their edges not clearly defined because of debris of root systems. There were three main layers in the profile. The first was the active humus layer and when the soil was tested with a Munsell (10YR) the color was 3/2 or Very Dark Grayish Brown with a very dry and very grainy sandy loam texture. The second level was the main matrix with a 3/1 or Very Dark Gray coloring. This level had soil with a grainy texture that was similar to the first layer of very dry sandy loam. The third level was the subsoil, which was classified as 4/6 or Dark Yellowish Brown with a finer sandy texture that was much more damp than previous levels had been. A fourth area of the unit was selected to test, which was the charcoal or burnt area. This area of soil yielded 2/1 or Black with a brittle, chalky, and dry texture. Following this soil profile, Unit 12 was backfilled and the team headed home after a successful day.

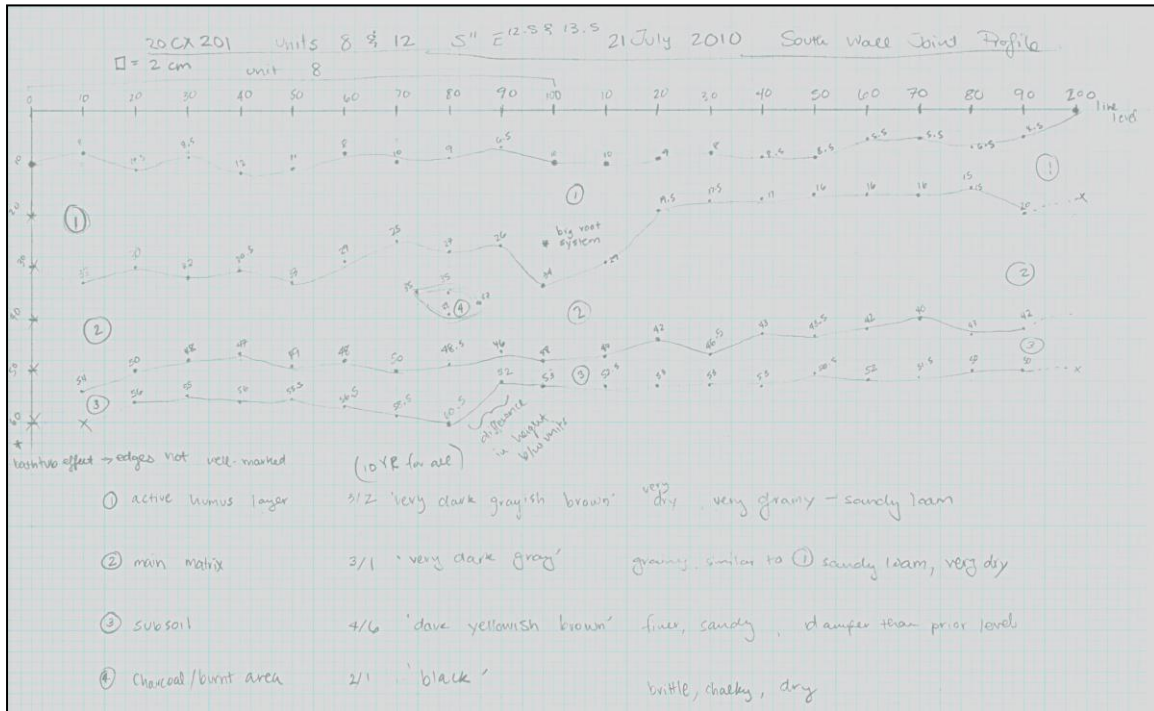


Figure 8.21. A hand-sketched profile of the south walls of Units 8 and 12. A properly drafted profile will be included in the final report.

Unit Number: 13

Coordinates: S3 E12

Excavators: Jim Rotman, Deb Rotman

Dates of Excavation: 20 July 2010

The unit was chosen because the excavation team wanted to further explore the midden located around Unit 9. The unit was in between the back door of the house and the shed that was located near the southeast side of the home. A trowel was used to excavate the entire unit. The soil recovered throughout the excavation was screened through quarter inch (1/4 in) mesh. The datum for this unit was in the southwest (SW) corner. The soil was described using the 10YR Munsell Color Chart, starting with at Level 1 of the unit. Levels 0-10 were excavated on July 20, 2010.

Level 0

The excavation objectives for Level 0 were to clear the grass, check the surface for artifacts and features, and prepare the unit for excavation. The larger grass blades were removed using a sickle. The initial measurements (cm) for Level 0 were as follows: NE 19, SE 19, SW 12, NW 9, Center 18. There were no visible surface features. There were no artifacts on the active ground surface.

Level 1

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 1 were as follows: NE 19, SE 19, SW 12, NW 9, Center 18. The excavation objectives for Level 1 were to remove the sod layer and recover any artifacts found. The unit sloped downward in the northern corners. A shovel was used to remove the sod. A trowel was used to sort the sod and screen through the 1/4in mesh. The artifact density was moderate for this level. Artifacts recovered for this level included glass, nails, cinder, and a plastic mesh bag. The Munsell description for the soil was 3/1, or "very dark gray". The texture was described as "sandy loam" and the moisture content was dry. There was some gravel, especially in the north half of the unit. This level was composed of the active

humus layer. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 1 were as follows: NE 27, SE 30, SW 20, NW 21, Center 23. The depth of excavation for this level began at 9cm and ended at 30cm.

Level 2

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 2 were as follows: NE 27, SE 30, SW 20, NW 21, Center 23. The excavation objectives for this level were to remove enough of the matrix to bring the base of the unit level and to recover any artifacts found. A shovel was used to skim the matrix of dirt and a trowel was used to remove the dirt out of the matrix. The artifact density for this level was moderate. Artifacts recovered included tinfoil, pencil lead, nails, metal key/can opener, and burnt bone. The soil was consistent across the unit. The Munsell reading for this level was 5/2, or “grayish brown”. The soil was described as dry loam with sand. There was still gravel in the soil. There were still fine roots in the soil that remained from the humus layer as the midden was reached. There was a piece of rubber sticking out of the west wall profile. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 2 were as follows: NE 27, SE 30, SW 27, NW 28, Center 27. The depth of excavation for this level began at 20cm and ended at 27cm.

Level 3

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 3 were as follows: NE 27, SE 30, SW 27, NW 28, Center 27. The excavation objectives for this level were to remove 4cm of the matrix and recover any artifacts found. The artifact density for this level remained high. Artifacts recovered included bottle caps (Crown cap closure), nails, and bone. The soil was consistently uniform across the unit. The Munsell reading for this level was 4/2, or “dark grayish brown”. The soil was described as “sandy loam” and the moisture content was dry. The end of the topsoil was reached in this level. This level could have possibly been a fill zone, as seen in Unit 9. There was still gravel in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 3 were as follows: NE 32, SE 31, SW 31, NW 30.5, Center 31. The depth of excavation for this level began at 27cm and ended at 31cm.

Level 4

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 4 were as follows: NE 32, SE 31, SW 31, NW 30.5, Center 31. The excavation objectives for this level were to remove 4cm of matrix and to recover any artifacts. Once again, a shovel was used to skim the matrix and then a trowel was used to remove the soil. The artifact density for this level was moderate. Artifacts recovered included brick, a possible bead, a lead rod, cinder, and some nails. The matrix was homogenous across the unit. There was no longer much gravel. The Munsell reading for this level was 4/3, or “brown”. The texture was still dry, sandy loam and there was some residual gravel in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 4 were as follows: NE 37, SE 37, SW 36, NW 36, Center 36. The depth of excavation for this level began at 31cm and 37cm.

Level 5

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 5 were as follows: NE 37, SE 37, SW 36, NW 36, Center 36. The excavation objectives for this level were to remove 4cm of the matrix and the check for artifacts. A shovel was not used during this level. The artifact density for this level continued to be moderate. Artifacts recovered during this level included large metal pieces (possibly cookware?), bone, cinder, and nails. The matrix was homogenous throughout. The excavation of this level was terminated at the distinct soil color change. The Munsell reading for this soil was 4/3, or “brown”. The soil texture was dry, sandy loam. There was some gravel in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 5 were as follows: NE 41, SE 41, SW 41, NW 41, Center 41. The depth of excavation began at 37cm and ended at 41cm.

Level 6

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 6 were as follows: NE 41, SE 41, SW 41, NW 41, Center 41. The excavation objectives for this level were to remove 4cm of the matrix and recover any artifacts found. The artifact density for this level was moderately low. Artifacts recovered included a collar stud (or cufflink) and some nails. Half of a handmade brick was removed from this level, but not collected. There were lots of flecks from the brick in the screen, but they were not collected. At the base of the level,

something that appeared to be wood emerged. It was sticking out of the north wall and angled toward the SW corner (approx. 9cm wide, with a visible length of approx. 4cm). It could have been a root. The soil was homogenous. The Munsell reading for this level was 4/3, or “brown”. The soil texture was fine, sandy loam. The soil was dry. There was still some gravel in the soil. This layer seemed to be the buried land surface. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 6 were as follows: NE 45, SE 45, SW 45, NW 45, Center 45. The depth of excavation for this level began at 41cm and ended at 45cm.

Level 7

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 7 were as follows: NE 45, SE 45, SW 45, NW 45, Center 45. The excavation objectives for this level were to remove 4cm of matrix and to recover any artifacts found. The artifact density was low for this level. Artifacts recovered included nails. The soil was homogenous. The Munsell reading for this soil was 4/3, or “brown”. The soil was a dry, sandy loam. There were some large rocks in the soil, especially on the east side of the unit. There was timber in the center of the unit and a brick and some rocks to the east of the timber. The excavation team was unsure what layer of soil had been reached, so 4 photographs were taken of the base of this level (Figure 8.22). A sketch was made of the base of this level as well. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 7 were as follows: NE 49, SE 49, SW 49, NW 49, Center 49. The depth of excavation began at 45cm and ended at 49cm.

Level 8

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 8 were as follows: NE 49, SE 49, SW 49, NW 49, Center 49. The excavation objectives for this level were to remove 4cm of the matrix and to recover any artifacts found. The team excavated east of the timber and west of the timber (found in the center of the unit) separately. These two sections were also screened separately and artifacts found were bagged separately. The west half of the unit contained flecks of decayed bricks, which were noted, but not collected. The east half of



Figure 8.22. Base of excavation, level 7, Unit 13. Photograph by Jim Rotman. Used by permission.

the unit contained lots of decaying wood, which was also noted, but not collected. The artifact density for this level was low. In the east half of the unit, a single nail was recovered. In the west half, a nail and a bone were recovered. The soil was homogenous across the unit. The Munsell reading for this level was 4/2, or “dark grayish brown”. The soil was loose, dry, sandy loam. There were no inclusions in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 8 were as follows: NE 53, SE 53, SW 53, NW 53, Center 53. The depth of excavation for this level began at 49cm and ended at 53cm.

Level 9

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 9 were as follows: NE 53, SE 53, SW 53, NW 53, Center 53. The excavation objectives for this level were to remove matrix until the subsoil was reached. The east and west halves of the unit continued to be excavated separately. The artifact density for this level was low. In the east half of the unit, window glass, wire, and plaster was recovered. In the west half, no artifacts were found. Differences in soil were observed on the east and west half of the unit. The Munsell reading for the soil on the west half of the unit was 4/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. The Munsell reading for the soil on the east half of the unit was 4/3, or “brown”. The texture of the soil was uniform across the unit. The soil was a sandy loam. It was still dry and loose. The timber in the center of the unit was clearly not a tree root, but it was still unclear as to what it was (possibly a fallen tree?). At this point in the matrix, the base of the cultural zone had been reached and the matrix was at the interface of the subsoil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 9 were as follows: NE 61, SE 60, SW 60, NW 57.5, Center 60. The depth of excavation for this level began at 53cm and ended at 60cm.

Level 10

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 10 were as follows: NE 61, SE 60, SW 60, NW 57.5, Center 60. The excavation objectives for this level were to remove the balance of the matrix to the subsoil. Only the east half of the matrix was excavated to this level. No artifacts were recovered for this level, indicating that the culturally sterile subsoil had been reached. The Munsell reading for this soil was 4/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. The texture was fine, loose sand. The moisture content was dry. There were no inclusions in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 10 were as follows: NE 65, SE 65, SW n/a, NW n/a, Center n/a. The depth of excavation for this level began at 60cm and ended at 65cm (east half only).

Profile of Unit 13

A profile was made of the west wall of Unit 13 (Figure 8.23). There were five major zones of soil. The first zone (I) was the active humus layer. It was composed of sandy loam. The Munsell reading for this zone was 3/1, or “very dark grayish brown”. The second zone (II) was a fill zone. It was composed of sandy loam and gravel. The Munsell reading for this zone was 5/2, or “grayish brown”. The third zone (III) was a pocket zone, composed of sand. The Munsell reading for this zone was 6/4, or “light yellowish brown”. The fourth zone (IV) was the buried A horizon. It was composed of sandy loam. This zone had a Munsell reading of 4/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. There was a large rock inclusion in this zone. The fifth zone (V) was the subsoil, and it was composed of dry, fine sand. The Munsell reading for this zone was 5/6, or “yellowish brown”.

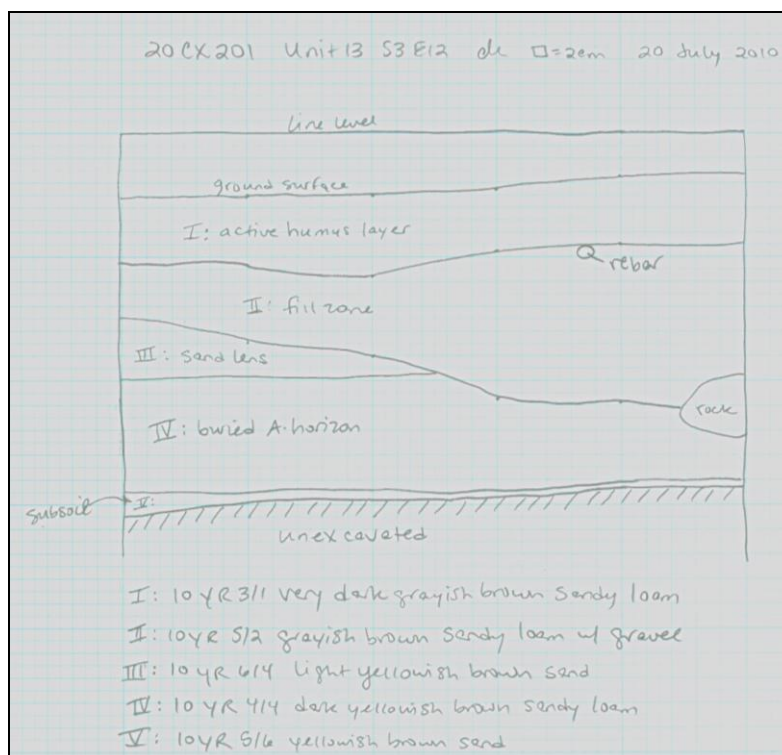


Figure 8.23. A hand-sketched profile of the west wall of Unit 13. A properly drafted profile will be included in the final report.

Unit Number: 14

Coordinates: N2 E13

Excavators: Rhiannon Duke, Kasia Ahern, Jacqueline Thomas, Deb Rotman, Bianca Fernandez

Dates of Excavation: 20 July 2010-21 July 2010

The unit location was chosen because of its proximity to Unit 9. The excavation team had recovered a significant number and variety of artifacts from Unit 9, so it was believed that this unit would also produce a good amount of artifacts. A trowel was used to excavate the entire unit. The soil that was recovered was screened through quarter inch (1/4in) mesh. The datum for this unit was in the southwest (SW) corner. The soil was described using the 10YR Munsell Color Chart, starting with Level 1 of the unit. Levels 0-1 were excavated on July 20, 2010 by Jacqueline Thomas and Deb Rotman. Levels 2-10 were excavated by Rhiannon Duke, Kasia Ahern, Jacqueline Thomas, and Bianca Fernandez.

Level 0

The excavation objectives for Level 0 were to clear the grass, check for surface features and artifacts, and prepare the unit for excavation. Level 0 was interpreted to be the active land surface. The unit ground slopes significantly upward toward the west. The NE corner of the unit is very close to the burn barrel on the back lawn. Glass shards were found on the surface. There were no features observed on the surface. The initial measurements (cm) for Level 0 were as follows: NE 20, SE 21, SW 11, NW 11, Center 15.

Level 1

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 1 were as follows: NE 20, SE 21, SW 11, NW 11, Center 15. The excavation objectives were to clear the unit of the active humus layer and check for artifacts. A shovel was used to remove the sod layer. A trowel was used to remove smaller pieces of sod. The artifact

density for this unit was moderate. Artifacts recovered included plastic, glass shards, and pieces of wire. The soil was uniform in color and texture across the unit. The Munsell reading for this unit was 4/2, or “dark grayish brown”. The soil texture was described as “sandy loam” and the moisture content was dry. There was some gravel in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 1 were as follows: NE 22, SE 25, SW 17, NW 17, Center 20. The depth of excavation for this level began at 11cm and ended at 25cm.

Level 2

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 2 were as follows: NE 22, SE 25, SW 17, NW 17, Center 20. The excavation objectives for this level were to excavate the midden, recover any artifacts found, and to make the ground elevations level. The artifact density was moderate for this level. Artifacts recovered included nails, glass shards, metal pieces, a coin, and some paper. The soil color and texture was uniform across the unit, but it was a bit more compact in the SW corner. The Munsell reading for this soil was 3/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. The soil was composed of very fine sand, which made it easy to dig up. There were lots of pebbles and gravel in the soil, which indicates that a gravel layer had been reached. There were also fine and thick roots in the soil. A small amount of the active humus layer was still found in the SE corner. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 2 were as follows: NE 25, SE 25, SW 25, NW 25, Center 25. The depth of excavation for this level began at 17cm and ended at 25cm.

Level 3

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 3 were as follows: NE 25, SE 25, SW 25, NW 25, Center 25. The excavation objectives for this unit were to continue to excavate the unit and to check for artifacts in the soil. The artifact density for this level was moderately high. Artifacts recovered included ceramic sherds, glass shards, nails, metal pieces, and bone. There were some patches of orange soil on the south half of the unit, which was interpreted as rust from the metal pieces found there. The soil on the south half of the unit had a Munsell reading of 4/6, or “dark yellowish brown”. The soil on the north half of the unit had a Munsell reading of 3/3, or “dark brown”. The soil texture was uniform across the unit. The soil was still composed of dry, fine sand. There were some pebbles and fine and thick roots in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 3 were as follows: NE 29, SE 29, SW 29, NW 29, Center 29. The depth of excavation for this level began at 25cm and ended at 29cm.

Level 4

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 4 were as follows: NE 29, SE 29, SW 29, NW 29, Center 29. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to excavate the midden and to check for artifacts. The artifact density for this level was low. Artifacts recovered included a sherd, nails, and a glass shard. The soil was mostly uniform in color, except for some very small patches of orange color scattered across the unit. The orange color could have been due to the rocks or the rusted metal. The Munsell reading for the orange patches of soil was 5/6, or “yellowish brown”. The Munsell reading for the rest of the unit was 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The soil was uniform in texture. The soil was very dry, due to the sunlight and heat. There were some pebbles and some fine and thick roots in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 4 were as follows: NE 33, SE 33, SW 33, NW 33, Center 33. The depth of excavation for this level began at 29cm and ended at 33cm.

Level 5

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 5 were as follows: NE 33, SE 33, SW 33, NW 33, Center 33. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue excavating the midden and to recover any artifacts found in the soil. There was a clump of dirt in the SE corner of the unit that revealed some bits of orange and black tape. The artifact density for this level was moderate. Artifacts recovered included nails, lots of hardware, silver metal piece, and some pieces of orange tape (found in the SE corner of unit). The soil was uniform across the unit, except for a patch of orange soil near the south wall of the unit. The Munsell reading for the orange soil patch was 5/6, or “yellowish brown”. The Munsell reading for the rest of the soil was 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The soil was fine sand that was very dry due to the hot sun. There were some pebbles and fine and thick roots in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 5 were as

follows: NE 37, SE 37, SW 37, NW 37, Center 37. The depth of excavation for this level began at 33cm and ended at 37cm.

Level 6

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 6 were as follows: NE 37, SE 37, SW 37, NW 37, Center 37. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to excavate the midden and to recover any artifacts found. The artifact density for this level was low. Artifacts recovered included nails and, in the SE corner, bits of tape, a glass bottle with plastic top, and metal pieces. The SE corner was designated a separate screening and artifact bag due to the interesting and out-of-place findings in that area. This corner also revealed 2 metal rods and a circular metal piece stuck in the wall of the corner. The team excavated a little deeper in the SE corner due to the curious artifacts that were found there. This corner seems to have modern intrusions in the soil. The soil had been mottled with orange spots in previous levels, but at this level it was much more uniform in color and texture across the unit. The Munsell reading for this level was 3/3, or “dark brown”. The texture of the soil is still soft, fine sand and the moisture content is dry. There are a few pebbles and some roots in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 6 were as follows: NE 41, SE 43, SW 41, NW 41, Center 41. The depth of excavation for this level began at 37cm and ended at 41cm.

Level 7

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 7 were as follows: NE 41, SE 43, SW 41, NW 41, Center 41. The excavation objectives for this level was to continue to trowel the midden, reach a uniform depth, recover any artifacts found across the unit, and continue to trowel and screen through the soil of the SE corner separately from the rest of the unit. The artifact density for this level was low. Artifacts recovered included nails and bone. There were also nails found in the SE corner. The soil color and texture appeared uniform across the unit. The Munsell reading for this level was 4/2, or “dark grayish brown”. It was composed of dry, fine sand and gravel. This soil had many pebbles and some fine and thick roots in it. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 7 were as follows: NE 45, SE 45, SW 45, NW 45, Center 45. The depth of excavation for this level began at 41cm and ended at 45cm.

Level 8

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 8 were as follows: NE 45, SE 45, SW 45, NW 45, Center 45. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to trowel the midden and to recover any artifacts found. The SE corner was still screened separately. Artifacts found in the SE corner included nails and metal pieces. The artifact density for the rest of the unit was low. Artifacts recovered included nails. The soil of this level was lighter than that of the previous level. The Munsell reading for this soil was 4/3, or “brown. It was very hot and sunny out so that dried up the soil a lot. The texture was soft, grainy sand and there were still some pebbles and roots in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 8 were as follows: NE 49, SE 49, SW 49, NW 49, Center 49. The depth of excavation for this level began at 45cm and ended at 49cm.

Level 9

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 9 were as follows: NE 49, SE 49, SW 49, NW 49, Center 49. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to excavate the midden until no more artifacts were recovered. The SE corner soil was still screened separately. The SE corner was interpreted as a modern intrusion. No artifacts were recovered at this level. The soil became more reddish orange, indicating that the subsoil was about to be reached. The Munsell reading for this soil was 4/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. The soil was still soft, fine sand and was dry. There were a few pebbles and some roots in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 9 were as follows: NE 53, SE 54, SW 53, NW 53, Center 53. The depth of excavation for this level began at 49cm and ended at 53cm.

Level 10

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 10 were as follows: NE 53, SE 54, SW 53, NW 53, Center 53. The excavation objectives for this level were to excavate the SW corner to make sure that the unit is culturally sterile from this depth onward. A 50cmx50cm square with a depth of 10cm was excavated in the

SW corner. The excavation team dug deeper than 4cm in the SW corner in order to show more of the stratigraphy on the west wall. No artifacts were recovered. The subsoil was reached in the SW corner, indicating that the level was culturally sterile. The Munsell reading for this corner was 5/6, or “yellowish brown”. The soil texture was dry, fine sand. There were fine and thick roots and a few pebbles in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 10 were as follows: NE 53, SE 54, SW 63, NW 53, Center 53. The depth of excavation for this level began at 53cm and ended at 63cm (SW corner only).

Profile of Unit 14

A profile was made of the west wall of Unit 14 (Figure 8.24). There were four distinct soil zones in the stratigraphy. The first zone (I) was the active humus layer, composed of lots of roots and loamy sand. The Munsell reading for this zone was 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The second zone (II) was a gravel and fine sand layer. This zone had a Munsell reading of 3/3, or “dark brown”. The third zone was composed of fine sand and some pebbles and roots. It was the largest zone in the stratigraphy and was interpreted as the buried A horizon. The fourth zone (IV) was the subsoil layer, composed of fine sand. The Munsell reading for this zone was 5/6, or “yellowish brown”.

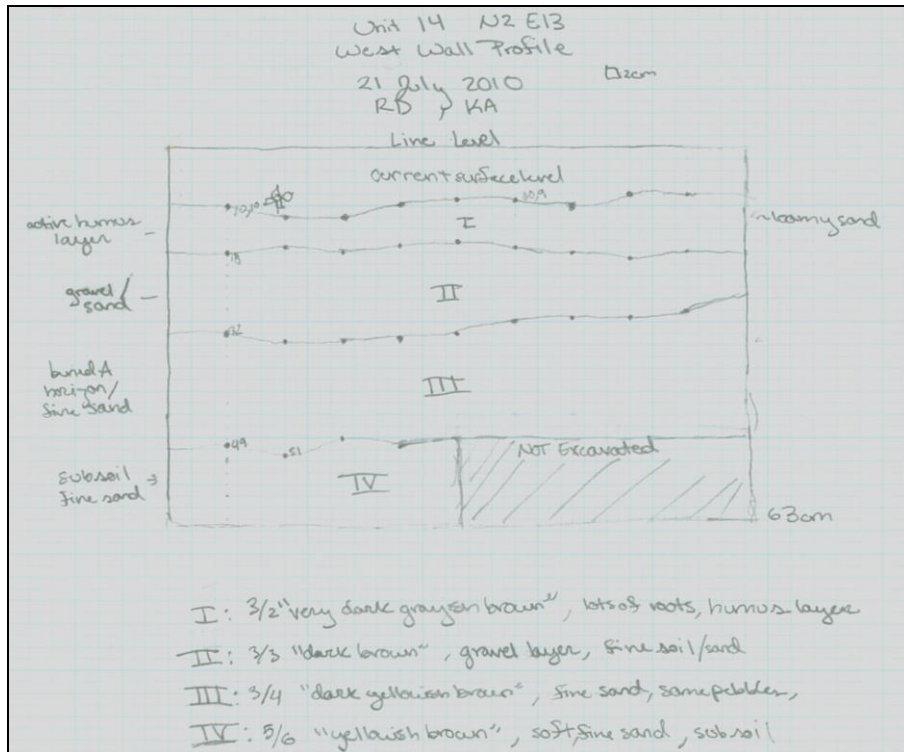


Figure 8.24. A hand-sketched profile of the west wall of Unit 14. A properly drafted profile will be included in the final report.

Chapter 9: Public Education and Outreach

by Deborah L. Rotman

The investigation of the Gallagher homesite was undertaken as part of the annual field school offered by the Department of Anthropology at the University of Notre Dame and conducted in partnership with the Beaver Island Historical Society. The project was widely publicized and we were able to reach many members of the community.

Four undergraduate students from Notre Dame – Kasia Ahern, Rhiannon Duke, Bianca Fernandez, and Jackie Thomas – participated in this important training opportunity. The field school was taught in six-

week module that included a week-long cultural study in Ireland, three weeks of field excavation on Beaver Island, and two weeks of laboratory processing and analyses of the data recovered in the Reyniers Laboratory of the University of Notre Dame.

In addition to the University students, two local school teachers, Miranda Rooy and Adam Richards, participated in a full week of excavation and laboratory processing. They also completed an online *Project Archaeology* workshop in October 2010. Their participation was supported by a generous grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation

During the field portion of the project, many people stopped by to see what we were doing. The site was informally open to visitors every day and a formal open house was held on Wednesday, July 21 as part of “Museum Week” activities for the Beaver Island Historical Society. A total of 68 people signed the Site Visitor Log during our 13 field days, although there were many others who did not. Some of their recorded comments included “Neat” and “How exciting!” A number of visitors had information about Irish immigration to the island generally and/or the Gallagher Homestead specifically. Contact information was collected with the intent of conducting formal interviews during future field seasons.

The project also drew attention from the media. The *Northern Islander* and the *Beaver Beacon* both did stories on the excavation and our discoveries. Our schoolteachers became local celebrities and their participation was also well documented.

Two public lectures were given at the Beaver Island Community Center as part of our outreach efforts. Dr. Stephen Brighton from the University of Maryland presented on his work in the Baltimore region, particularly the complex ways in which labor and identity were intertwined in those communities. There were 32 people in attendance. As part of Museum Week activities, I also gave a lecture. Since our work on Beaver Island was just getting underway and there wasn’t much yet to report, I presented on my research in the South Bend, discussed the Irish diaspora in America generally, and our expectations/research questions for Beaver Island specifically. There were 55 people in attendance.

We also started a blog, which can be accessed at blogs.nd.edu/irishstories. The students posted the results of their small research projects and we have solicited for public input on our preliminary research results. As of the date of this publication, the blog has generated some initial interest and feedback. We hope that it will grow exponentially in future field seasons.

The goal of the public education and outreach component of this project was to excite members of the public about historic and archaeological resources on the island and heighten awareness about preservation issues. We also sought to connect to the community as a way of building this project as a collaborative enterprise, an undertaking on which we can work together for (hopefully) many years to come.