

Chapter 8, continued: Archaeological Excavation on Beaver Island

by Deborah L. Rotman, Kasia Ahern, Kaitlyn Davis, Rhiannon Duke, Bianca Fernandez, Laura Fernandez, Adam Lake, Maria Rodriguez, Danielle Rush, Abby Statham, and Jackie Thomas

Unit Number: 6

Coordinates: N3 E30

Excavators: Kasia Ahern, Miranda Rooy

Dates of Excavation: 13 July 2010-15 July 2010

The unit location was chosen because it lay in an area where the landscape noticeably dipped down to a lower elevation in the backyard. This unit was expected to reveal a good amount of cultural material because it was in between the home and where the original barn had been. It seemed like a good area to excavate because it was assumed that those living in the home would have to carry things back and forth from the barn. The unit was excavated using a trowel throughout the entire excavation. The soil recovered during the entire excavation was screened through quarter inch (1/4in) mesh. 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 datum for this unit was in the southwest (SW) corner. The soil was described using the 10YR Munsell Color Chart. Levels 0-1 were excavated on July 13, 2010. Levels 1-7 were excavated on July 14, 2010. The profile of the unit was completed on July 15, 2010.

Level 0

The excavation objectives for Level 0 were to clear the longer grass blades, check the surface for artifacts, and prepare the unit for excavations. The initial elevations (cm) taken at Level 0 were as follows: NE 9.5, SE 10, SW 10, NW 5, Center 10. The unit had a high northwest elevation, but otherwise it was fairly level across the unit. There were no distinct features observed at the surface level. There were no artifacts observed or recovered from the surface level. The larger blades of grass were cleared from the unit before the initial elevations were taken.

Level 1

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 1 were as follows: NE 9.5, SE 10, SW 10, NW 5, Center 10. The excavation objectives for this level were to clear the sod from the unit and to recover any artifacts found. The active humus layer was removed from the unit using a spade. The artifact density for this level was low. Artifacts recovered included a small metal piece. The soil was uniform in texture and color across the unit. The Munsell reading for this level was 3/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. The texture of the soil was described as “sandy/grainy”. There were a lot of ants and grass roots in the soil. The moisture content of the soil was dry. The midden was reached at the bottom of this level. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 1 were as follows: NE 16, SE 19, SW 15, NW 14, Center 20. The depth of excavation began at 5cm and ended at 20cm.

Level 2

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 2 were as follows: NE 16, SE 19, SW 15, NW 14, Center 20. The excavation objectives for this level were to trowel the unit, check for artifacts, and to level out the elevations across the unit. The artifact density for this level was moderate. Artifacts recovered included metal pieces, glass shards, and possible potsherds. The Munsell soil reading for this level was 3/1, or “very dark gray”. The texture was described as “grainy sand” and the moisture content of the soil was dry. There were a few rocks and pebbles in the soil. There was one larger root on the west side of the unit. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 2 were as follows: NE 21, SE 23, SW 20, NW 22, Center 22. The depth of excavation for this level began at 14cm and ended at 23cm.

Level 3

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 3 were as follows: NE 21, SE 23, SW 20, NW 22, Center 22. The excavation objectives for this level were to trowel the level, recover any artifacts, and to level out the soil elevations across the unit. The artifact density for this level was low. Artifacts recovered included metal pieces and charcoal. The soil was uniform in texture and color across the unit. The Munsell reading for this soil was 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The texture was described as “grainy sand” and the moisture content was damp. There were a few pebbles, some fine roots, larger rocks toward the east end of the unit, and a larger root near the west wall. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 3 were as follows: NE 24, SE 24, SW 24, NW 24, Center 24. The depth of excavation for this level began at 20cm and ended at 24cm.

Level 4

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 4 were as follows: NE 24, SE 24, SW 24, NW 24, Center 24. The excavation objectives for the level were to continue to trowel the midden and to recover any artifacts found. The artifact density for this level was low. Artifacts recovered included a bone, a potsherd, and a metal piece. The soil was very grainy on top of the level and as it was dug deeper the soil became damper and more compact. However, the soil color and texture was essentially the same as the previous level and was uniform across the unit. The Munsell reading for this level was 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The texture was described as “fine, grainy sand” and the moisture content was damp. There was one larger rock and a few pebbles. There were also lots of cicadas in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 4 were as follows: NE 26, SE 26, SW 26, NW 26, Center 26. The depth of excavation for this level began at 24cm and ended at 26cm.

Level 5

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 5 were as follows: NE 26, SE 26, SW 26, NW 26, Center 26. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to trowel the level and to check for artifacts. Due to the uniformity of the soil, 4cm were excavated for this level. The artifact density for this level was low. Artifacts recovered included a metal wire piece, a smaller metal piece, and a bone. The Munsell soil reading was 3/2, or “dark grayish brown”. The texture was described as “fine, grainy sand” and the moisture content was damp. There were small pebbles and rocks in the northeast corner that could possibly be attributed to the downward slant of the landscape in that direction. There were fine roots across the unit. There were also some cicadas found in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 5 were as follows: NE 31, SE 30, SW 30, NW 30, Center 30. The depth of the excavation for this level began at 26cm and ended at 31cm.

Level 6

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 6 were as follows: NE 31, SE 30, SW 30, NW 30, Center 30. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to trowel the unit and check for artifacts. No artifacts were recovered. There was a distinct soil color change in some spots to more of a reddish orange and ashy gray. The subsoil was reached during this level. The Munsell reading for this level was 3/3, or “dark brown”. The soil texture was described as “very fine, grainy sand” and was damp, but drying. There were some fine roots and a few small pebbles. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 6 were as follows: NE 34, SE 24, SW 34, NW 34, Center 34. The depth of excavation for this level began at 30cm and ended at 34cm.

Level 7

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 7 were as follows: NE 34, SE 24, SW 34, NW 34, Center 34. The excavation objectives for this level were to excavate in the southwest corner to make sure that the level was culturally sterile. A 50cmx50cm square with a depth of 4cm was dug in the SW corner of the unit. The soil was very reddish/orange. There was an ant hole in this corner with a lot of ants. No artifacts were recovered from this level, confirming that the subsoil had been reached and the soil was culturally sterile. The Munsell reading for this level was 4/6, or “dark yellowish brown”. The texture was fine, grainy sand and the soil was drying quickly due to the sun. There were a few pebbles in the soil. The ending elevations (cm)

for Level 7 were as follows: NE 34, SE 34, SW 38, NW 34, and Center 34. The depth of excavation for this level began at 34cm and ended at 38cm.

Profile of Unit 6

A profile of the west wall of Unit 6 was drawn (Figure 8.10). There were three distinct zones of soil. The first (1) zone was the active humus layer. The Munsell reading for this zone was 4/3, or “brown”. It was composed of very grainy sand and it was dry. There were roots in the soil. The second (2) zone was the largest zone. It could be classified as the buried A horizon. The Munsell reading for this zone was 4/2, or “dark grayish brown”. The soil was dry and sandy. There were a few pebbles, some ants and cicadas in the holes in the wall. The third (3) zone was the subsoil layer. The Munsell reading for this zone was 4/6, or “dark yellowish brown”. The soil was very dry and was composed of soft, fine sand.

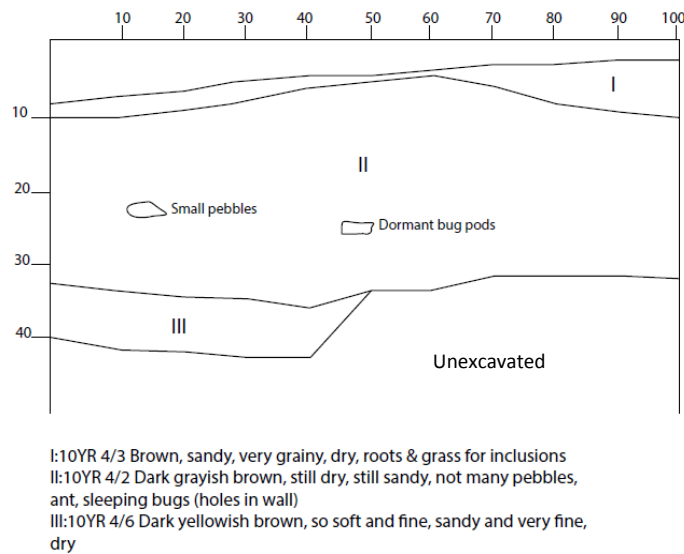


Figure 8.10. Profile of the west wall of Unit 6. Drawn by Ariel Terpstra.

Unit Number: 7

Coordinates: N17 E20

Excavators: Bianca Fernandez, Adam Richards

Dates of Excavation: 14 July, 2010- 15 July 2010

The location for this unit was chosen because it could have had some activity as the family walked to and from the barn. In addition, the land and vegetation seemed to be a bit different from the surrounding area, so it was decided that it would be a good place to set up a unit. The unit matrix was excavated at first using a shovel to clear the active humus layer and grass (level 0 to level 1) but the rest of the levels were trowel skimmed, about 4 cm 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 up to level 6. 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 that it would be easier to level the entire unit instead of trying to work with the natural slope of the land. In unit 2, the excavators tried to follow the natural slope and ended up leveling the entire unit. The goal for the measurement difference was 4 cm. The datum for this unit was in the southwest (SW) corner. Levels 0-6 were excavated on July 14, 2010. The western wall 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 11, SE 15, SW 10, NW 5, Center 10. The unit had a significant downward slope toward the southeast corner. The site had 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 shells and some pieces of paper.

Level 1

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 1 were as follows: NE 11, SE 15, SW 10, NW 5, Center 10. The excavation objectives for this level were to remove the active humus layer and sod, to excavate for cultural deposits, and to begin leveling. The excavators began the process of removing the active humus layer. It was decided that it would be easier and not detrimental to the site if the unit was leveled instead of following the slope of the land towards the southeast corner. There were no distinct features observed. The sod was trowel cut and screened through a ¼" mesh. The artifact density is moderate with some shells, a piece of shingle, paper circles, a metal sheet and cigarette butt. A possible cut nail was found in this level. There were some grubs and many roots but not that many pebbles. The level was shovel dug but then the edges were refined and the level was evened with the trowel. 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 sandy loam. The moisture content was dry. The inclusions in the soil were some large roots, many finer roots and a few stones. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 1 were as follows: NE 15.5, SE 21, SW 15, NW 10, Center 14. The depth of excavation for this level began at 5 cm and ended at 21 cm. The goal is to level the unit at the next level.

Level 2

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 2 were as follows: NE 15.5, SE 21, SW 15, NW 10, Center 14. The excavation objectives for this level were to level out the soil of the unit making sure not to excavate in the southeast corner because it is already very deep. The goal is to level out to 19 cm. The artifact density of this level is relatively high: ceramic piece, glass, scrap metal, and nails. More rocks were found, and the digging was done with a trowel and the midden was sifted through a ¼" mesh. 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 of the main inclusions were rocks and pebbles, and fine roots. A CVS was collected. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 2 were as follows: NE 19, SE 21, SW 19, NW 19, Center 20. The depth of excavation began at 10cm and ended at 21 cm.

Level 3

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 3 were as follows: NE 19, SE 21, SW 19, NW 19, Center 20. The excavation objective for this level was to continue the excavation of the midden for artifacts and to level the unit to 23 cm throughout. The matrix was removed through troweling and the deposits were screened through ¼" in mesh. There are some large rocks on the southwest corner. The unit was finally leveled despite the natural slope to the southeast. The artifact density was moderate: large bracket, mostly all hardware, and an opaque white glass. 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 rocks and pebbles. A CVS was collected. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 3 were as follows: NE 23, SE 23, SW 23, NW 23, Center 23. The depth of excavation began at 19 cm and ended at 23 cm.

Level 4

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 4 were as follows: NE 23, SE 23, SW 23, NW 23, Center 23. The excavation objective was again to excavate the matrix 4 cm throughout and to sample cultural deposits. Removed the matrix by trowel work. The midden was skimmed through ¼" mesh. The artifact density was low: nails, plaster, brick. There is a large density of rocks on the southwest corner. It is not a very interesting layer. It seems to be very similar to level 3. The Munsell reading was 4/3 which is described as "brown". The texture was sandy with loam. The moisture content is dry. Some of the major inclusions were rocks and

pebbles. A CVS was collected. The depth of excavation began at 23 cm and ended at 27 cm. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 4 were as follows: NE 27, SE 29, SW 27, NW 27, Center 27.

Level 5

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 5 were as follows: NE 27, SE 29, SW 27, NW 27, Center 27. The excavation objective for this level was to continue to sample the midden and excavate another 4 cm. There was low artifact density: plaster and charcoal. The matrix was troweled and the deposits were screened through a ¼" mesh. There was a soil color variation: some of the possible subsoil is starting to peak through the western side of the unit. The Munsell reading was 4/3 which is described as "brown". The texture was sandy with some loam. The moisture content was dry. Some of the inclusions were rocks, some roots, and buried cicadas. The Munsell reading for the subsoil pockets was 4/6 which is described as "dark yellowish brown". The depth of excavation of this level began at 27 cm and ended at 31.5 cm. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 5 were as follows: NE 31, SE 31, SW 31, NW 31.5, Center 31.

Level 6

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 6 were as follows: NE 31, SE 31, SW 31, NW 31.5, Center 31. The excavation objective was to excavate 4 more cm. The matrix was troweled out and was screened through ¼" in mesh. A CVS was taken. Conditions were very dry. No artifacts were found. May have reached the subsoil. The unit may be culturally sterile. The Munsell reading was 4/4 which is described as "dark yellowish brown". The texture was mostly subsoil. The moisture content was dry. Some inclusions were rocks, pebbles, and earthworms. The ending elevations (cm) of Level 6 were as follows: NE 35, SE 37, SW 36, NW 35, Center 35. The depth of excavation is 31 cm to 37cm.

Level 7/West wall sampling

The beginning elevations (cm) of Level 7 were as follows: NE 35, SE 36, SW 36, NW 35, Center 37. Originally, the excavators were going to excavate 4 more cm for half the unit and sift the soil in order to determine if the soil was in fact culturally sterile but because of a lack of resources and because it seemed apparent that they had reached the subsoil, a profile of the western wall was prepared and drawn. As the excavators were fixing the wall for profiling, a nail was found.

Profile

A profile of the west wall was drawn for Unit 7 (Figures 8.11 and 8.12). The profile of this unit includes 3 major zones of soil. There was an active humus layer on top. The first zone, (marked on the profile with the Roman numeral I), was the active humus layer with dry, sandy loam, roots, and a Munsell reading of 3/2, or "very dark grayish brown". The second zone (II) was a layer composed of dry sandy loam, some roots, and rocky in places. The Munsell reading for this zone was 4/3, or "brown". The third zone (III) was the sandy and dry subsoil with a Munsell reading of 5/4, or "yellowish brown."

Overall, the unit did not produce many interesting artifacts past the fourth level. Part of the reason for the relatively low artifact level may be due in part because that area of the house was not that frequented or at least not used for trash or social gatherings. The typical nails were found, as they have been found in every unit excavated, but nothing really exceptional except for the one ceramic piece was found.



Figure 8.11. West wall profile of Unit 7. Photograph by Adam Richards. Used by permission.

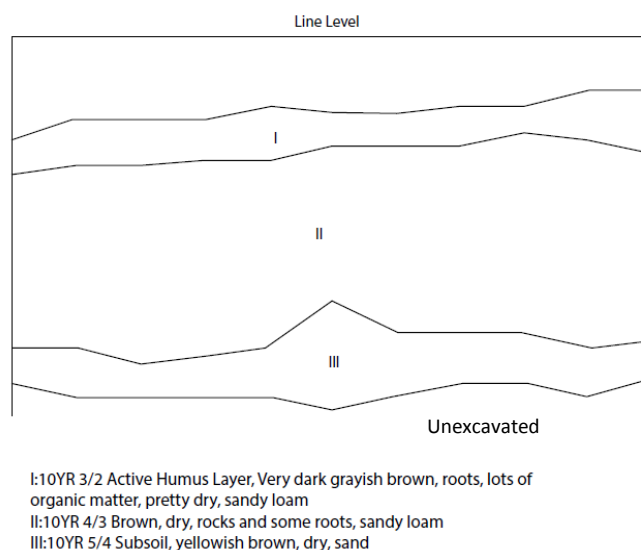


Figure 8.12. Profile of the west wall of Unit 7. Drawn by Ariel Terpstra.

Unit Number: 8

Coordinates: S11 E13.5

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

Dates of Excavation: 15 July 2010-19- July 2010

This unit location was selected for a unit based upon the artifact density found within Unit 5. Unit 8 is situated under the lilac trees where the possible privy would have been placed. The entire unit was excavated using trowels and the datum stake was placed in the SW corner of the unit. There was no Constant Volume Sample taken for this unit because after sifting past CVS samples in the lab it was determined that the team was not finding any artifacts in the samples that they would have missed using the quarter inch (1/4 in) mesh screens in the field. As each level was being excavated the recovered soil was then screened by team members through the quarter in (1/4 in) screens and examined for artifacts. One the desired excavation depth was reached for each level the soil was sampled using the Munsell Color Chart (10 YR). One these processes were completed the team was able to move onto the next level of the unit. Levels 0 and 1 were

excavated on 15 July 2010 while Levels 2, 3, 4, and 5 were excavated on 16 July 2010 and Levels 7-8 were excavated on 19 July 2010 respectively.

Level 0

The objectives for this started with clearing all debris covering the unit. From the amount of material it was clear that this was a definite dumping site for the family of this homestead. There were many glass bottles and shards and aluminum cans littered on the ground level (Figure 8.13). There was no soil visible to the team when they first started this level and much of the work for this unit was spent trying to reach the earth so no measurements or soil samples were taken concerning soil. Signs that there actually was soil lurking beneath all the rubbish were tiny blades of vegetation, which encouraged the team. There were no shovels used during this level which was all man powered. It is important to note that when a dump or garbage heap is created it stays that way for a while. Adjacent to a privy location is the perfect location for trash because the lilac that was covering up the scents from the privy would also cover up any unpleasant odors emitted from the trash as well. Each homeowner following the initial family must have had this realization as well and followed suit by continuing to toss their rubbish here. There were a plethora of artifacts uncovered from this level which included beer bottles and cans, soda bottles and cans, shards of teacups and a teapot, part of a bowl, rusted tins of ham and luncheon meat. It is interesting to note that there is a good deal of repetition concerning the brands of beer and soda this family purchased. All of the beer brands were both local brands, native to Michigan, and known for being inexpensive. The soda products ranged from Michigan favorites like Faygo, which was also inexpensive to only Pepsi products. No Coca-Cola was found within the heap, which indicates that either it was out of their price range or the island did not offer these products, which is the more likely of the two. Based upon the artifacts found on the ground level the team has high hopes for this unit and what they might uncover.

Level 1

The objectives for this level were to continue clearing the debris that are entrenched within Level 1, clear the root systems, and try to reach the soil. This level was certainly the most difficult layer to excavate and took two days to get through. Manually breaking apart thick bark root systems and compacted dirt filled with rubbish accounted for the extended time. After collecting countless tin cans the team decided to forgo collecting nondescript metal and tin that would not be able to provide any information. In the lab all the tins and bottles will be documented and if not needed for analysis the team will look into finally recycling the extras. Several of the tins had return prices on them which indicates that were created following the “America The Beautiful” campaign to promote recycling. The team was also hypothesizing that perhaps all this waste can be attributed to a single episode, like a party, where the family would have just put all the trash here. It is interesting to note that as the team excavates further into the unit they are starting to see an evolution of beverage containers with aluminum cans and mini kegs littering the top and then gradually getting to glass bottles. The vessels for the beverages are evolving but the brands remain unchanged.



Figure 8.13. Debris on the ground in the area of the trash dump at the beginning of excavation of Unit 8. Photograph by the author.

Artifacts recovered from this level include 7 dog tags all dating from 1925, glass bottles, tin cans, baby formula, multiple ceramic patterns (pink floral and sponge print in blue), a woman's leather shoe, a straight razor, a fork (4 prongs), aluminum foil, tiny bottles of various shapes and sizes, a heel of shoe, and Presto fruit jar caps. From the artifacts it was interpreted that this spot was a definite dumping ground or garbage disposal. There are a multitude of artifacts to analyze, especially from the bottom of the glass bottles, which would be embossed from the plates a company might have purchased as well as the lips and tabs from the cans. At the end of 15 July 2010 the team had still not reached soil but after some serious troweling starting on 16 July 2010 the team was finally able to break through the debris and reach actual soil! They were then greeted by the first pebbles and stones observed in this unit. Along with the stones were massive roots which were very chunky and probably from the lilac tree. These roots will most likely pose future challenges for the team when trying to work around them and level the unit out. The Munsell soil sample described this soil as 3/3 or Dark Brown with a sandy, grainy, and weighty texture. The moisture content was slightly damp and inclusions included major thick and thin root systems, small pebbles and stones, as well as stuck artifacts like beer cans that were wedged into the floor and walls and intertwined with the roots. The ending elevations (cm) for this unit are as follows NE: 17, SE: 22, SW: 25, NW: 16, and Center: 20.

Level 2

The beginning elevations for this level are as follows NE: 17, SE: 22, SW: 25, NW: 16, and Center: 20 (cm). In Level 2 the team continued exploring the midden, removing artifacts, and avoiding cutting up the roots and ruining the stratigraphy of the unit. If a root really needed to be cut and could not be worked around or extracted by hand then root clippers were used. The roots seemed to be getting even bigger the deeper the team excavated yet the team continued to trowel the soil they came across in this unit and worked

to achieve a uniform level. It should be noted that while troweling the team came across a metal pole that was running horizontal along the unit in the North wall. It is possible that there could be a pole running parallel to this one in the South wall as well. This could be some sort of container or barrier. It should also be noted that many pebbles and stones were present towards the end of this level. Artifacts recovered include more glass shards, Presto jar seals, broken ceramic sherds, possible part of the woman's leather shoe, screen possibly from a screen door at some point in time, and finally metal scraps. The Munsell soil sample revealed that this soil was 3/3 or Dark Brown with a grainy and sandy texture. The soil was damp and included many roots, pebbles, and bigger rocks. The ending elevations for this unit were as follows NE: 27.5, SE: 28, SW: 28, NW: 29, and Center: 30 (cm).

Level 3

The beginning elevations for this unit are as follows NE: 27.5, SE: 28, SW: 28, NW: 29, and Center: 30 (cm). The objectives for this unit were to continue excavating the midden and recover artifacts now that the team has reached soil. While troweling the soil the team is working to achieve and maintain a uniform soil elevation (Figure 8.14). The team has started to enter a gravel layer of the soil where the artifact density is much lower than previous levels. There are fewer large roots on this level, which a relief to all team members and the soil is uniform in texture and color, no extreme color changes present here. The Munsell described the soil as 2/2 or Very Dark Brown with a grainy and sandy texture. The moisture content was damp and inclusions were root, pebbles, and rocks. Artifacts from this level include glass shards, ceramic sherds, as well as metal and rubber pieces. Ending elevations for this level are as follows NE: 32, SE: 32, SW: 32, NW: 32, and Center: 32 (cm).

Level 4

The beginning elevations for this level were as follows: NE: 32, SE: 32, SW: 32, NW: 32.5, and Center: 32 (cm). The excavations goals for this level were to continue troweling the midden and uncovering some interesting artifacts. Immediately into this level the team uncovered a ceramic sherd, which gave the team some encouragement and positive feedback. Other artifacts recovered from this level include some objects that really intrigued the team. They were made of clay or some softer material and in the shape of



Figure 8.14. The team excavating Unit 8, using plywood to protect themselves from all the broken glass on the ground. From left to right, Miranda Rooy, Kasia Ahern, and Jackie Thomas. Photograph by the author.

long cylinders. It was soon determined that these objects were carbon from radios. A burn spot in the unit yielded a plethora of charcoal pieces in this level. There were also some interesting crackled style ceramic sherds found, this crackled pattern is not a design but instead is just plain white ceramic that cracked and dirt has filled all the crevices. The team also observed a piece of concrete, and a shard of olive glass from a very old wine bottle. The team concluded this level on a very high note when they uncovered a sherd of Blue Willow! This recovered indicates that the team is now reaching the 19th century in the soil. A Munsell soil sample revealed that the soil was 3/1 or Very Dark Gray with the texture of soft sand. The moisture content was damp and there were inclusions in the form of gravel and roots. It should be noted that team troweled twice as much soil as planned because of the softness of the soil. In nice soil it is incredibly easy to become “trowel-happy.” The ending elevations for this level are as follows: NE: 41, SE: 41, SW: 40, NW: 41, and Center: 41 (cm).

Level 5

The beginning elevations for this level were as follows NE: 41, SE: 41, SW: 40, NW: 41 and Center: 41 (cm). The goals for this level were to explore the 19th century soil by troweling the midden and keeping a sharp eye out for artifacts like pipes and Blue Willow. This unit has the potential of getting deep much like Unit 5 (62 cm) so the team has to make sure that they are efficient. On 16 July 2010 four levels were uncovered which is excellent considering all of the debris and roots in the unit. The soil has remained uniform across the unit and the artifact density has remained high with all of the glass shards and ceramic sherds recovered from this level. A Munsell soil sample revealed that the soil was a 3/1 or Very Dark Gray consisting of a very soft and fine sandy texture with a damp moisture content and pebbles and roots and

inclusions. Ending elevations from this level are as follows: NE: 45, SE: 44, SW: 44, NW: 44, and Center: 44 (cm).

Level 6

The beginning elevations for this unit are as follows NE: 41, SE: 41, SE: 40, NW: 41, and Center: 41 (cm). The excavation objectives for this level are to trowel 4 cm throughout the unit and get the levels back a uniform depth while uncovering more artifacts. The unit is coming along really well considering from where the team started out. Dirt is now visible and the team is working on taming the wild roots. Most of the root systems are stemming from the floor of the unit and are thin systems. Thankfully, the thicker and chunkier roots are starting to die out a bit and are in the walls only. A bit of a “bathtub effect” where the center is troweled out more than the walls is going on in the unit because of all the roots in the walls but the team is doing great work on keeping the walls in check overall. Artifacts that were uncovered included a large ceramic sherd of transfer print, a suspender clasp, glass shards, rusted metal, charcoal, and a blue willow shard. The team also uncovered money, a penny dating back to 1918, glass and ceramic sherds, and a massive nail which were all found lurking beneath a rock that was lodged within the wall on the West side of the unit. There are a significant amount of slugs on this level, which is a good sign because they inhabit disturbed soil. There is also an interesting soil variation going on at this level that should be mentioned. There is a much lighter brown and a yellowish brown in places, specially the SW and NW corners. There is a definite mottling of soils and the team has a feeling that they might be reaching the subsoil sometime soon. A Munsell soil sample of all the different soil colors was conducted which revealed that the majority of the soil which was in the Center, NE, and SE corners was classified as 2/2 or Very Dark Brown with a sandy loam texture while the soils found in the SW and NW corners were aptly described as falling under 3/6 or Dark Yellowish Brown with a sandy subsoil-esque texture and was mottled with 4/3 Brown soil that was loamy sand. Each soil concentration was damp and contained inclusions of rocks and roots. It should be noted that the team did not excavate the anticipated 48 cm because of the subsoil and because the SW datum stake was slightly off kilter and at an angle, and in very unlevelled soil, causing any measurements to be off. Ending elevations for this level are as follows NE: 47, SE: 47, SW: 46, NW: 46, and Center: 46 (cm).

Level 7

The beginning elevations for this level are as follows NE: 47, SE: 47, SE: 46, NW: 46, and Center: 46 (cm). The goals for this level are to continue troweling the unit and to keep a sharp eye out for possible soil inclusion or features. The team troweled the soil and noticed a significantly low artifact density, which contained only scrap metal and charcoal. The soil at this point is very mottled and the brown yellowish color is really becoming dominant in the matrix. There were no slugs at this level so this could indicate that we are getting out of disturbed soil and entering a subsoil area. The only artifact recovered from this area was a single metal scrap. There were no pebbles or rocks at this level either. A Munsell sample of this soil classified it as 3/6 or Dark Yellow Brown with a subsoil texture; the second area of soil with color differentiation was classified as 2/2 with Very Dark Brown with a sandy loam texture. The final soil color section tested was 4/3 or Brown with a loamy sand texture. All the soil has a moisture content of damp and contained only roots for the inclusions. The ending elevation for this level was 50 cm in each corner as well as the Center.

Level 8

The objectives for this unit were to continue excavating the midden and reach the subsoil of the unit. The beginning elevation for this level was 50 cm and the team strove to excavate an additional 4 cm into the unit. Some observations the team had of the unit were that there was a definite sand concentration in the NE corner. The soil from this level is mostly subsoil at this point mottled with sand from the previously mentioned NE corner. This soil was very fine and went through the sifter with ease. With the exception of the NE corner the rest of the unit floor is looking very uniform with a dark yellowish brown soil covering it. There were very few artifacts recovered from this level, only a shard of aquamarine glass and a shard of clear glass. The team decided it was time to put this unit to rest but before it was retired the unit was probed twice, once in the NE corner and once in the Center to ensure that no data would be overlooked. A Munsell soil

color sample was taken for the NE sand corner, which yielded 4/4 or Dark Yellowish Brown with a sandy loam texture while the soil for the rest of the unit was classified as 3/6 with the same soil color of Dark Yellowish Brown. The soil for both groups was damp with small inclusions of pebbles and fine and thick root systems.

Level 8-Specialty Sample

The NE corner of the unit was chosen for a specialty sample mainly because it had a high sand concentration than the rest of the unit and the team was interested in seeing if it might lead to a possible feature or rich in artifacts. The corner was trawled 5 cm down to ensure the team reached the subsoil in the unit. The beginning elevations for this specialty sample were 54 cm and the ending elevation was 59 cm. The Munsell soil color sample of this corner classified it as 4/4 or Dark Yellowish Brown with a sandy loam texture that was slightly damp and had pebbles and root systems as inclusions. The hopes to uncover a feature or more artifacts did not come to fruition but this sample did help the team to decide that they had reached the subsoil and to finally retire the unit.

Unit 8 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 8.15). The soil is conducted by selecting a wall, for example in Unit 8 the West wall was chosen, 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. These measurements are then plotted and documented on a graph. Measuring this particular unit was rather difficult in places because there was a slightly "bath tub" effect going on where the walls were not as sharp as they normally would have been because of root growth. This made measuring the corners at some points impossible so several measurements are missing from the graph. The soil profile indicates that Unit 8 was divided up into three different layers. It should be noted that with the creation of this profile it was difficult to level the line because the unit was on a slope and the ground it was so littered with junk and debris. The first level was the active humus layer lurking right beneath the ground level, which was classified by the Munsell as 2/2 or Very Dark Brown. There was lots of junk in this level that was in the process of decomposing as well as thick root systems. The moisture content of this soil was very dry and the texture was that of sandy loam. The second layer of the soil profile was the artifact rich layer, which was considered to be 3/2, or Very Dark Gray with a sandy loam texture and containing lots of pebbles, rocks, and smaller root systems. This soil also held moisture content of slightly damp. The final layer above ground level for this unit was 3/6 or Dark Yellowish Brown that was considered the subsoil with a slightly damp sandy loam texture and was culturally sterile.

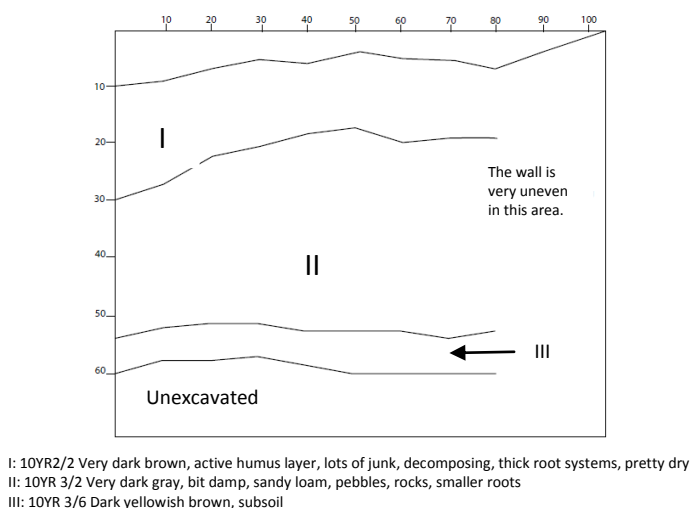


Figure 8.15. Profile of the west wall of Unit 8. Drawn by Ariel Terpstra.



Figure 8.16. Volunteer Cindy Pikaart (left) and Notre Dame student Kasia Ahern excavating Unit 9.

Unit Number: 9

Coordinates: N1 E14

Excavators: Kasia Ahern, Adam Richards, Bianca Fernandez, and Cindy Pikaart

Dates of Excavation: 16 July 2010, 19 July 2010- 20 July 2010

The unit location was chosen because of its proximity to Unit 3, which produced a considerable amount of artifacts. This unit is also close to the original back door of the house, so it was thought that there would be a lot of artifacts in the area on the path from the door to area where the original barn had been. The unit was excavated using a trowel throughout the entire excavation. The soil recovered during the entire excavation was screened through quarter inch (1/4in) mesh. 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 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 0-2 were excavated on July 16, 2010 by Kasia Ahern, Adam Richards, and Bianca Fernandez. Levels 3-10 were excavated on July 19, 2010 by Kasia Ahern and Cindy Pikaart (Figure 8.16). Levels 11-13 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 prepare the unit for excavation. The larger blades of grass were removed from the unit before initial measurements were taken. The initial measurements (cm) for Level 0 were as follows: NE 17, SE 18, SW 12, NW 9, Center 15. The unit sloped upward in the west direction. There were no features observed at the surface level. No artifacts were recovered at the surface level.

Level 1

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 1 were as follows: NE 17, SE 18, SW 12, NW 9, Center 15. The excavation objectives clear the unit of the active humus layer and check for artifacts. The artifact density was low/moderate. Artifacts recovered include a nail, a glass shard, piece of plaster, plastic, and charcoal. The soil was uniform in color and texture across the unit. The Munsell reading for the level was 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The texture was grainy sand with some loam. The moisture content of the soil was drying. There were some roots and pebbles across the unit. There were also some ants and caterpillars in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level were as follows: NE 25, SE 23, SW 20, NW 12, Center 20. The depth of excavation for this level began at 9cm and ended 25cm.

Level 2

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 2 were as follows: NE 25, SE 23, SW 20, NW 12, Center 20. The excavation objectives for this level were to trowel the level, check for artifacts, and to level out the elevations of the unit. It was especially difficult to trowel in the NW corner due to a large amount of roots. The artifact density of the level was low/moderate. Artifacts recovered included ceramic sherds, plastic pieces, nails, metal pieces, and charcoal. The soil was uniform in texture and color across the unit. The Munsell reading for this soil was 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The texture was grainy sand and the moisture content was damp. There were some rocks and pebbles, fine roots, and larger roots. There was a larger root sticking out of the west wall. This level appeared to be the start of a midden. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 2 were as follows: NE 25, SE 25, SW 22, NW 22, Center 23. The depth of excavation for this level started at 12cm and ended at 25cm.

Level 3

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 3 were as follows: NE 25, SE 25, SW 22, NW 22, Center 23. The excavation objectives for this level were to trowel the midden, check for artifacts, and level out the elevations of the unit. The artifact density for this level was low. Artifacts recovered included a few potsherds, nails, and some metal. The soil color and texture was uniform across the unit. The Munsell reading for this soil was 3/3, or “dark brown”. The texture of the soil was grainy sand. The soil was damp because it had rained the previous night. There were lots of roots and some pebbles, which made it somewhat difficult to trowel through. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 3 were as follows: NE 25, SE 25.5, SW 25, NW 25, Center 25. The depth of excavation for this level began at 22cm and ended at 25.5cm.

Level 4

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 4 were as follows: NE 25, SE 25.5, SW 25, NW 25, Center 25. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to trowel the midden and to check for artifacts. The artifact density for this level was moderately high in comparison to the last level. Artifacts recovered included brick pieces, metal pipe, round nails of varying sizes, a square nail, sherds, metal pieces, glass shards, and charcoal. The soil was uniform in texture and color across the unit. There was a clear color change from the previous level. The Munsell reading for this soil was 4/2, or “dark grayish brown”. The texture was grainy sand and the moisture content damp, but drying. There were roots and pebbles in the soil. Roots were sticking out of all sides of the unit. There were some worms in the soil. There was some metal circular piece that was sticking out of the wall around the NE corner of the unit. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 4 were as follows: NE 30, SE 29, SW 29, NW 29, Center 29. The depth of excavation for this level began at 25cm and ended at 30cm.

Level 5

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 5 were as follows: NE 30, SE 29, SW 29, NW 29, Center 29. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue troweling the midden and to check for artifacts. The artifact density for this level was high. Artifacts recovered included varying sizes of cut and round nails, screws, bolts, brick pieces, metal pieces, two coins, and a pendant with a religious cross on it. The sun was out while this level was excavated, making the soil dry and lighter in color. The soil was uniform in texture and color across the unit for the most part. The Munsell reading for this soil was 3/3, or “dark brown”. The soil was still a fine, grainy sand and was damp, but drying. There were some pebbles, fine roots, and one thicker root in the center. There was an ant hole in this level with lots of ants. There was lots of charcoal in the center of and toward the west side of the unit. There were also some pieces of bark. There were big roots sticking out of west and east walls. There were some small spots of soil with an orange tint due to large amounts of rusted metal. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 5 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 6

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 6 were as follows: NE 33, SE 33, SW 33, NW 33, Center 33. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to excavate the unit and to recover any artifacts

found. The level was started by digging up what was inside the metal ring that had been stuck in the NE corner of the unit and recovering any artifacts. The artifact density of the entire level was moderate. Artifacts recovered included lots of nails, bones, and glass shards. There was still a lot of charcoal in the center and in other spots around the unit. It was very hot out so the soil was drying up very quickly. Besides the spots of charcoal, the soil was uniform in texture and color. The Munsell reading for this soil was 3/3, or “dark brown”, which was the same as the previous level. The soil was damp, but drying quickly and the texture of the soil was grainy, fine sand. There were pebbles and lots of fine roots in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 6 were as follows: NE 37, SE 37, SW 37, NW 37, Center 38. The depth of excavation began at 33cm and ended at 38cm.

Level 7

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 7 were as follows: NE 37, SE 37, SW 37, NW 37, Center 38. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to trowel the midden and the recover any artifacts found. The artifact density of the level was moderate, but lower than the previous level. Artifacts recovered included nails of varying sizes and metal pieces. The soil was uniform in color and texture across the unit. The Munsell reading for the soil was 3/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. The texture was a fine, grainy sand. The soil was very dry because of the sun. There were fine roots and pebbles in the soil, and a couple of bigger rocks scattered across the unit. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 7 were as follows: NE 41, SE 41, SW 41, NW 42, Center 42. The depth of excavation for this level began at 37cm and ended at 42cm.

Level 8

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 8 were as follows: NE 41, SE 41, SW 41, NW 42, Center 42. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue to excavate the matrix and to check for artifacts. The artifact density for this level was moderate. Artifacts recovered included nails, bone, metal pieces, and a suspender buckle. There was not much soil color change from the previous level. The soil was uniform in color and texture across the unit. The Munsell reading for the soil was 4/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. The soil was composed of fine, grainy sand. There were pebbles and roots in the soil. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 8 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 9

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 9 were as follows: NE 45, SE 45, SW 45, NW 45, Center 45. 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 moderate. Artifacts recovered included lots of nails, potsherds, metal pieces, and charcoal. There were still bits of charcoal across the unit. The soil was uniform across the unit. The Munsell reading for the soil was 3/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. The texture was still a fine, grainy sand. The soil was drying due to the sun. There were some fine roots and pebbles of varying sizes. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 9 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 10

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 10 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 and to check for artifacts. The artifact density for this level was similar to the last level; moderate. Artifacts recovered included nails, metal pen nib, glass shard, bones, and some charcoal. The soil was similar to the last level and uniform across the unit. The Munsell reading for this soil was 3/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. The soil was fine, grainy sand. The moisture content was dry and there were some small pebbles, charcoal bits, small woodchips, and fine roots across the unit. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 10 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 11

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 11 were as follows: NE 53, SE 53, SW 53, NW 53, Center 53. The excavation objectives for this level were to continue troweling the unit and recover any artifacts found. The artifact density for this unit was low. Artifacts recovered included some nails, a bolt, and some bone. The soil was uniform across the unit, except for a color change in the NW corner. There were spots of orange and gray in the NW corner. The Munsell readings for the soil in the NW corner were 4/6, or “dark yellowish brown”, and 4/1, or “dark gray”. The Munsell reading for the soil in the rest of the unit was 3/4, or “dark yellowish brown”. It appeared that the subsoil was reached in the NW corner. Across the unit, the soil was a fine, grainy sand and was damp. There were some pebbles and fine roots across the level as well. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 11 were as follows: NE 57, SE 57, SW 57, NW 58, Center 57. The depth of excavation began at 53cm and ended at 58cm.

Level 12

The beginning elevations (cm) for Level 12 were as follows: NE 57, SE 57, SW 57, NW 58, Center 57. The excavation objectives for the level were to continue to excavate the midden until there are no more artifacts. The level had a very low artifact density: 1 nail. The north half of the unit had more orange soil with some gray patches (subsoil). The south half of the unit had soil that was similar to the previous level. The unevenness of soil color could be due to the natural tilt of the land. The Munsell reading for the north half of the unit was 4/5, or “dark yellowish brown”. The Munsell reading for the south half of the unit was 3/3, or “dark brown”. The soil was very fine and grainy sand. It was damp and there were a few pebbles and fine roots. The ending elevations (cm) for Level 12 were as follows: NE 61, SE 61, SW 61, NW 61, Center 61. The depth of excavation began at 57cm and ended at 61 cm.

Level 13

The beginning elevations for Level 13 were as follows: NE 61, SE 61, SW 61, NW 61, Center 61. The excavation objectives for this level were to excavate until the unit was culturally sterile and to watch for subsoil on the south half of the unit. No artifacts were recovered from this level. There was a soil color change on the south half of the unit. Now, the soil color is uniform across the entire unit. This indicates that subsoil has been reached across the unit and this soil is culturally sterile. The Munsell reading for this level was 4/6, or “dark yellowish brown”. The soil was damp and composed of fine sand. There were a few pebbles, bigger rocks, and fine roots in the soil. The ending elevations for Level 13 were as follows: NE 65, SE 65, SW 65, NW 65, Center 65. The depth of excavation for the level began at 61cm and ended at 65cm.

Profile for Unit 9

A profile was drawn of the west wall of Unit 9 (Figure 8.17). There were 6 zones total, five of which were larger and one which was a smaller pocket zone. The first zone (I) was the active humus layer, composed of loamy sand. This zone had a Munsell reading of 2/2, or “very dark brown”. There were lots of roots and the soil was dry due to the sun. The second zone (II) was the dry sand and gravel layer. The Munsell reading for this zone was 3/2, or “very dark grayish brown”. The third zone (III) was composed of dry, fine sand. It could be classified as a fill layer. The Munsell reading for this zone was 3/3, or “dark brown”. The fourth zone (IV) was composed of dry, fine sand as well and appeared to be the buried A horizon. There were a few pebbles in the zone. The Munsell reading for this zone was 4/3, or “brown”. The fifth zone (V) was a pocket zone that is composed of fine, dry sand. This zone had a Munsell reading of 4/2, or “dark grayish brown”. The sixth zone (VI) was the subsoil layer and was also composed of dry, fine sand. The Munsell reading for this zone was 5/6, or “yellowish brown”.

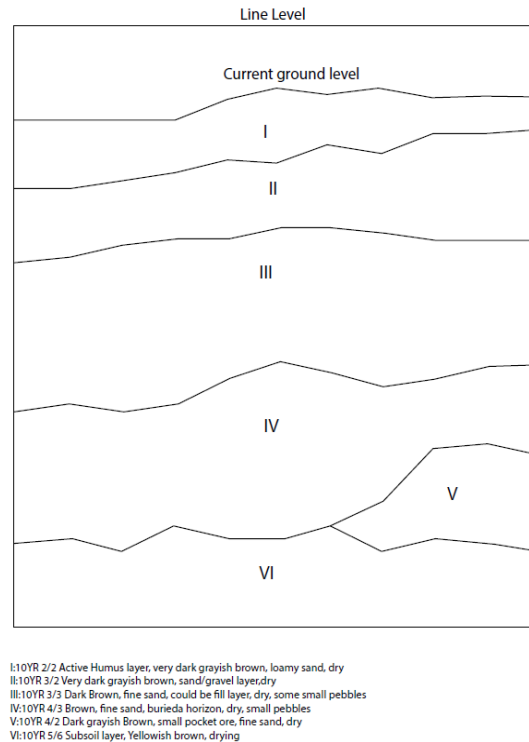


Figure 8.17. Profile of the west wall of Unit 9. Drawn by Ariel Terpstra.

Unit Number: Root Cellar (in home)

Coordinates: - - - -

Excavators: Bianca Fernandez, Adam Richards, Deb Rotman

Dates of Excavation: 16 July, 2010

The unit location was chosen in part because the home will be moved in the coming year, and if the root cellar is not excavated this time around, next summer may be too late. Also, the root cellar may hold many interesting artifacts or signs of daily life that were swept under or stored underneath. The root cellar consisted of two different rooms: the main room, where one would first drop down into and then a second room to the north. The five zones excavated were done in both rooms. Adam Richards was down in the root cellar excavating, wearing a face mask and a hat to protect his head (Figure 8.18). Bianca was recording the data and the details of the excavations. Dr. Rotman was sifting the soil and collecting the artifacts.

Someone was always in the room when the excavator was down in the root cellar. All the soil was trowel dug (or even just the dustpan was used since the soil was so loose). All the deposits were sifted through a 1/4" screen. No CVS was collected. The soil was described using the 10YR Munsell Color Chart. Not every level was identified and described with the Munsell because the other units needed to use it, and much of the soil was homogenous, so only a sampling was done every couple levels per zone. It was difficult to set up very specific units because it was dark and unlevel in the unit. It was decided to dig by zones instead and try to dig on an even level, keeping one point as a constant marker for depth. Although not a typical unit, it did reveal some interesting results. While doing a preliminary search and analysis of the area, a couple desiccated animals were found, including what was later identified as a snowshoe hare.



Figure 8.18. Beaver Island schoolteacher Adam Richards at work in the root cellar. Photograph by the author.

Zone A

Zone A is located on the shelf on the east wall in the second, more northern room. The area is about 55cm x 55 cm.

Level 0

Nothing was discovered over the zone.

Level 1

It was not possible to determine beginning elevations because a formal unit was not set up considering the cramped conditions, the loose sand, and the interesting location. The excavation objective was a preliminary clearing and leveling of the area as well as to sample the cultural deposits. The excavator leveled the area with the side near to the wall, digging about 10 cm down in the area near the wall. The shelf had soil that increases in height as one goes toward the wall, or the east, so the excavator decided to try to get it level with the side closer to the west. The soil is cool sandy loam, very loose, and there seem to be hardly any bugs. The soil is not just sand but some bits of rock. As digging ensued, there was a possible large rock in the way, so it was a bit uneven in that area. Seven canning jars and a glass lid were found. The canning jars were found jutting out of the soil, so they were removed. Most of the cans had a rusted top, and one still had something in it.

Level 2

The soil is not packed down. It is loose and the texture is very homogenous. It has some gravel and mostly sand with loam. The Munsell reading was 3/3, or 'dark brown', on the 10 YR scale. The moisture content is damp, probably due to the cool climate. Some of the major inclusions were gravel, rocks, and pebbles. The East wall had a depth of 16 cm and the west wall had a depth of 7 cm.

Level 3

Now that two levels were done, the excavation objectives became clearer: dig about 6 cm down. The soil is the same as Levels 1 and 2, with the exception that there are more rocks and plaster clumps or even possible concrete in this level than previous ones. There are no bugs. The large rock that was already

mentioned in Level 1 is just getting wider. It had sharp angles. It may be a piece of cement or a large field stone. The unit was dug down to 13 cm on the west wall and 22 cm on the east wall.

Level 4

The excavation objectives were to dig down 6 cm. It was difficult to keep sharp sides on the unit because the sand continued to cave in. The large triangular chunk of plaster or cement was getting progressively wider the more one dug. The eastern side of the unit was really just sand. There were progressively more rocks and gravel. There was a jar found in the level, but it was also part of the unit north. The soil is still the same color, texture and moisture. The final measurements were 19 cm on the W wall and 28 cm on the E wall.

Level 5

The excavation objective was to excavate 6 cm throughout the unit. The level was similar to levels prior except for the fact that the eastern half of the unit was mostly sand at that point. Because of the sand and loose texture of the soil, the edges continued to cave in, getting a sort of avalanche effect. The large rock just continued to get bigger the more one dug and went all the way to the east wall. One and a half buckets of soil was collected (used some of the shorter buckets). The final measurements were 25 cm on the W wall and 34 cm on the E wall. It was decided to end excavation in this zone because the rock was getting larger and not many artifacts were being yielded.

Note: Adam Richards explored a bit more in the northern room, in part to choose another zone to excavate. In the NW area he looked at, he saw an area of boxes, full of canning lids, a TV Guide with Friends times listing, a silk flower, a thick layer of cloth, almost as if it were stuffing. They are all items that seem relatively recent.

Zone B

A 50 cm by 50 cm zone was set up in the southern part of the northern room, at the interface between both rooms. This zone was decided in part because it would have people passing by it going from one room to another.

Level 0

Feather, bones and a piece of cardboard were covering the zone of interest. The ground angles up toward the northeast (NE) corner. The angling of the soil could be in part due to the path people would take in and out of the room that would push the soil toward that direction.

Level 1

The excavation objective was to level the zone. The NE corner, the higher spot, was dug down 6 cm. The soil is a lot sandier than Zone A. Many tiny plaster pieces were found. They were not all collected. A couple samples of the larger pieces were taken. The Munsell reading was 5/3, or 'brown'. The soil was dry and was more sand than loam. There does not seem to be a lot of organic matter.

Level 2

The excavation objective was to dig 6 cm down. The soil was very loose and easy to dig. At times the dustpan was the only thing used to dig. Some of the artifacts discovered include a burlap sack found at the interface of the unit, a carcass (rat, bunny, or mouse...), and lots of bits of cardboard. Because there were so many, only a sample was collected. In part it was also because as it was being screened, many of the light pieces flew away. The depth was 12 cm on the higher, NE side at the base of the level.

Note: Artifacts from Level 1 and 2 were collected together as there was some confusion during provenience control.

Level 3

The excavation objective was to dig 6 cm down. The beginning measurement on the high corner (NE) was 12 cm. The Munsell reading for the level is 4/3, or 'brown', and the soil was sandy with loose rocks. It seemed that the next level might be more compact. The ending measurement on the NE corner was 18 cm.

Level 4

The excavation objective was to dig 6 cm down. The beginning measurement on the NE corner is 18 cm. It was a more packed soil than prior levels, but with some slight scraping with a trowel, it came off easily. There was some slight caving in on the north and west walls. One bucket of soil was collected (smaller/shorter buckets used). The Munsell reading was 4/3, or 'brown'. The soil was dry and loose sand. The final measurement at the NE corner was 24 cm, which was about 9 cm below the bottom of the cabin (the final plank).

Level 5

The excavation objective was to dig 6 cm down. The beginning measurement on the NE corner is 24 cm. It is a more packed down soil, in part because the level now seems to be below the foundation of the home. The southern wall, below the plank on the eastern side, seems to have rotting wood. The southeast corner seemed to have a hole that goes down at an angle. Two buckets of soil were collected, probably because the soil was more compact. The artifact density is low. The final measurement on the NE corner was 30 cm.

Level 6

The excavation objectives were to dig 6 cm down and to determine that there are no more cultural artifacts. Because the prior levels were more packed, the walls of the unit were better defined. In prior levels, on the southern wall, running flush with the board where the excavator is digging, the soil was loose and running into the unit at times. The excavator, felt very good about the integrity of the level's artifacts because he made sure that there was no soil falling in from the sides as occurred in the prior levels (in part because the sand was so loose). The edges of the unit were holding better and nothing was knocked in accidentally from the southern board where the excavator was crouching to dig. The eastern half of the unit is now mostly sand. Some of the bits of wood found may be due to fleckings from the south wall. Some plaster was also found. The final measurement on the NE corner was 36 cm.

Level 7

The excavation objective was to dig one more level just to make sure that the area is more or less culturally sterile, or at least won't have artifacts that we are interested in. The soil became loose again because most of it is sand. Only the western 1/5 of the unit is now not sand. The level was just under the board on the southern wall. Many splinters and pieces of wood were found, but it was probably due to the trowel scraping against some of the pieces of wood around the zone. It was decided to end the zone at this level. The final measurement on the NE corner was 42 cm.

Zone C

The zone was set up on the southwest corner of the main room. It was a 50 cm by 50 cm unit. The zone was placed in this location because there was a great deal of soil angled up toward the southwest corner, probably because the soil is so loose that it gets pushed toward the corners.

Level 0

There was a large height difference in the unit. The grade difference was about 14 cm from the southwest (SW) corner, which was higher, to the northeast (NE) corner. One nail was found on the surface.

Level 1

The excavation objective is to level the unit. Because the SW corner was higher, 12 cm were removed from it to level the unit. The board was running from the foundation of the home on the south wall out to the north of the unit. The temperature was very cool. Excavation occurred just with dustpans because the soil was loose and dry sandy loam.

Level 2

The excavation objective was to level the unit further and to dig down 6 to 8 cm. The beginning measurement of the SW corner was 12 cm. The wooden board mentioned in Level 1 was removed on the west side of the unit. Another board was found in the center of the unit, and it too was removed. About one bucket of soil was removed from the level. There were a lot of paper pieces found, and some were collected, but many flew away as they were being sifted (in part because of the strong winds). The Munsell reading was $\frac{3}{4}$, or 'dark yellowish brown'. The soil was very loose and dry sand and loam. The final measurement on the SW corner was 20 cm.

Level 3

The excavation objective was to dig down 6 more cm. There was some avalanching on the east side, probably due to the loose nature of the soil. The south west wall was right up against the house wall, so the foundations of the home were clearly visible. The northwest side was not very deep because it was on the lower side with less dirt accumulation. About a bucket and a half was removed from the level. The final measurement on the SW corner was 26 cm.

Level 4

The excavation objective was to dig down 6 more cm. The soil was more packed down and rockier. There was less avalanching in the level, even though some still occurred. Because of the foundation of the home, it was not possible to get a sheer side on the south all. The Munsell reading was $\frac{3}{3}$, or 'dark brown.' The soil was damper and rockier sandy loam. The final measurement on the SW corner was 32 cm.

Level 5

The excavation objective was to dig down 6 more cm. The Munsell reading was $\frac{3}{3}$, or 'dark brown'. The soil was rockier, damper, and more packed sandy loam. The level was dug out with a trowel and dustpan. The final measurement on the SW corner was 42 cm.

Level 6

The excavation objectives were to dig down 6 more cm in part to confirm that there is nothing else of note in the zone. The excavation of the level led to the last wood plank of the foundation of the home. The soil in the bucket that was sifted was due to some 'avalanche' debris from the sides of the unit. The Munsell reading was $\frac{3}{4}$, or 'dark yellowish brown'. The soil was damp and rocky sandy loam. The final measurement on the SW corner was 48 cm.

Zone D

The location chosen was right at the opening of the root cellar, on the ledge on the south wall of the main root cellar room. It was chosen because it is believed that objects that may have been swept in the cracks by accident when sweeping or walking and when the door was opened, it could have fallen in.

Level 1

Because there is no sod to remove and nothing really on top, there was no level 0. A thin layer was excavated. The level was cleared and leveled a bit, going down 3 cm. About a half bucket of soil was removed. The area seems to have a depth of 10 cm. The Munsell reading was $\frac{4}{3}$, or 'brown'. The soil was dry, loamy sand. The final depth was 3 cm.

Level 2

The excavation objective was to dig down 3 cm. About a half bucket was removed. The Munsell reading was 4/3, or 'brown'. The soil was dry, loamy sand. The final depth was 6 cm.

Level 3

The excavation objective was to dig down 3 cm. The level is about the same as the prior level 2. The soil's color, texture and moisture content were the same as the prior level. The final depth was 9 cm.

Level 4

The excavation objective was to dig down 3 cm. The level is the same as level 2 and level 3. The soil's color, texture, and moisture content were the same as the prior level. The final depth of the level was 12 cm.

Level 5

The excavation objective was to dig down 3 cm. The level is the same as level 2, 3, and 4. The soil's color, texture, and moisture content were the same as the prior level: 4/3, or 'brown' dry loamy sand with some rocks and pebbles. The final depth of the level was 15 cm.

Level 6

The excavation objective was to dig down 3 cm. The level is about the same as level 2, 3, 4, and 5. The soil's color, texture, and moisture content were the same as the prior level. The only slight note of difference was that there were a couple of spots of soil that were more packed throughout. The final depth of the level was 18 cm.

Level 7

The excavation objective was to dig down 3 cm. As excavation progressed, there was a sudden sandiness, which could have been attributable to a fill layer. There was a board on the north side of the unit running along the wall. The board is nailed to the side. The Munsell reading was 4/3, or 'brown'. The soil was dry, loamy sand.

Zone E

The zone was triangular in shape because of the location chosen. It is right under the opening of the root cellar, on the ground of the main room. There is a tree trunk looking object right by the zone.

Level 1

The log was used as a means to measure the depth of excavation. The excavation objective was to dig 6 cm. The final depth of the level was 6 cm.

Level 2

The excavation objective was to dig 6 cm. A burlap sack was found while excavating. The bits and pieces of it could not all be collected, in part because they were blown away by the wind as the midden was sifted. The major pieces, which were rather large, were kept. The final depth was 12 cm from the top of the log.

Level 3

The excavation objective was to dig between 4 and 6 cm more. Lots of wooden pieces were found because as the soil is being troweled, the trowel is bumping against a piece of wood that is coming off the base where the depth is being measured. The Munsell reading was 4/3, or 'brown'. The soil was dry, loamy sand. The final depth was 18 cm.

Level 4

The excavation objective was to dig down 6 more cm. The level is similar to the prior level. It is not any rockier. The log on the south wall is infringing on the excavation space because it is jutting far out. It is making excavation difficult. There were no artifacts. The Munsell reading was 3/3, or 'dark brown'. The soil was dry, loamy sand with some small pebbles as rocks. The final depth was 24 cm.

Level 5

The excavation objective was to dig down 6 more cm. The soil was more compact in a few spaces. This was the final level for the zone as well as the root cellar unit. The final depth was 30 cm.

Unit 10 yielded different artifacts than expected. Some of the items were interesting, such as the dried fruits and the preserving jars. Yet more intriguing artifacts, like ceramic pieces and glass were not really found. It is possible that the door of the root cellar was well sealed and little made its way down. One this is for certain, the preservation conditions in the root cellar were great, in part demonstrated by the desiccated animals, including the mice, the chipmunk, and the snowshoe hare.

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 parts. 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 49, SE 49, SW 59, NW 49, Center 49.

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.

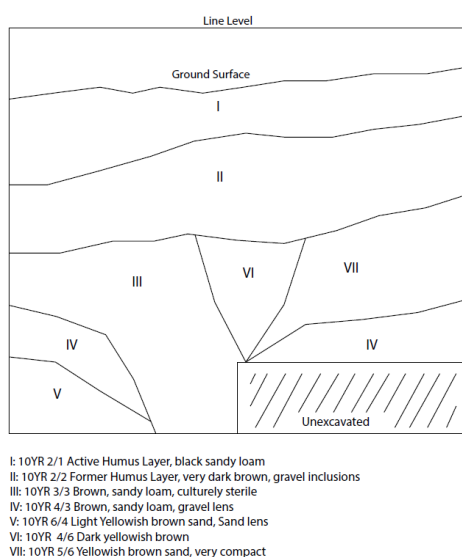


Figure 8.20. Profile of the west wall of Unit 11. Drawn by Ariel Terpstra.

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, 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 ¼ 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.

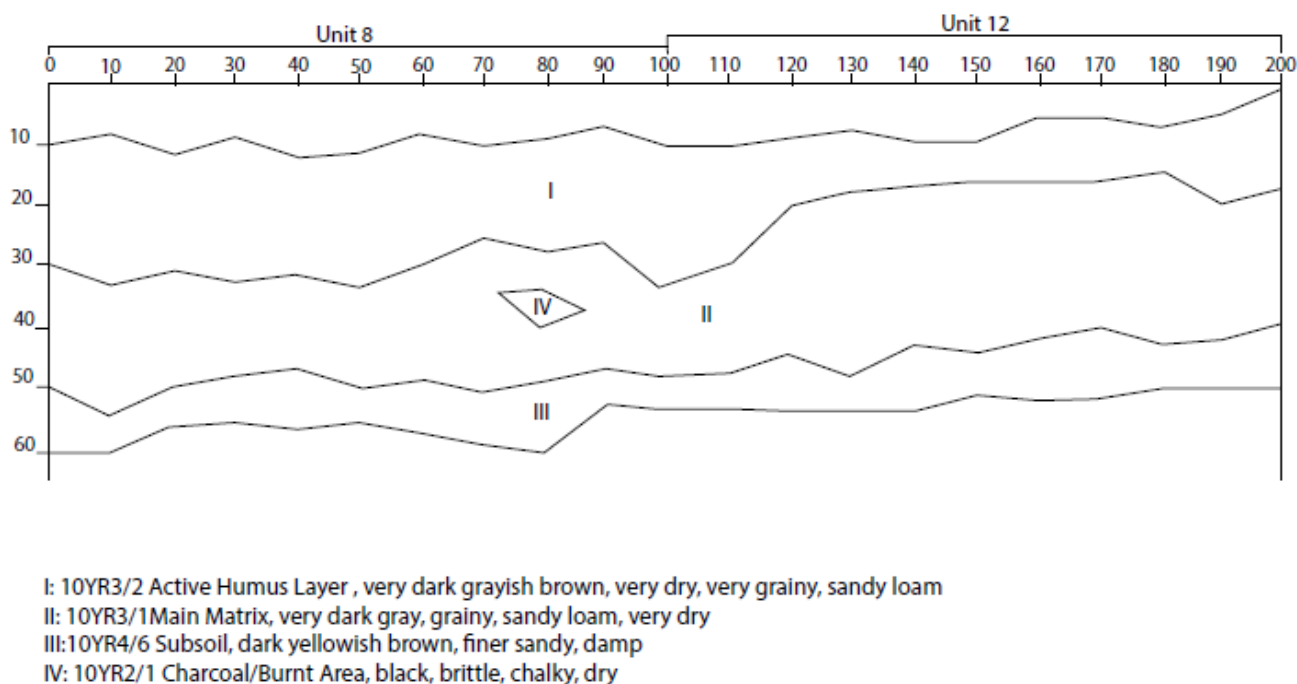


Figure 8.21. Profile of the south walls of Units 8 and 12. Drawn by Ariel Terpstra.