procurement/staging sites. They contained limited amounts of ceramic and no features. The artifacts recovered included low to moderate density debitage (30-100 artifacts per 1m x 1m square), cores, fire-cracked rock and an occasional biface and suggested periodic or occasional reuse rather than continual habitation.

In sum, the excavation of various sites along the corridor of the proposed U.S. 13 Relief Route (Delaware 1) have served to greatly enlarge the data base of both prehistoric and historic sites. This data is especially valuable because: 1) little was previously known about this part of Kent County; 2) the area is being rapidly developed for highways and residential and commercial building projects; and 3) much is being learned about the prehistoric occupation along the length of Muddy Branch, a minor tributary to Simon's Creek and the Delaware Bay.

PHASE I AND II SURVEY RESULTS

The project area was divided into 19 arbitrary survey parcels to organize the testing program. Each unit was given a numerical designation and a surname title taken from one or more parcel property owners and/or tenants. Test units placed within that parcel were keyed to the parcel number. Parcel lengths ranged from 1000 to 5000 feet and corresponded to legal or physical boundaries. The parcels are listed in Table 2 and shown in Figure 2. Following is a description of the Phase I and II investigations for each parcel.

Phase I testing located three archaeological sites. Phase II testing was conducted on each of these archaeological sites. Phase II testing determined that each of these sites, the Spiro-

TABLE 2

CULTURAL RESOURCE SUMMARY OF PARCELS 1-19, KENT 88 REALIGNMENT

Parcel	Phase I Testing	Sites Located	Phase II Testing
1	completed	none	
2	completed	Spiro-Diamond Site (7K-C-384)	completed, no further work
3	completed	none	
4	completed	none	
5	completed	none	
6	completed	Bason-Field Site (7K-C-385)	completed, no further work
7	completed	none	
8-9	completed	none	
10	completed	W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)	completed, no further work
11-14	completed	none	
15	completed	none	
16	completed	none	
17	access denied		
18	completed	none	
19	completed	none	

Diamond site (7K-C-384), W. Eager site (7K-C-383), and Bason-Muddy Branch site (7K-C-385), were all ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Thus, no further work is recommended for any of these sites. A summary of Phase II testing at each site is presented below.

It should be noted that the archaeological sites identified within each parcel are categorized by their need for additional field research. Where sites are small and have limited artifact assemblages and integrity, no further work is recommended. The sites for which further fieldwork is recommended may fall into a number of different categories based on the intensity of the recommended additional fieldwork (see the final culture resource management recommendations and Table 1 for more information).

The Phase II archaeological field methods included a mixture of shovel test pitting and the excavation of 3'X3' test units within and around areas defined as historic archaeological sites by the Phase I Survey (Bachman et al. 1988). Testing was concentrated, but not confined to the limits of the proposed right-of-way as one of the primary goals of the Phase II survey was to determine site limits.

The standard excavation procedure to determine site limits and gather initial archaeological data was to place shovel test pits at intervals of 20 feet in a grid pattern over the site. The interval was reduced to 10 feet in areas of high artifact density or areas with a high potential for historic features. The goal of shovel testing was to gather data on artifact distributions, site stratigraphy, and the stratigraphic context of artifacts and features. Special emphasis was placed on the

detection of cultural features and the identification of intact, artifact-bearing stratigraphic contexts.

Shovel test pits were laid out and described according to grid coordinates established by transit. All soils excavated were passed through 1/4-inch mesh and all cultural materials recovered were bagged according to the individual test unit and the arbitrary or natural excavation level. Stratigraphic soil data and a record of all cultural materials found were kept for each shovel test on standardized log sheets.

Measured 3' X 3' and 5' X 5' test units were excavated in areas of high artifact density or atop historic features identified by archaeological testing. All of the test units were excavated to sterile soil unless large historic features were encountered. Small historic features such as post molds were completely excavated while larger features such as wells and cellar holes were sampled. All excavated soil was screened through 1/4-inch mesh and detailed stratigraphic and historic feature records were kept on standardized forms. All subsurface excavations were excavated according to natural soil levels or systematic arbitrary levels. All feature soils were excavated and screened separately. Mean ceramic dates were calculated using mean ceramic date values based on South (1977) (Appendix I) and Brown (1982).

Test units were located and described by the coordinates of their southwest corner as determined by the same transit grid as the Phase II shovel test pits. All subsurface tests were mapped on 1/600th scale, one-foot contour field maps (scale: 1 inch equals 50 feet) provided by the Division of Highways. These

highly accurate maps were keyed to the centerline surveyors stations (STA) and allowed for the accurate placement of finds made during the Phase II Survey.

Prior to a detailed artifact analysis, the standard artifact processing procedures of the Delaware Bureau of Museums were applied to all artifacts recovered from the Phase II excavations. All artifacts were cleaned in the lab with plain water, or, in the case of deteriorating bone, shell, or metal, damp- or dry-brushed. Bone and shell were then placed in labeled bags. All other artifacts were labeled with the site number and a three digit provenience number. Artifacts were sorted in categories for cataloging based on their material composition. The total artifact count and basic description for each site is provided in Appendicies II-IV.

Archival research methods included the detailed reconstructions of individual site histories based on deed research and other archival sources. Historic atlases of Kent County showing individual structures, specifically Byles' 1859 and Beers' 1868 atlases, were also used. The goal of deed research was to identify the occupants of a site through time and to reconstruct the local historic landscape. Once deed research was completed, occupants of individual sites were traced through a variety of historical records. Tax assessments, particularly detailed lists made between 1797 and 1828, provided important historical data, including evidence of the relative socioeconomic status of site occupants. Various national censuses, particularly population censuses taken after 1790 and agricultural censuses taken after 1850, provided both site-

specific and local data. Local government records, specifically Orphan's Court and probate records, provided critical site-specific information for many sites. Genealogical data from both published an unpublished sources at the Delaware State Archives in Dover were also used.

PARCEL 1

Parcel 1 includes the section of the Jefferic Enterprises field traversed by the proposed toll booth access road (Figure 2). It is generally flat, poorly-drained terrain and 27 shovel test pits were placed within the proposed right-of-way at 25 foot intervals (Figure 12). The soil profiles consisted of plow zones underlain by gray, yellow-brown, or olive-brown silty clay (see Figure 13 for a typical profile in this parcel). The plow zones yielded occasional small bits of coal, coal ash, or brick, but not in sufficient quantity to suggest the presence of a site. No artifacts or cultural features were recorded from the subsoil. No further work is recommended for this parcel.

PARCEL 2: SPIRO-DIAMOND SITE (K-6444, 7K-C-384)

Parcel 2 is currently owned by Dover Downs, Inc. and is an open field used by the owner for overflow parking during major sporting events (Figure 2). Phase I testing located nineteenth and twentieth century historic artifacts in seemingly intact deposits. A Phase II survey was recommended for the site, the Spiro-Diamond site (7K-C-384). Phase II testing, however, determined that these artifacts came from fill imported by Dover Downs Raceway to improve drainage for parking. No cultural features or artifacts were recovered from intact deposits. Thus

FIGURE 12

Location of All Phase I Tests in Parcel 1

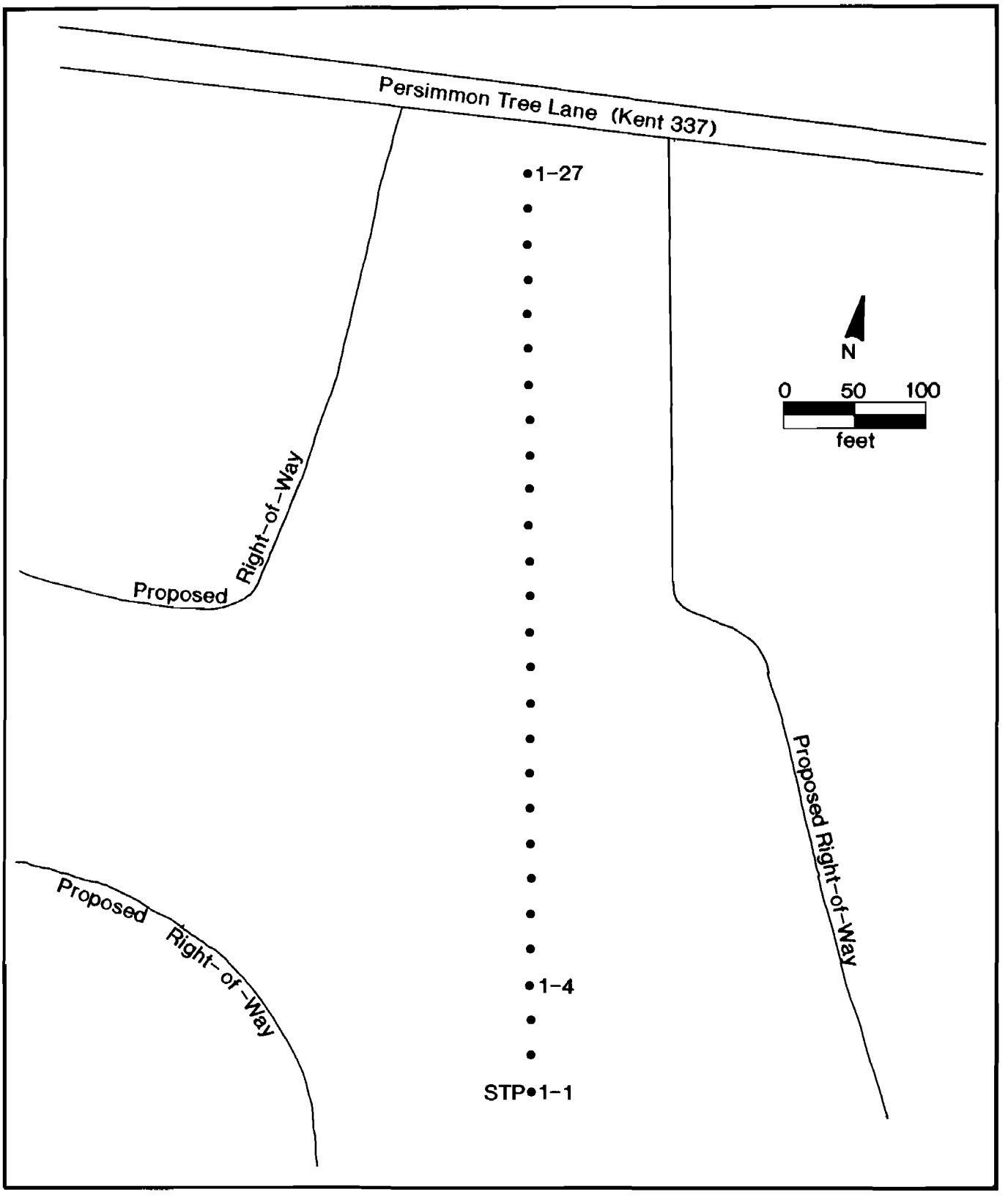
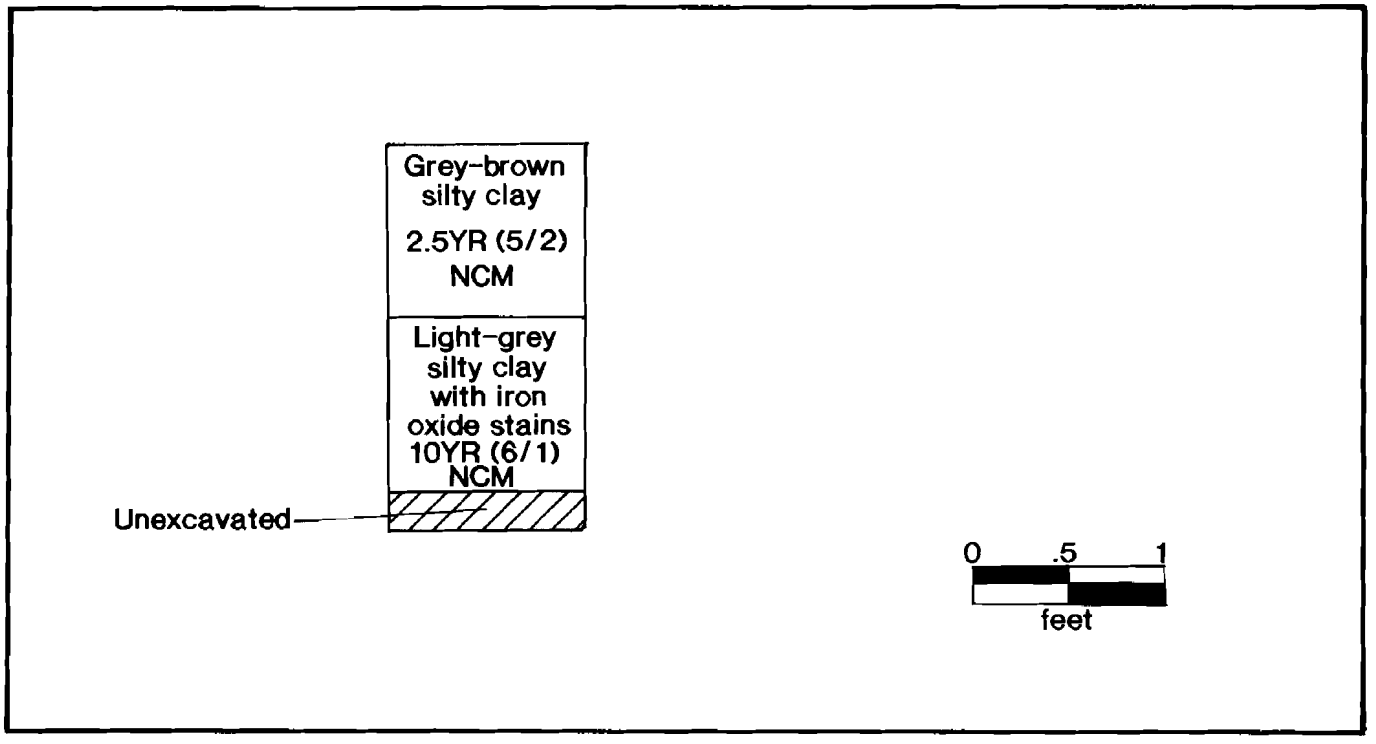


FIGURE 13

Typical Soil Profile in Parcel 1 (STP 1-4)



the Spiro-Diamond site is ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and no further work is recommended.

Phase I Survey Results

Phase I testing consisted of 125 shovel test pits placed at 25-foot intervals within the proposed right-of-way (Figure 14). The shovel test pits were placed in a linear fashion along the center line of the right-of-way and additional shovel test pits were excavated in one particularly sensitive area. This was near the channelized Little River Crossing at the eastern end of the parcel.

Shovel test pits 2-1 through 2-17 were placed in the north-south trending section of the realignment of the Leipsic Road, 2-18 through 2-62 and 2-117 through 2-120 in the east-west trending

toll booth access road, and 2-63 through 2-116 in the vicinity of the Little River crossing. The first 17 shovel test pits contained an occasional small fragment of coal or brick but nothing was found in concentration. Shovel test pit 2-18 began at the eastern edge of Kent 88 and each hole through 2-27 as well as 2-29 contained several historic artifacts (see Figure 15 for a profile of the soils in this parcel). Most were architectural materials like nails and window glass, and clear molded jar or bottle glass fragments. Two or three pieces of ceramic, chiefly undecorated whiteware, porcelain, or earthenware were recovered from each test hole. The types and amounts of recovered material indicate the presence of a nineteenth century site, although the function is unknown. The distribution of artifacts suggest the site lies in a 200' band from 150'-350' east of the Leipsic Road. No site of any kind appears on either Byles' Atlas of Kent County (1859) (Figure 8) or Beers' Atlas of Delaware (1868) (Figure 9) at this location and the closest site on either atlas is nearly a half mile away (Cowgill farm). It is possible that this site is a small tenant house site which was not recorded on the atlases or it was a short-lived occupation which was not present when the atlases were made. It may also be a distant outbuilding for one of the larger farmhouses in the area. The site has been designated 7K-C-384 (K-6444) and a Phase II excavation was recommended for the site.

The remaining shovel test pits in this parcel exhibited undisturbed profiles and a paucity of artifacts throughout. The exceptions were the profiles on the east side of the channelized

FIGURE 14

Location of All Phase I Tests in Parcel 2

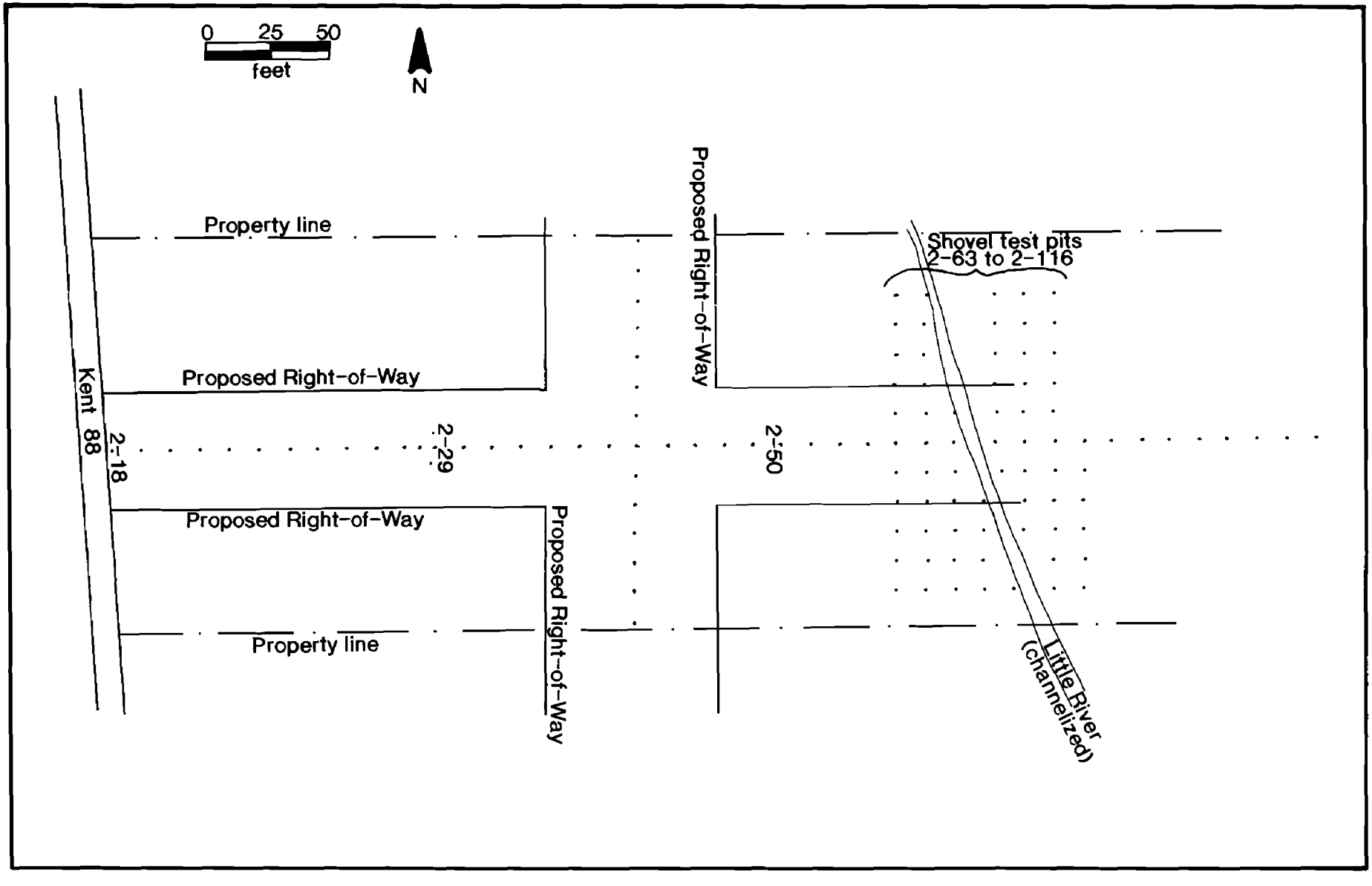
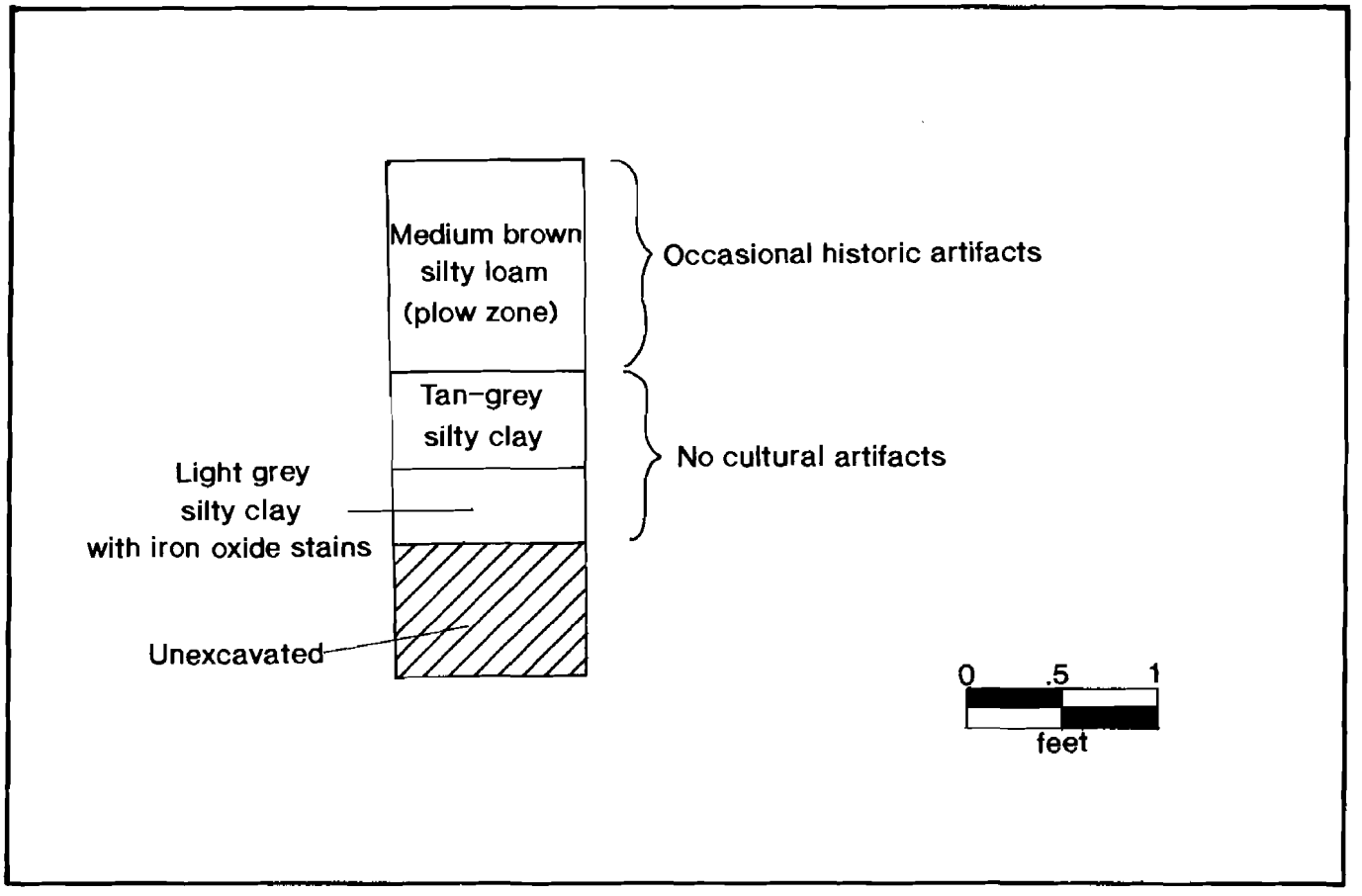


FIGURE 15

Typical Soil Profile in Parcel 2 (STP 2-29)



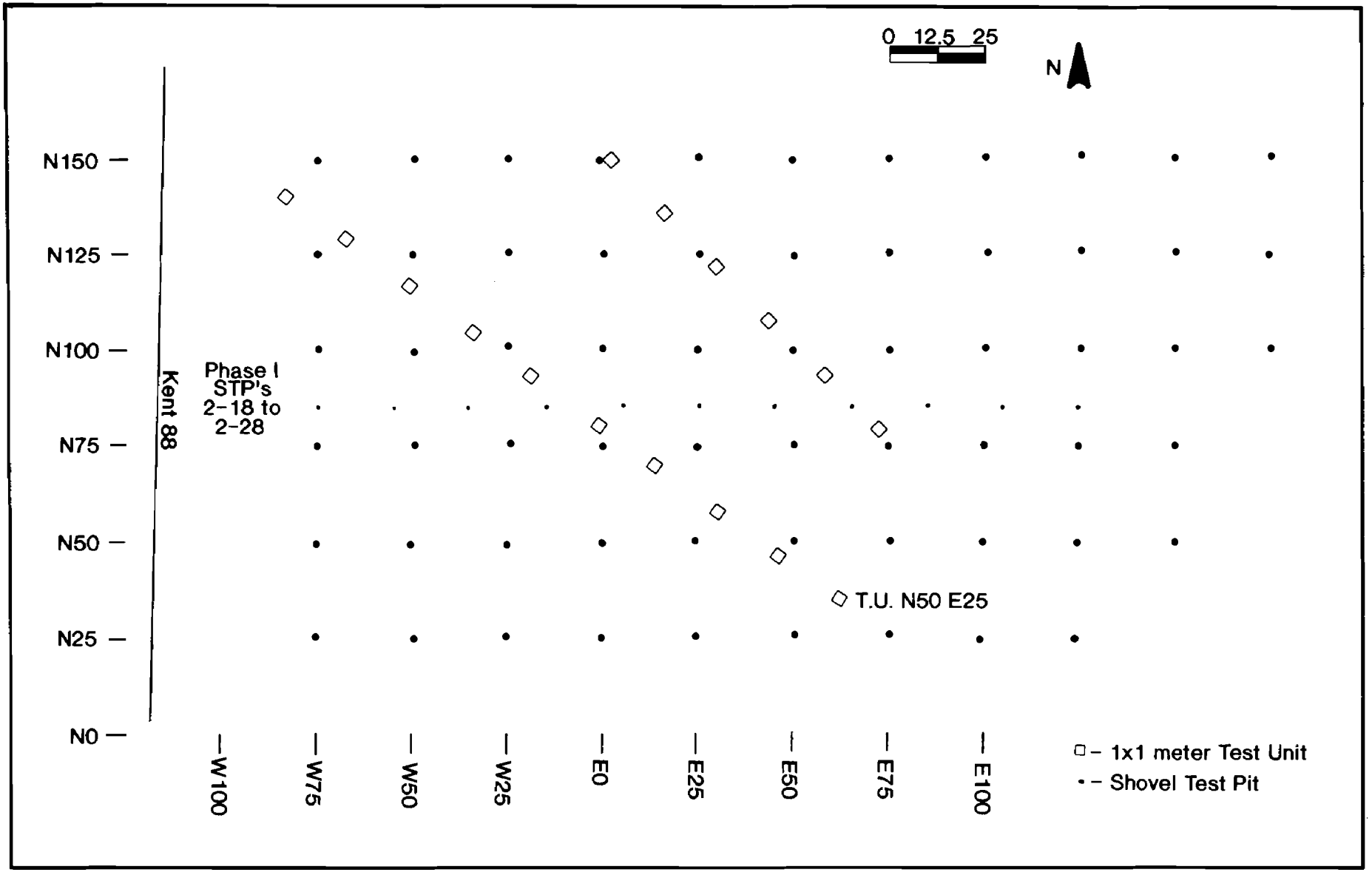
river, which showed 20-25cm of mottled clays, silts, and organic materials above a buried plow zone.

Phase II Survey Results

The Spiro-Diamond site is located east of Dover Downs on the east side of Kent 88 of Parcel 2 (Figure 2). The site is currently used as an overflow parking lot by the present owners, Dover Downs, Inc. Phase I shovel testing located architectural materials in Shovel Test Pits 2-18 to 2-27 (Figure 16). No prehistoric artifacts were recovered and no historic maps showed any structures on the property. No prehistoric artifacts were

FIGURE 16

Site Limits and The Location of All Phase II Tests and Features 1-7, Spiro-Diamond Site (7K-C-384)



recovered. A Phase II survey was recommended.

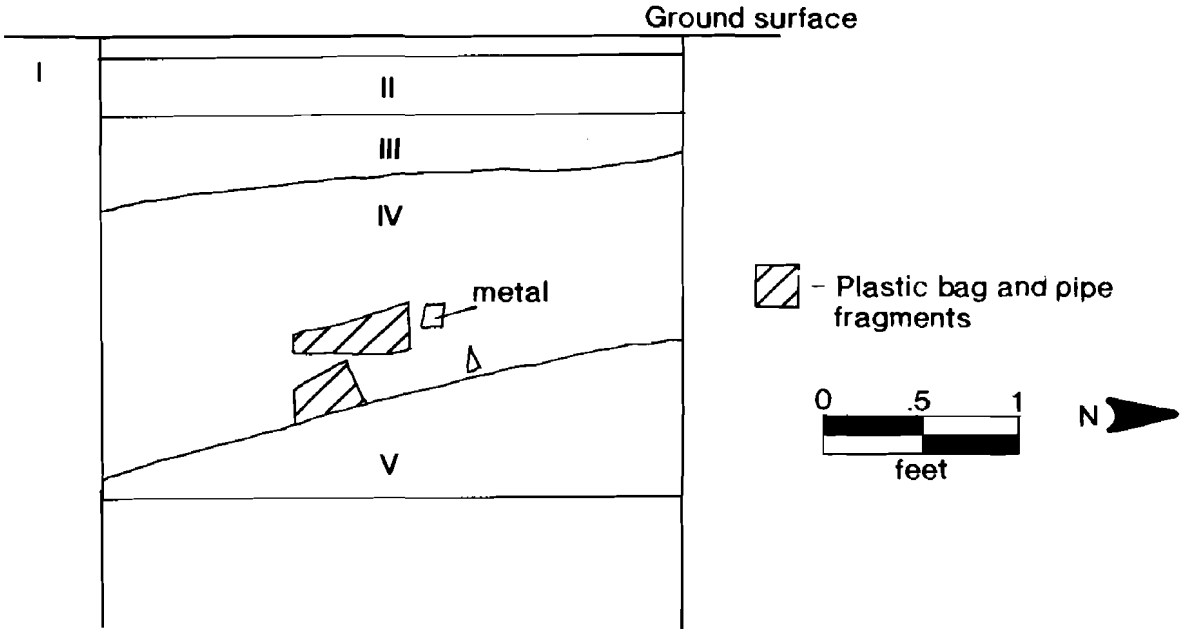
Phase II testing consisted of 71 shovel test pits and 16 3'X3' test units. The shovel test pits were excavated on a 25-foot grid oriented to the initial Phase I tests. Recent artifacts, including large pieces of plastic and industrial debris, were recovered from buried contexts. The entire site was determined to be severely mechanically disturbed and no artifacts were recovered from intact, undisturbed contexts. Isolated pockets of apparently undisturbed buried plow zone were identified, but no historic artifacts were recovered from any of these soils. Adjacent test units less than 25 feet away located no trace of these buried soils and found evidence of mechanical disturbance and recent fill through the entire profile. All of the historic artifacts recovered were determined to come from fill introduced by Dover Downs to construct a parking area.

The location of all Phase II tests at the Spiro-Diamond site is shown in Figure 16. In addition to additional shovel test pits, Phase II testing consisted of two parallel rows of 3' x 3' test units excavated in the area of highest artifact density identified by Phase I testing. No features or concentrations of historic artifacts in undisturbed contexts were located. Evidence of significant fill activity was seen in every Phase II test unit. The recent fill layers were so deep (ca. 3.0' below ground surface) that the Phase I shovel tests never penetrated the fill. A typical profile showing the degree of recent fill is shown in Figure 17.

A total of 1,642 historic artifacts were recovered from the recent fill over the entire Spiro-Diamond site (Appendix II).

FIGURE 17

Profile of T.V. N50E25, Spiro-Diamond Site (7K-C-384)



I- Humus

II- Light grey mottled clay and sand (2.5YR)

III- Brown silt loam (10YR 5/3)

IV- Brown silt loam fill with recent plastic and metal fragments, sandier than III

V- Light grey mottled clay and sand subsoil. Same as II, but undisturbed. Numerous iron oxide stains.

Artifacts recovered, from as deep as 3.5 feet below ground surface, included can openers, fuse boxes, aluminum foil, and lipstick cases. No evidence of any intact buried horizons was located and no artifacts were recovered from intact, undisturbed contexts. Clear and amber beer bottle glass fragments were

recovered from every subsurface test; such artifacts are in great abundance on the present grounds of Dover Downs Raceway. Twentieth century amber and clear bottle glass fragments comprised almost half (42%) of all artifacts recovered. Ceramics, however, comprised only 10 percent of the total artifact assemblage, additional evidence of no domestic occupation at the site. Six prehistoric chert, jasper, and chalcedony flakes were also recovered from the fill distributed evenly across the site. No prehistoric artifacts were located in intact deposits.

The failure to locate any artifacts in undisturbed contexts and the failure to locate any intact cultural features led to the determination that the Spiro-Diamond site is ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. No further work is recommended.

PARCEL 3

This small tract was investigated in 1987 (Bachman, Grettler, and Custer 1988:76) and produced no cultural material. No further work is recommended. The entire parcel was pedestrian surveyed and ground surface visibility was low as the field was in no-till corn.

PARCEL 4

The Larkin property extends from the Bason property line south to Persimmon Tree Lane and was subjected to pedestrian survey and shovel test pitting (Figure 18). The northern half of the farm was plowed with surface visibility about 50 percent. The entire field covering about 14 acres was walked and produced

FIGURE 18

Location of All Phase I Tests in Parcel 4

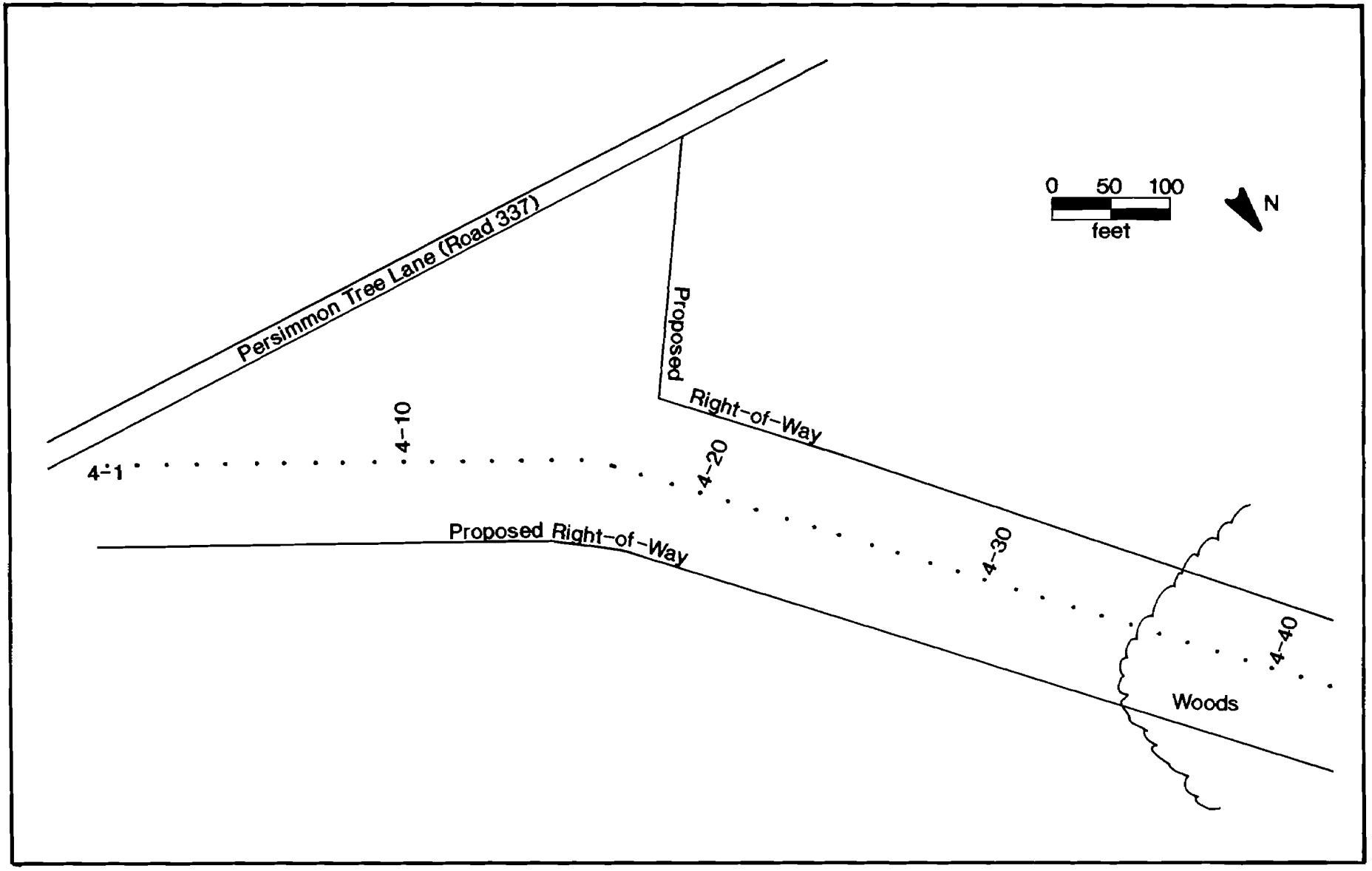
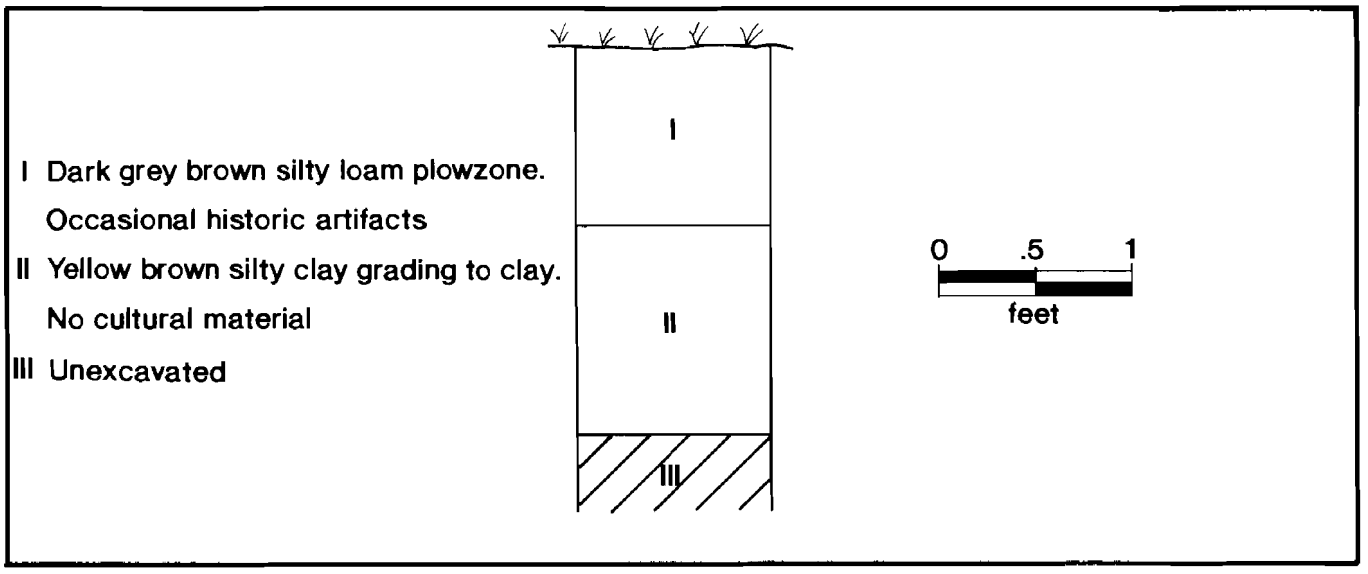


FIGURE 19

Typical Soil Profile in Parcel 4 (STP 4-19)



no cultural material. The clover field to the southeast was tested with 43 shovel test pits along the centerline of the proposed realignment of Persimmon Tree Lane. These shovel test pits were placed at 25-foot intervals and nearly all contained evidence of cultural activity (Figure 18) See Figure 19 for an example of the soil stratigraphy in this parcel. However, the holes produced only one or two artifacts each (brick, bottle glass, coal, an occasional piece of ceramic) and no artifact concentrations or features were found. The low artifact density is typical of general field scatter found on rural farmsteads during all of Delaware history. The artifacts are deposited in a very diffuse pattern and only a few artifacts per acre are visible during surface collections. The diffuse artifact distribution is not indicative of activity areas, structure locations, or other historic proveniences. No further work is recommended for this parcel.

PARCEL 5

This small parcel is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Murray and was found to be heavily disturbed by a drainage ditch, a driveway and a chain link fence and holds no possibility of intact cultural remains (Figure 2). No further work is recommended for this parcel.

PARCEL 6: BASON FIELD SITE (K-6445, 7K-C-385)

The next parcel to the north is owned by Clement and Virginia Bason and the proposed right-of-way traverses a small agricultural field which was planted in soybeans at the time of the survey (Figure 2). The entire field was walked and the surface visibility was 80 percent. The field contains a rolling topography accented by four low rises, each of which contained cultural material. One of these is traversed by the proposed realignment of Kent 88 and produced a chert stemmed point, a non-diagnostic quartz early stage biface reject (ESBR), quartz and jasper flakes, and fire-cracked rock. A heavily damaged rhyolite broadpoint (possibly a Perkiomen point) was found on a second low rise just outside the proposed right-of-way.

Historic artifacts were found in all sections of the field. Included in the historic materials are ceramics (whiteware, slip decorated and plain redware, porcelain, ironstone, scratch blue stoneware and gray stoneware), nails, window glass, a pipe stem, and fragments of brick to several inches in length. The present structure on the property dates to the early twentieth century (Bachman, Grettler, and Custer 1988:78), so the ceramic

assemblage suggests that an earlier structure may have stood on this property. The field scatter was not specific enough to pinpoint the location but the scratch blue stoneware and red slipware are definitely not associated with an early twentieth century house. A Phase II archaeological investigation is recommended for the ground within the proposed realignment of Kent 88.

Phase I Survey Results

The Bason Field site is located in Parcel 6 approximately 800' feet east of present Kent 88 (Figure 2). Phase I testing consisted of a pedestrian survey that located a small scatter of historic and prehistoric artifacts, including a fragment of a Woodland I rhyolite broadpoint and slip decorated redwares on a small rise along the eastern edge of the proposed right-of-way. This field scatter was not specific enough to pinpoint the location of either a prehistoric or historic site, but Phase II testing was recommended.

Phase II Survey Results

Phase II testing consisted of the excavation of 21 3' X 3' test units on a 20 foot grid centered on the centerline of the eastern proposed right-of-way (Figure 20). No historic or prehistoric features were identified and no artifacts were recovered from below the plow zone in intact subsoil contexts. No additional prehistoric artifacts were recovered and no further evidence of any historic structure was recovered. Artifact densities varied between one and 10 artifacts per test unit and all of the artifacts recovered are probably due to simple field scatter. Historic artifacts, including pearlwares, redwares,

FIGURE 20

Location of All Phase II Tests at The Bason Field Site

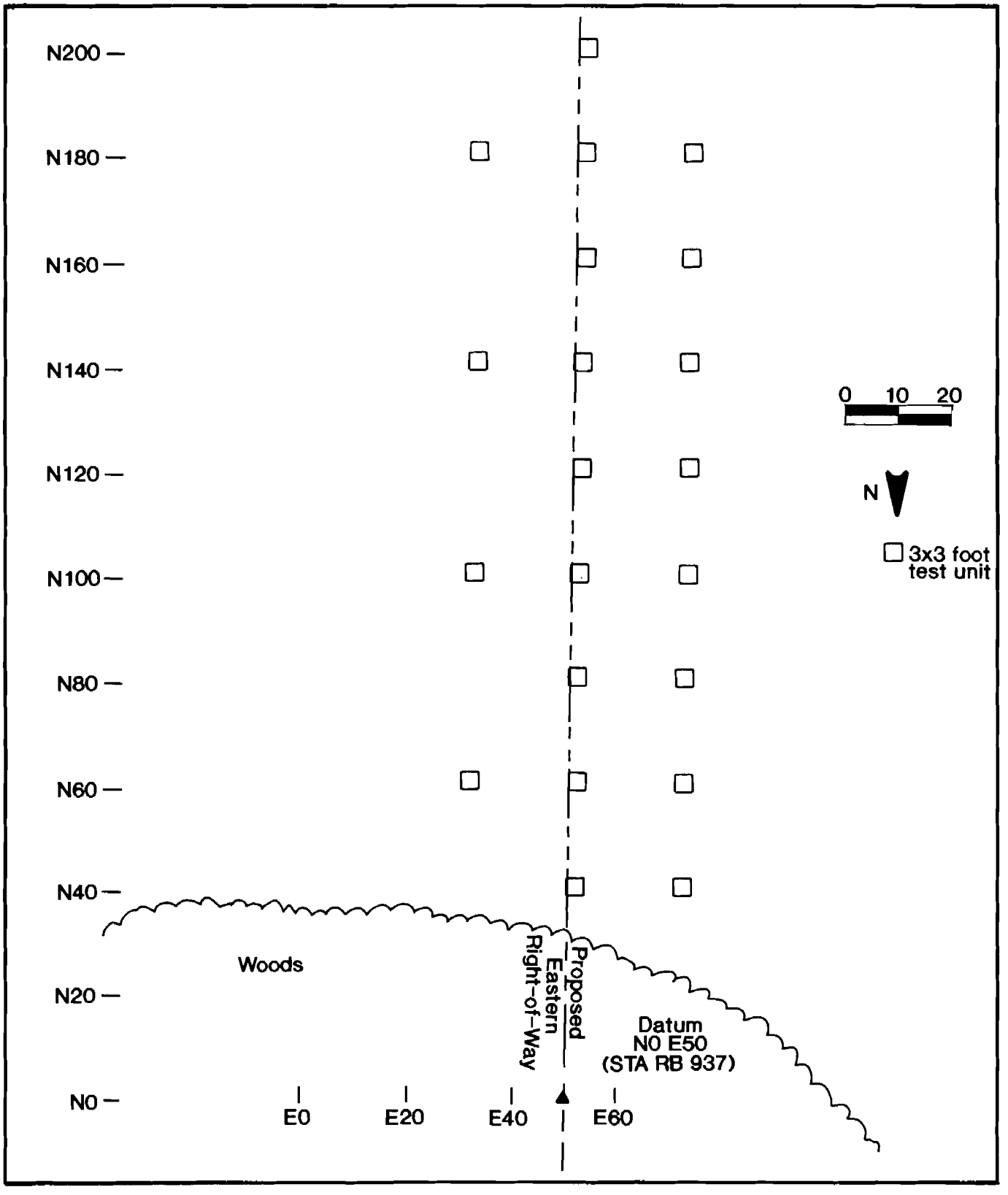
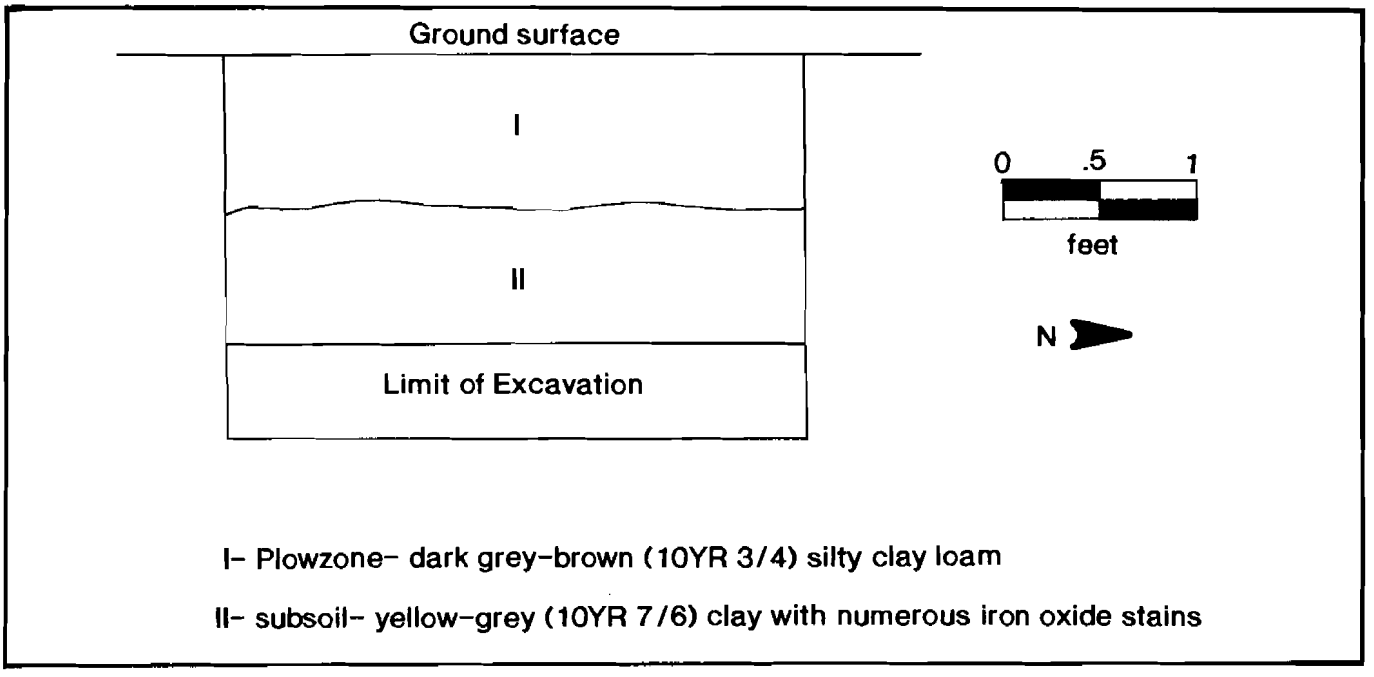


FIGURE 21

Profile of Test Unit S60E70, Bason Field Site (7K-C-385)

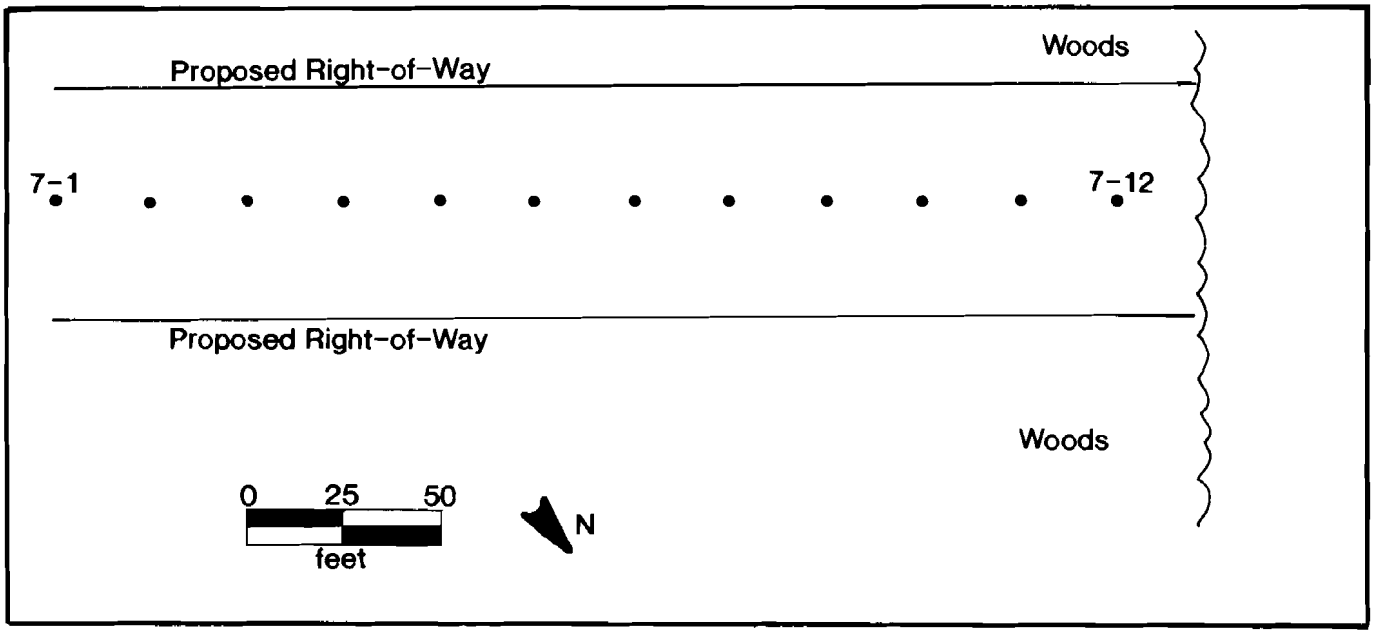


whitewares, coal, small brick fragments, and clear and aqua molded bottle glass were found consistently over the entire Bason field by Phase I pedestrian survey and subsequent pedestrian survey of the eastern right-of-way during Phase II testing. Coal was the most common artifact found and was distributed over the entire Bason field from behind the present early twentieth century Bason house east to the present woodline 400' east of the proposed right-of-way.

The plow zone encountered by Phase II testing varied between 0.6' and 1.2' deep. Some evidence of erosion was seen in the areas of the 0.6-0.7 foot plow zones. Beneath the plow zone, was a homogeneous yellow-gray (10 YR 7/6) clay heavily mottled with large iron oxide stains. A typical soil profile of the Basin Field site is shown in Figure 21.

FIGURE 22

Location of All Phase I Tests in Parcel 7



Conclusions and Recommendations

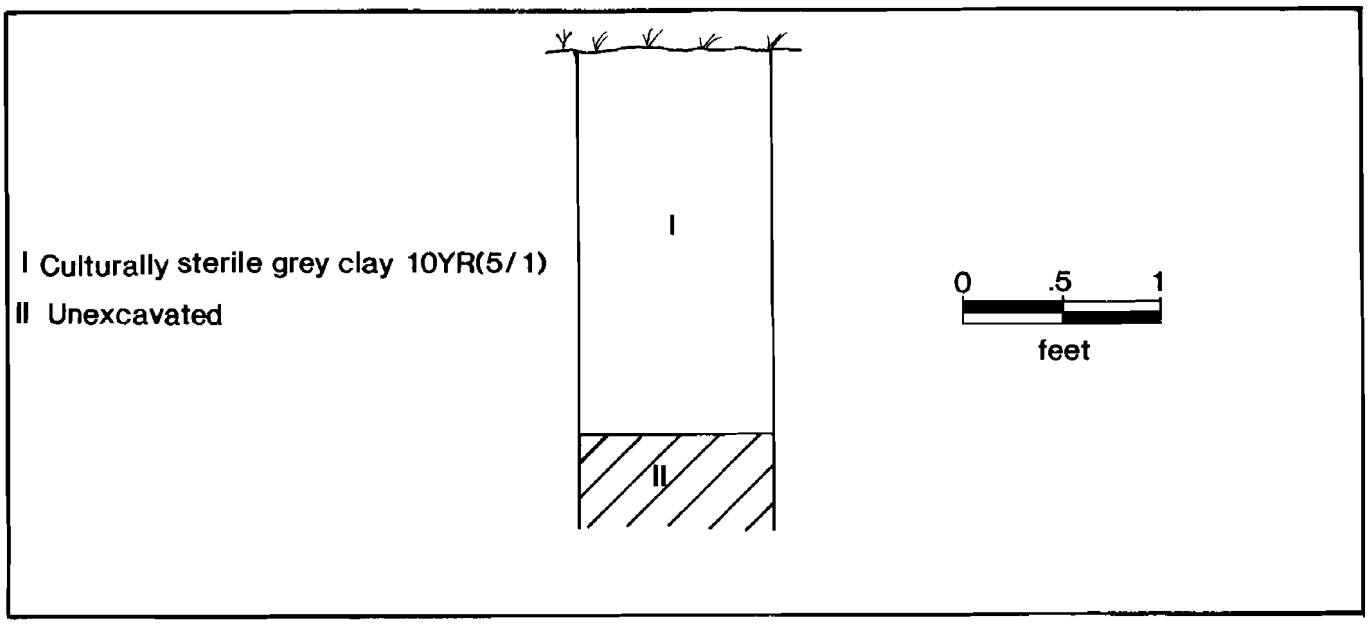
Phase II testing located no cultural features or recovered artifacts from undisturbed contexts. Some evidence of erosion was identified. The Bason Field site was thus determined to be ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. No further work is recommended.

PARCEL 7

This parcel contained a section of low wet woods just south of the W. Eager site (Figure 2). The woods are owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Yerkie and were tested with twelve shovel test pits at 25 foot intervals (Figure 22). See Figure 23 for a typical profile of this small woodlot. All of the test units were culturally sterile and no further work is recommended.

FIGURE 23

Typical Soil Profile in Area 7 (STP 7-1)



PARCELS 8 AND 9

The realignment of the Leipsic Road will cut across a short section of grassy field which is owned in part by Richard T. Griggs (Parcel 8) and in part by Mr. and Mrs. Curtis McFarlin (Parcel 9). Three shovel test pits were placed in Parcel 8 and two in Parcel 9 at 25 foot intervals. All profiles were characterized by thin topsoils underlain by sterile gray clays. All test units were culturally sterile and no further work is recommended for these two parcels.

PARCEL 10: W. EAGER SITE (K-6443, 7K-C-383)

Parcel 10 is located southeast of the intersection of Kent 88 and Muddy Branch on the east side of the road (Figure 2). Phase I testing located the remains of a mid-to-late nineteenth century historic site, the W. Eager site (7K-C-383). Phase I

testing also yielded prehistoric artifacts in plow zone contexts. Phase II testing was recommended and undertaken. The small prehistoric component was determined ineligible for listing on the National Register. Thus, no work is recommended for either the historic or prehistoric component of the site.

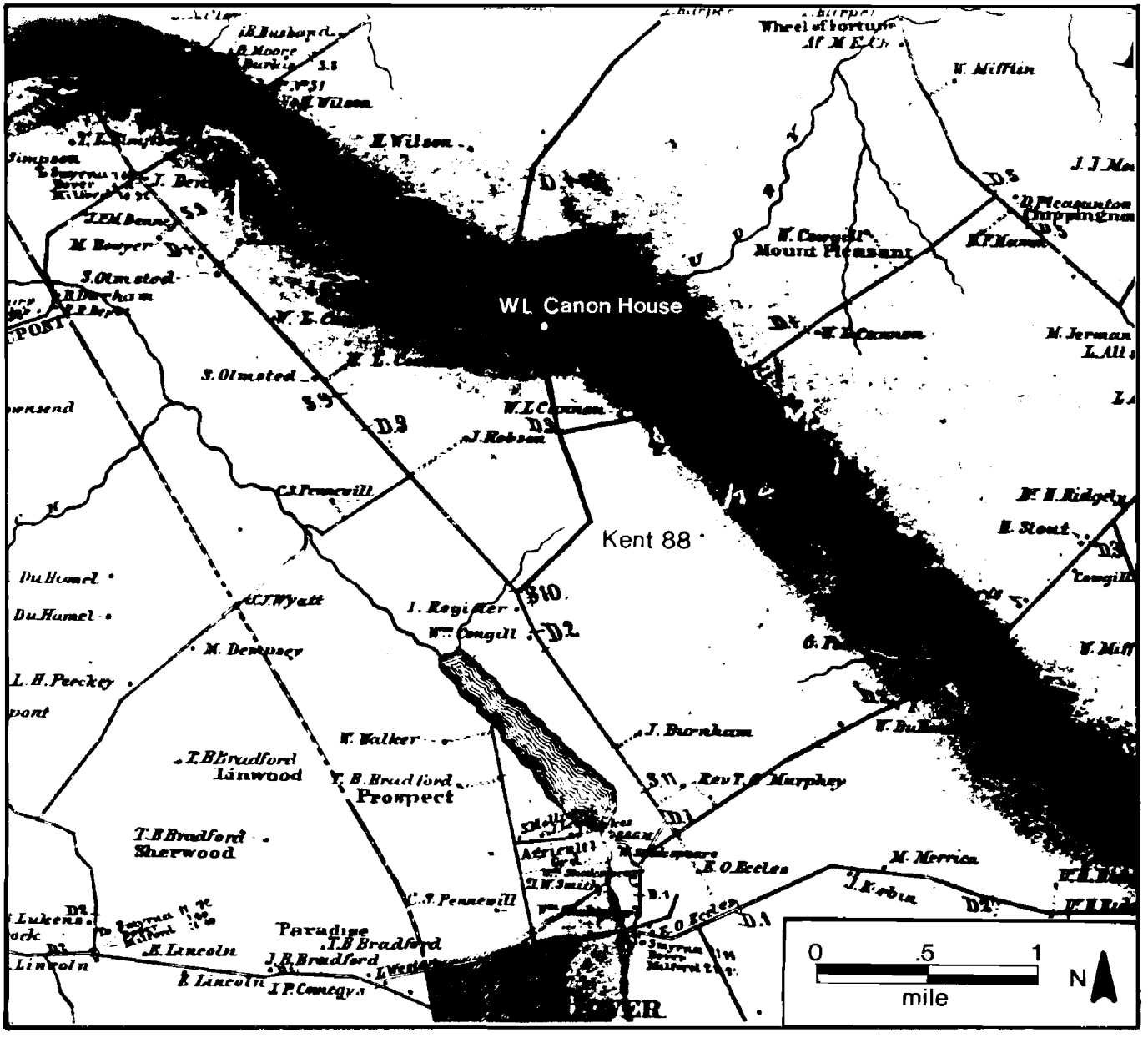
Phase I Survey Results

Parcel 10 lies southeast of the intersection of Kent 88 (Dover-Leipsic Road) and Muddy Branch on a sandy rise in an agricultural field. The parcel is dominated by a 3/4 acre rise along Kent 88. This rise was comprised of well-drained, sandy soil described as Sassafras sandy loam (SfB) by Matthews and Ireland (1971). The entire parcel and particularly the sandy rise were subjected to pedestrian survey. Historic and prehistoric artifacts were located on the rise. Fifty-eight prehistoric artifacts were gathered, including three non-diagnostic bifaces, two bevel edged scrapers, four utilized flakes, debitage, and fire-cracked rock. No prehistoric ceramics or ground stone tools were found. No conclusive statement can be made from this limited assemblage, but it appears as if fire was used on the site and that some processing, perhaps of animal hides, did occur.

The historic component included ceramics, bottle and window glass, large quantities of brick, coal, coal ash, chicken bone, a hand-painted bisque marble, and pipe bowl and stem fragments. Nearly all of the ceramics were various types of decorated and undecorated whitewares. Some monochrome redwares were present, as well as very low numbers of slip decorated redware, pearlware, and creamware. Thus, the recovered ceramic sequence suggests an

FIGURE 24

Detail of Byle's 1859 Atlas Showing The "W.L. Cannon" House (W. Eager Site, 7K-C-383)

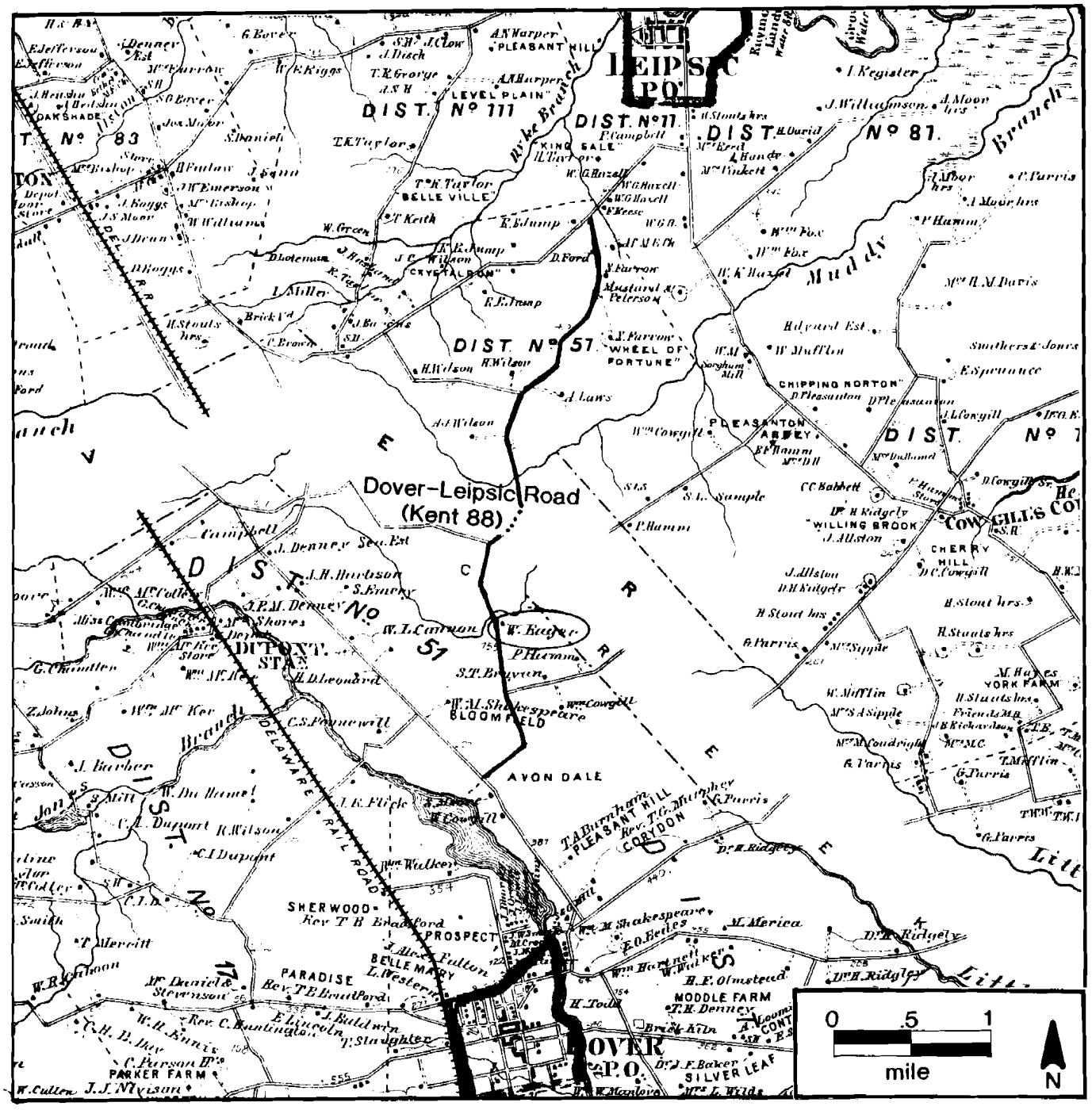


occupation date of late eighteenth to late nineteenth century.

Byles' Atlas of Kent County (1859) (Figure 24) and Beers' Atlas of Delaware (1868) (Figure 25) were consulted and a structure is shown at this location on both atlases. In 1859 the name labeling the site is "W.L. Cannon" and in 1868 it is "W.

FIGURE 25

Detail of Beer's 1868 Atlas Showing The "W. Eager" House (W. Eager Site, 7K-C-383)



Eager." Cannon owned several properties in the area in 1859 and 1868.

The work conducted in this parcel indicated the presence of a plowed site with an undated prehistoric component and mid-to-late nineteenth century historic component. The W. Eager site lies largely within the proposed realignment of Kent 88 (Dover-Leipsic Road) and a Phase II excavation of the site was recommended.

The W. Eager site (7K-C-383) is the remains of a tenant- and owner- occupied house occupied from the mid-to-late nineteenth century. The W. Eager site is located in a plowed field and was initially identified during the Phase I pedestrian survey. Both historic and prehistoric artifacts were recovered and the site was recommended for Phase II testing. A history of the site and a discussion of the results of the Phase II Survey follows.

Site History

Archival research indicates that the W. Eager site is the remains of a small tenant- and owner-occupied farm occupied from ca. 1851 to ca. 1896. The site appears on both Byles' (1859) (Figure 24) and Beers' (1868) (Figure 25) atlases, but not on a 1906 U.S.G.S. topographic map (Figure 10) of the Dover area. The site was initially occupied by tenants from ca. 1850 until 1866 when the property was purchased by William Eager. The site was owner-occupied by Eager until 1877 when the property passed to a succession of absentee landowners from New York and Pennsylvania. The chain of title of the W. Eager site is summarized in Table 3.

The W. Eager site was located on a 146 acre parcel when the site was first occupied ca. 1850. Prior to 1850, the 146 acre

TABLE 3

CHAIN OF TITLE FOR THE W. EAGER SITE (7K-C-383)

Transaction	Acres	Date	Reference
From William Penn to Simon Irons	1,000	6/13/1688	KC W&S H-8-143
From Simon Irons to Benjamin Shurmer			[H-1-82]
From Benjamin Shurmer to Andrew Caldwell	600	7/6/1723	[H-1-82]
From Andrew Caldwell to Nicholas Loockerman	600	3/12/1723	H-1-82
From Nicholas Loockerman to Vincent Loockerman (the Younger)		10/31/1765	KC Will L-92
From the estate of Vincent Loockerman, the Younger to his son Vincent Loockerman		5/15/1801	KC Orphans Ct. E-123
From Vincent E. Loockerman to Nathaniel Drew	400	12/6/1813	0-2-115
From William Saulsberry, Sheriff (or Nathaniel Drew) to Frederick Foering	400	8/26/1822	W-2-32
From Frederick and Susan Foering to Samuel Grant and John Taylor	400	8/7/1822	W-2-34
From Samuel and Judith Grant and John and Susan Taylor to Caleb H. Sipple and Robert O. Pennewill	400	12/19/1834	H-3-228
From Caleb H. and Sally Ann Sipple and Robert O. and Elizabeth Pennewill to Wilson L. Cannon	146	2/21/1850	2-3-75
From Wilson L. and Mary Cannon to William Eager	146	1/1/1866	B-5-92
From William and Elizabeth Eager to Harriet and Samuel Hitchens	73	1/28/1877	V-5-304

TABLE 3 (cont.)

Transaction	Acres	Date	Reference
From Samuel J. and Harriet Hitchens to George Rickert	73	7/19/1877	W-5-387
From Thomas M. and Anna R. Gooden to Stephen M. Thomas	73	11/27/1888	C-7-29
From Stephen M. Thomas to John D. Hawkins	106	1/25/1895	R-7-160
From John D. Hawkins, trustee to Arley B. Magee	106	5/14/1896	W-7-79
From Arley B. Magee to Clarence E. Mundy	34	6/9/1896	W-7-151
From Clarence E. Mundy to Gertrude Mundy	34	10/8/1898	A-8-331
From Gertrude Mundy to Abraham B. Ruston	83	3/12/1906	E-9-254
From Ella Scotten, et al. to Clara C. Busch	61	6/5/1915	V-10-260
From Norris C. Adams, Sheriff (land of George Busch) to Mary J. Hartman	61	2/24/1942	A-16-110
From Mary J. Hartman to Robert W. and Mary E. Houghton	61	12/3/1942	G-16-168
From Robert W. and Mary E. Houghton to Marion T. and Emma Duhadaway	61	2/9/1945	T-16-345
From Marion T. Duhadaway to Virginia D. Bason	61	9/24/1974	Q-29-103

Eager site parcel was part of a larger 400 acre parcel. The setting off of this 146 acre parcel between 1834 and 1850 by Caleb Sipple and Robert Pennewill probably relates to the first occupation of the site. Subsequent divisions of the property

after William Eager purchased the land in 1866 reduced the size of the parcel until its present size of 61 acres.

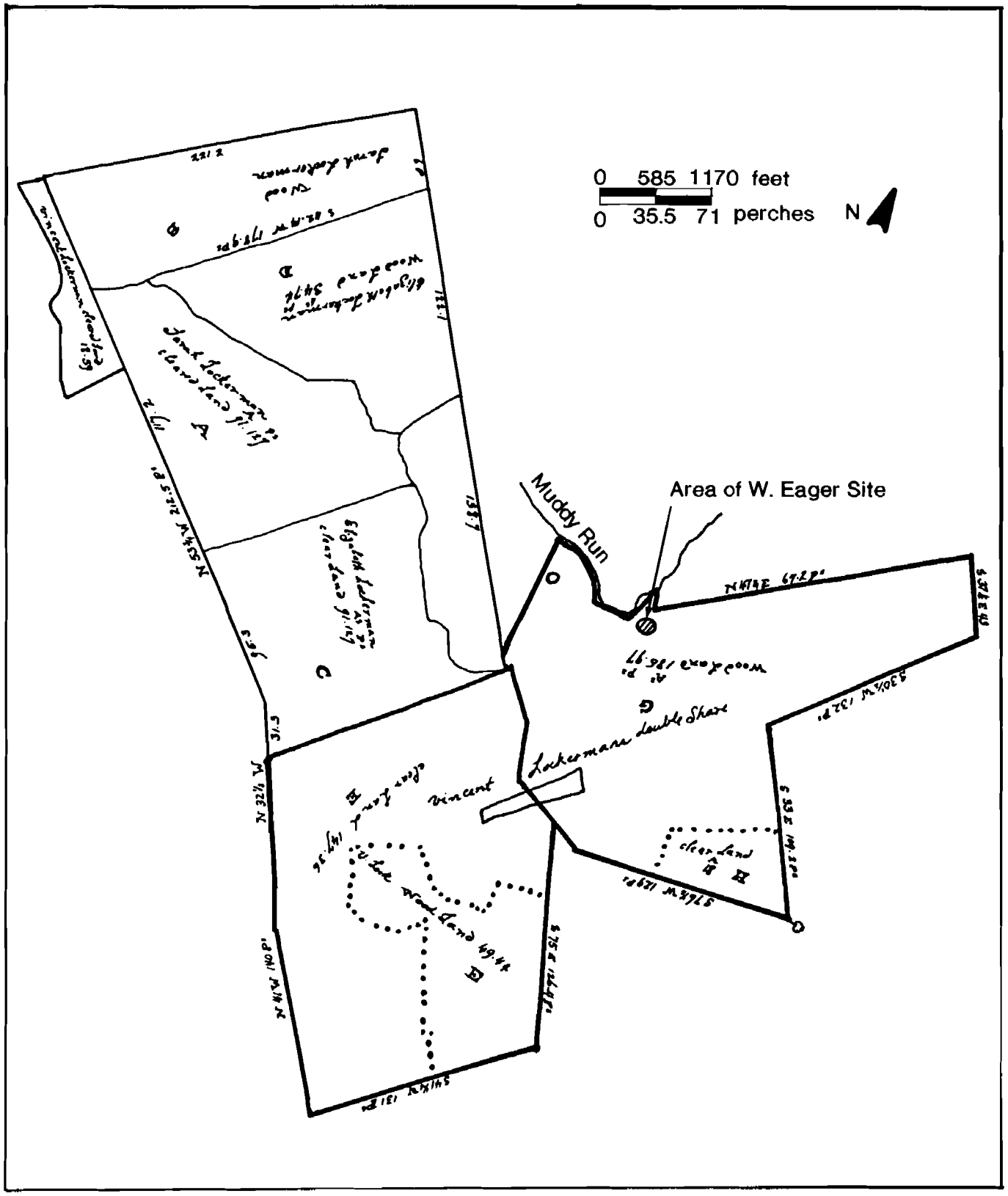
The chain of title of the W. Eager site is summarized in Table 3. The W. Eager site was originally part of a large 1,000 acre tract of land granted to Simon Irons in 1688 by representatives of William Penn. This tract was called "the Range." Simon Irons and his heirs subdivided the property after 1688 and Nicholas Loockerman purchased 600 acres of the Range in 1723. Nicholas Loockerman developed his property into a number of tenant farms, including the nearby Loockerman's Range site (7K-C-365B) (Grettler et al. 1991).

Nicholas Loockerman died in 1765 and his entire 600 acre tract passed to his grandson Vincent Loockerman (the Younger). By 1765, the tract had become known as Loockerman's Range. Vincent Loockerman (the Younger) died ca. 1786 and Loockerman's Range was administered by the Kent County Orphan's Court. A plat of the property made in 1801 shows Vincent E. Loockerman's 400 acre "Double Share" (Figure 26). As can be seen in Figure 26, no structure is shown at the location of the W. Eager site. Moreover, this portion of Loockerman's Double Share south of Muddy Branch is described as woodland. The nearest structure is a small tenant farm approximately one half mile to the southwest (Figure 26). This farm is under the present area of the Dover Mall and was probably destroyed by the construction of the mall and its parking lot.

Vincent E. Loockerman sold his "Double Share" of Loockerman's Range to Nathaniel Drew, a Philadelphia merchant, in 1813. Drew went into debt and the W. Eager site parcel was sold

FIGURE 26

Detail of an 1801 Plat of The Land of Vincent Lookerman (The Younger) Showing The Location of The W. Eager Site 7K-C-383



to Frederic Foering, another Philadelphia merchant. The parcel remained included and in the hands of absentee Philadelphia merchants until 1834 when Caleb H. Sipple and Robert O. Pennewill purchased the land. Sipple and Pennewill were substantial landowners in the Dover area who owned and developed a number of farms in Dover and Little Creek hundreds. When Sipple and Pennewill purchased the 400 acres of Vincent Loockerman's Double Share in 1834, the only house and outbuildings described on the property were those of the tenant farm to the west that appears on the 1801 Orphan's Court plat (Figure 26).

The W. Eager site was thus not constructed prior to 1834. The construction of the site probably occurred after Sipple and Pennewill subdivided the property and sold 146 acres to Wilson L. Cannon. Cannon, another wealthy local landowner, purchased the W. Eager parcel as a tenant farm. By 1859, when a structure at the W. Eager site belonging to W. L. Cannon is shown on Byles' Atlas (Figure 24), Cannon owned at least three other tenant farms in the area.

It is likely that it was W. L. Cannon who built the W. Eager House. Cannon purchased the land in February 1850 and probably built the house. The 1850 U.S. Agricultural Census, taken in September 1850, does not describe any tenant farm the size of the W. Eager parcel for either Cannon or Sipple Pennewill. The 1850 Census thus suggests that the W. Eager site farm was not built until after September, 1850, six months after Cannon purchased the parcel from Sipple and Pennewill.

Tax assessment data for Dover Hundred also indicates that W. L. Cannon improved the W. Eager parcel between 1851 and 1852. In

1851, Wilson Cannon was assessed for real estate valued at $2,129. By 1852, however, Cannon was assessed for $9,000 worth of real estate. This four-fold increase in Cannon's real estate assessment is probably due to improvements to the W. Eager site parcel, as Cannon owned no other tenant farms in Dover Hundred at the time. No description of any of Cannon's property is given in either tax assessment.

Cannon operated the W. Eager site as a tenant farm until he sold the land to William Eager in 1866. In 1860, the property was tenanted by George M. Jewell. According to a tax assessment made that year, the W. Eager site consisted of a "frame house, barn, stable, crib and c." Most of the 144 acre farm had been improved and by 1860, only 59 acres remained wooded and unimproved.

In 1860, George Jewell was 35 years old and shared the W. Eager house with his wife Evelin, aged 31 years. Jewell was a farmer and had four children: Mary, age twelve; Alexander, age eight; Martha, age six; and Louisa, age three. The Jewells shared their home with two other people, a 45 year old man, George Sackwood, and a six year white old girl, Mahala Scotten.

It is not known how long Jewell occupied the W. Eager site as he does not appear in any other tax lists. Jewell also never purchased property in Delaware and does not appear in any other probate or vital statistic records.

In 1860, Wilson Cannon's tenant farm was valued at $2,880, a valuation that places the site in the lower quarter of all farm valuations in Dover Hundred. The W. Eager site parcel was valued at $20 an acre, a relatively low rate indicating that the farm

was not especially valuable. Other tenant farms in the immediate areas, including two owned by Wilson L. Cannon and others owned by Francis Register and Charles Kimmey were assessed at more than twice the rate ($40-$51 per acre) of the W. Eager site (Grettler, et al. 1991). Only one tenant site in the immediate area, the Wilson-Lewis site (7K-C-375), was valued at a lower rate per acre. The Wilson-Lewis site, a contemporary owner- and tenant-occupied site, is located approximately one mile to the northwest (Grettler, et al. 1991: 107). In 1860, the frame tenant house, stable, and cribs at the Wilson-Lewis site were occupied by William Ennis. The 130 improved acres of the 180 acre farm was valued at only $16.80, one of the lowest valuations in the area. Data recovery investigations at the Wilson-Lewis site has identified the site as a poor tenant farm and the similarity in valuations indicates that the tenants of the W. Eager site were only slightly higher in socioeconomic status.

The W. Eager site remained tenant-occupied until 1866 when William Eager purchased the farm from Wilson Cannon. Eager owned and occupied the farm until 1877. Eager's name appears on Beers' 1868 Atlas (Figure 25). William Eager occupied the frame house and outbuildings on his property with his wife Elizabeth and his sons, Everston and William. Eager moved to Delaware between 1860 and 1866. Eager may have moved from New York where he had relatives who in 1868 left money to Eager's son Everston (KC Orphan's Court A-2:58).

According to the 1870 agricultural census, William Eager owned a small farm of 74 improved acres. Eager valued his farm at $2,000, slightly less than Cannon's previous valuation of

$2,880 in 1860. Eager`s valuation is substantially lower than $4,382, the average value of farms in Dover Hundred in the 1870 census. Eager valued his farm equipment at $150 and owned one horse, two mules, two milk cows, and three hogs. Eager's primary crops were Indian corn and winter wheat of which he grew 150 and 40 bushels respectively. Eager also grew buckwheat, beans, peas, and Irish potatoes; presumably all for personal use. Eager paid his single hired hand $160 per year, including board. In addition to eight tons of hay, Eager also produced molasses, honey, and butter in quantities that suggest a salable surplus.

William Eager divided his 146 acre farm into three parcels and sold each of them to different buyers between 1866 and 1877. The final parcel he sold in 1877 was a 73 acre parcel containing his house and outbuildings. Eager sold all of his parcels to out-of-state landowners. Harriet Hitchens of Lockport, New York purchased the W. Eager site parcel and sold it six months later to George Rickert of Bethlehem County, Pennsylvania. During this period of absentee ownership, it is likely that the site was tenant-occupied.

The W. Eager site remained tenant-occupied until 1888 when Stephen Thomas of Dover purchased the 73 acre parcel. Thomas occupied the site until 1895 when he sold it to John D. Hawkins, another Dover resident. Hawkins kept possession of the property for less than a year and it is likely that he occupied the site. The property then passed to Arley Magee, a substantial local landowner. Magee then sold the property only a few months later in May, 1896 to another out-of-state family, the Mundys. The Mundys retained possession of the property until 1906 when

they sold the land to Abraham Ruston. By 1906, however, the W. Eager house and outbuildings were gone according to a U.S.G.S. topographic map of the Dover area made that year. The subsequent deeds of the W. Eager site parcel, ending with the purchase of the parcel by Virginia Bason in 1974, is summarized in Table 3.

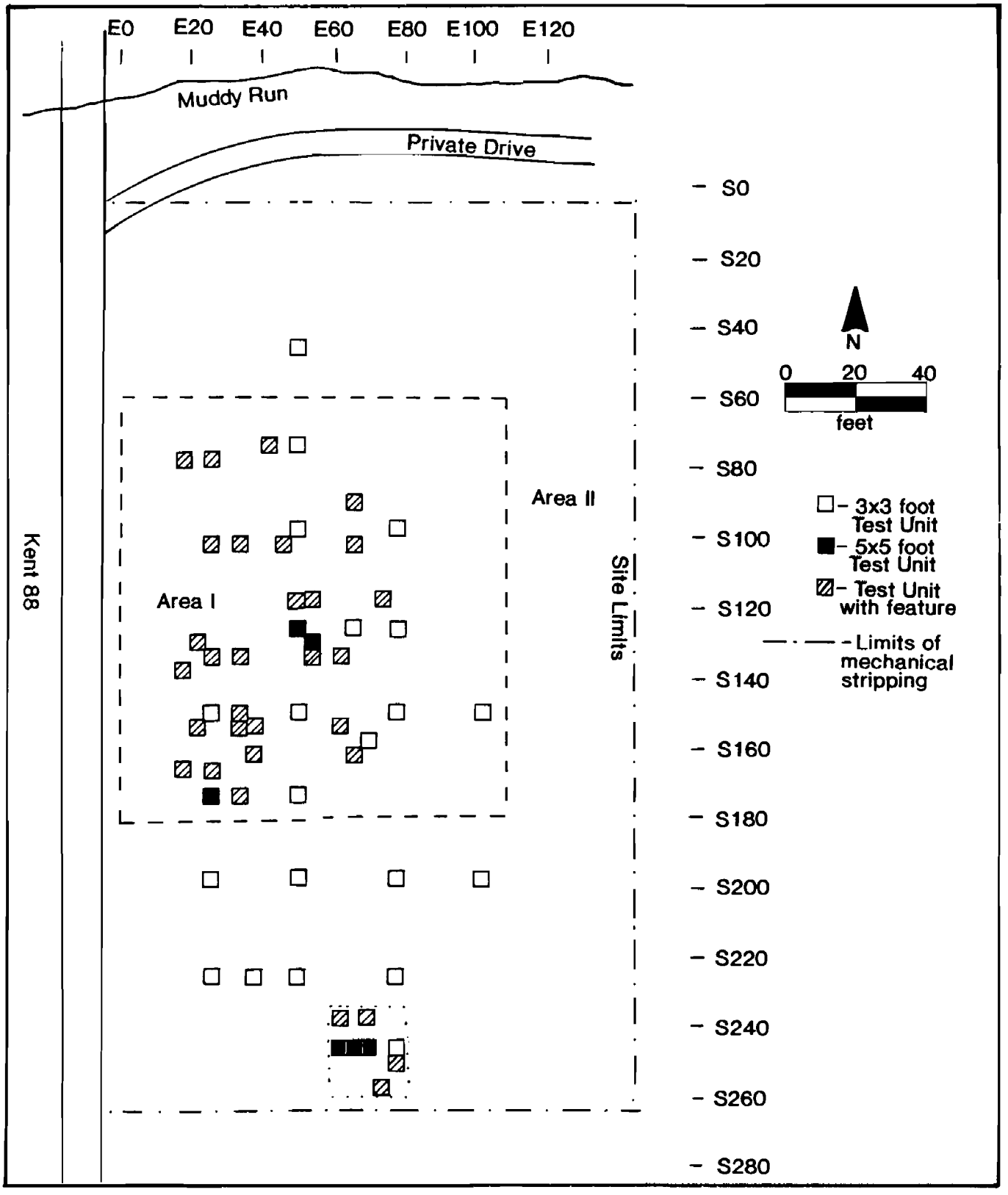
In conclusion, the W. Eager site is the remains of a relatively small tenant- and owner-occupied farm. The farm was developed expressly as a rental property by Wilson L. Cannon between 1851 and 1852. Cannon rented the property to at least one tenant, George M. Jewell. While Jewell was the tenant in 1860, the site consisted of a frame house, barn, stable, and corn crib. The farm was assessed for $20 an acre, a relatively low valuation indicating the low socioeconomic status of the occupants. The site was occupied by a succession of tenants and owners after William Eager subdivided and sold the land in 1877. The relatively short occupation of each owner and tenant and the frequent sale and subdivision of the parcel among local and out-of-state purchasers is typical of these poorer sites, particularly in these less agriculturally-productive areas that were not developed until the 1850s. The W. Eager site was probably not occupied into the twentieth century as it does not appear on a 1906 topographic map of the area. No evidence of a black occupation was found.

Phase II Survey Results

Phase II testing identified the limits of the W. Eager site (Figure 27). The site limits were determined by shovel test pits and measured 3' by 3' and 5' by 5' test units excavated on a 25' grid. The shovel test pits were excavated at 12.5' intervals. A

FIGURE 27

Site Limits, Location of Area I and II, and All Phase II Test Units, W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)



total of 58 test units and 128 shovel tests were excavated during Phase II testing. The area of the site was determined to be relatively small--approximately 250' by 150'. Phase II tests were excavated in all directions from the area of highest artifact concentration located by the Phase I survey until artifact concentrations fell below one or two artifacts per shovel test and five artifacts per test unit. Thus, the area shown as the site limits in Figure 27 corresponds to the limit of testing.

The W. Eager site is oriented to the Dover to Leipsic Road (Kent 88) and is located on a small five foot rise along the east side of the road. Phase II testing determined that the site limits correspond closely to the extent of the five foot rise.

Phase II shovel tests and test units identified only nine historic features at the W. Eager site. Because of the low density of historic artifacts and historic features, the plow zone over the entire site was mechanically removed to expose all features. An additional 102 archaeological features were identified. All of these features were excavated and only 64 of the features proved to be cultural features. A summary of the 111 total features identified by Phase II testing at the W. Eager site is given in Table 4. No prehistoric features were located by testing.

Phase II testing identified two primary areas of occupation at the W. Eager site. The location of these two areas and of all Phase II test units is shown in Figure 27. Area I, the core of the site and the primary locus of domestic activity, was defined by the presence of historic features in the Phase II test units

TABLE 4

DESCRIPTION OF ALL FEATURES LOCATED BY PHASE II ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING AT THE W. EAGER SITE (7K-C-383)

Feature	Location (Midpoint)	Depth (Below Plowzone)	Cultural Association
1	S128E34.7	1.2'	postmold & posthole
2	S130.1E33.6	0.2'	postmold
3	S130.5E32.4	---	noncultural; rodent
4	S127.1E44.7	0.5'	postmold
5	S145.2E26.3	0.5'	postmold
6	S125E65	2.5'	trash pit
7	S102.7E62.8	0.35'	postmold
8	S109E62.2	0.45'	postmold & posthole
9	S99.4E73.6	0.7'	posthole
10	S104.6E73.8	0.5'	postmold
11	S104.1E50.3	0.3'	postmold
12	S104.2E79.8	0.2'	root cellar stain ?
13	S127.65E78.75	0.4'	postmold
14	S94.55E74.2	0.2'	postmold
15	S93.125E74.15	0.35'	postmold ?
16	----------	----	noncultural
17	S139E61.95	0.4'	small trash pit ?
18	S139.7E77.6	---	noncultural; rodent
19	S58.3E50	---	noncultural; rodent
20	S127.4E80.5	0.4'	postmold
21	S58.2E37.6	0.8'	postmold & posthole
22	S59.9E32.7	---	noncultural; rodent
23	S167.40E44.75	4.5'	well
24	S142.5E66.7	---	noncultural

TABLE 4 (cont.)

Feature	Location (Midpoint)	Depth (Below Plowzone)	Cultural Association
25	S160.4E34.7	0.9'	postmold
26	S153.2E40.8	---	noncultural
27	S156.8E41	---	postmold w/ rodent disturbance
28	S161E49.5	0.25'	postmold ?
29	S174.6E48.45	0.35'	postmold ?
30	S176.1E49.15	0.25'	postmold ?
31	S217.2E38.2	---	noncultural; tree
32	S219.4E34.15	3.0'	postmold
33	S214E206	---	noncultural; plow scar
34	S166.60E41.30	0.3'	postmold associated w/ well
35	S34E24.8	0.1'	postmold ?
36	S33.5E25.4	---	noncultural
37	S50E61.3	0.8'	postmold
38	S64.3E98.9	---	noncultural; tree
39	S108.4E89	0.5'	trash deposit
40	S110E85.5	---	noncultural
41	S110.5E84.2	---	noncultural
42	S114.1E80.5	0.5'	unknown
43	S117.1E84.1	0.3'	unknown
44	S121.8E85.1	0.8'	postmold ?
45	S127.4E92.7	---	noncultural
46	S133.4E89.4	---	noncultural
47	S142.4E88.5	0.4'	outbuilding root cellar ?

TABLE 4 (cont.)

Feature	Location (Midpoint)	Depth (Below Plowzone)	Cultural Association
48	S140.2E91.4	0.4'	postmold associated w/ Feature 47
49	S139.1E87.6	0.4'	postmold associated w/ Feature 47
50	S139.7E87.0	---	stain associated w/ Feature 47
51	S144.7E83.4	---	noncultural; rodent
52	S152.3E76.4	0.2'	postmold ?
53	S156.2E76.8	0.4'	postmold
54	S156.2E78.7	0.45'	postmold
55	S157.4E77.5	---	noncultural; tree
56	S158.8E66.8	0.2'	unknown
57	S153.4E68.6	0.2'	unknown
58	S159.6E71.2	0.1'	postmold ?
59	S160.7E70.8	---	noncultural
60	S160.8E79.8	0.6'	postmold
61	S166.1E75.7	0.2'	unknown
62	S161.6E64.7	---	noncultural
63	S163.3E65.8	---	noncultural
64	S164.8E64.1	---	noncultural
65	S168.7E65.5	---	noncultural
66	S173.9E67.6	---	noncultural
67	S172.9E77.2	0.1'	trash deposit ?
68	S185.0E66.1	0.9'	unknown
69	S223.9E69.4	---	noncultural
70	S115.5E83.4	0.5'	trash deposit ?
71	S231.3E57.9	0.2'	postmold

TABLE 4 (cont.)

Feature	Location (Midpoint)	Depth (Below Plowzone)	Cultural Association
72	S228.9E54.2	0.7'	postmold
73	S230.6E52.4	---	noncultural
74	S240.5E52.3	---	noncultural
75	S240.9E49.9	---	noncultural
76	S242.1E50.5	0.7'	postmold & posthole
77	S236.2E74.6	---	unknown; postmold ?
78	S231.9E74.5	0.7'	postmold
79	S229.1E73.7	---	noncultural; tree
80	S115.5E83.4	0.7'	postmold
81	S242.0E83.9	1.7'	postmold
82	S215.2E87.8	---	noncultural; tree
83	S215.4E90.5	---	noncultural; tree
84	S197.8E89.2	---	noncultural; tree
85	S180.9E88.8	1.4'	postmold
86	S174.8E85.0	---	noncultural
87	S175.1E87.8	---	noncultural
88	S162.6E87.5	---	noncultural
89	S152.4E84.5	---	noncultural
90	S152.1E88.7	---	20th century trash deposit
91	S149.5E88.5	---	noncultural
92	S96.4E95.3	---	noncultural
93	S106.5E98.0	unknown	unknown
94	S105.0E97.7	---	noncultural; plow scar
95	S110.0E98.8	---	noncultural

TABLE 4 (cont.)

Feature	Location (Midpoint)	Depth (Below Plowzone)	Cultural Association
96	S112.0E100.0	---	noncultural
97	S119.5E105.6	0.6'	postmold & posthole
98	S118.8E100.6	---	noncultural
99	S120.7E95.2	1.3'	postmold & posthole
100	S135.4E96.8	---	noncultural
101	S139.2E99.3	1.1'	postmold
102	S148.2E106.6	---	noncultural
103	S148.2E106.6	---	noncultural
104	S180.0E85.4	---	noncultural
105	S181.9E89.5	---	noncultural
106	S176.8E89.4	---	noncultural; tree
107	S205.8E94.5	---	noncultural
108	S223.3E106.7	---	noncultural
109	S229.0E93.0	---	noncultural; tree
110	S37.9E37.6	---	noncultural; tree
111	S42.0E37.2	---	drainage ditch

and by relatively high artifact densities (greater than five artifacts per shovel test). Area II was an area of low artifact density (less than five artifacts per shovel test) surrounding Area I.

The density of historic artifacts in Area I ranged from three to 29 artifacts per shovel test pit. Overall, Area I contained consistently higher densities of all types of historic artifacts than Area II. Artifact density in Area II ranged from

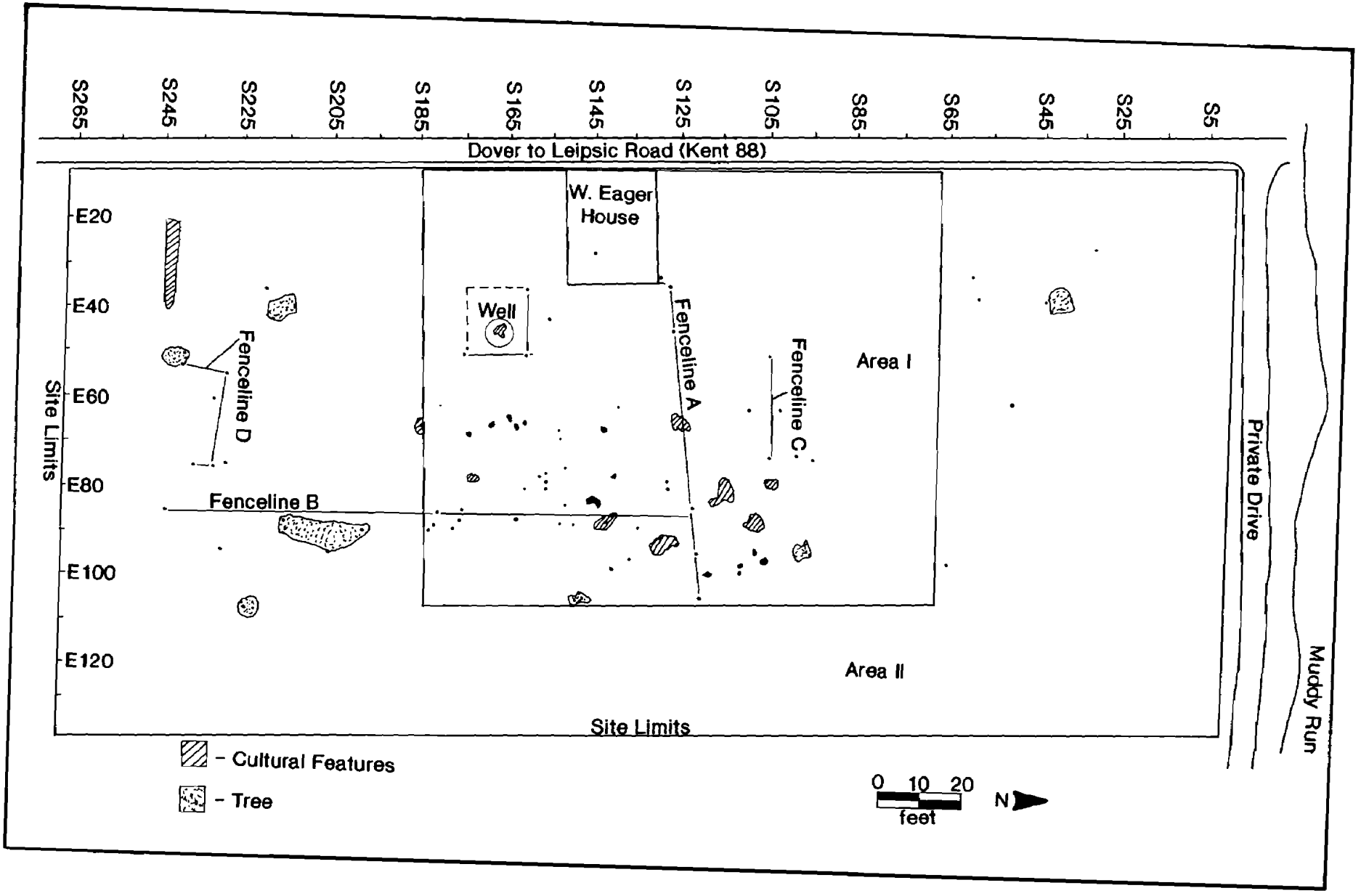
five to less than two artifacts per shovel test. The distribution of total historic artifacts-- domestic and structurally-related artifacts-- is significantly greater in Area I than in Area II. These artifact distributions indicate that Area I was the primary locus of domestic activity at the site and the probable location of the W. Eager House.

No evidence of a foundation, however, was identified in Area I, even after completely removing the plow zone. A total of 41 initial measured test units, including 26 5' X 5' test units, excavated in the areas of highest artifact concentration also failed to locate any evidence of a foundation, cellar hole, or hearth. A tax assessment made in 1852 described the Eager house as a frame house, but no other archival description of the house or its foundation is known. The plow zone in Area I was a uniform 0.9 feet in depth and it is likely that the brick piers probably supporting the W. Eager house have been destroyed by subsequent plowing. The site was constructed as a tenant property and the house was probably built with only a minimal foundation and no cellar. Such construction techniques are typical of poorer mid-nineteenth century agricultural tenancies in central Delaware as seen at the nearby Wilson-Lewis site, a contemporary tenancy on equally marginal land. Recent Phase II and Phase III excavations at the nearby Wilson-Lewis site (7K-C-375) also located no evidence of a foundation below the plow zone (Grettler 1991: 168-172).

The location of all historic features identified at the W. Eager site is shown in Figure 28. As can be seen, the majority of the features are located in Area I. As no intact foundation

FIGURE 28

Location of All Historical Features at The W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)



remains were found, the exact location of the W. Eager House in Area I is not known. Total artifact distributions, however, clearly indicate that the house was located approximately 25' east of Kent 88 near S150E12 (Figure 29). This house location appears consistently as an area of low artifact concentration surrounded by areas of high artifact density due to demolition and adjacent backyard sheet refuse deposits. This location of the house is consistent with the known location of the well (Feature 23) and three known fencelines (Figures 28 and 29). Moreover, the distribution of structurally-related nails and brick fragments show concentrations on all sides of the probable location of the house (Figures 30 and 31). Similar distributions of structural artifacts have been seen at other sites such as the Williams site (7NC-D-130) where the exact location of the structure is known (Catts and Custer 1990:201-09).

The distribution of total historic artifacts (Figure 29), total ceramics (Figure 32), and whitewares (Figure 33) clearly shows two areas of relatively high artifact density behind the W. Eager House along the E100 line. These two areas of high artifact density are located beyond the two known fencelines surrounding the house. These high artifact densities stem from trash deposited along the edge of the yard, a typical nineteenth century trash disposal pattern in central Delaware (Grettler 1991: 44, 46, 216).

Figure 34 shows a typical profile of the stratigraphy of the W. Eager site in Area I. A 0.8' dark yellow-brown (10 YR 4/4) silty loam plow zone was underlaid by a 1.0' thick horizon of brown (7.5 YR 4/4) sandy clay subsoil. Below this level was a

FIGURE 29

Distribution of Total Historic Artifacts, W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

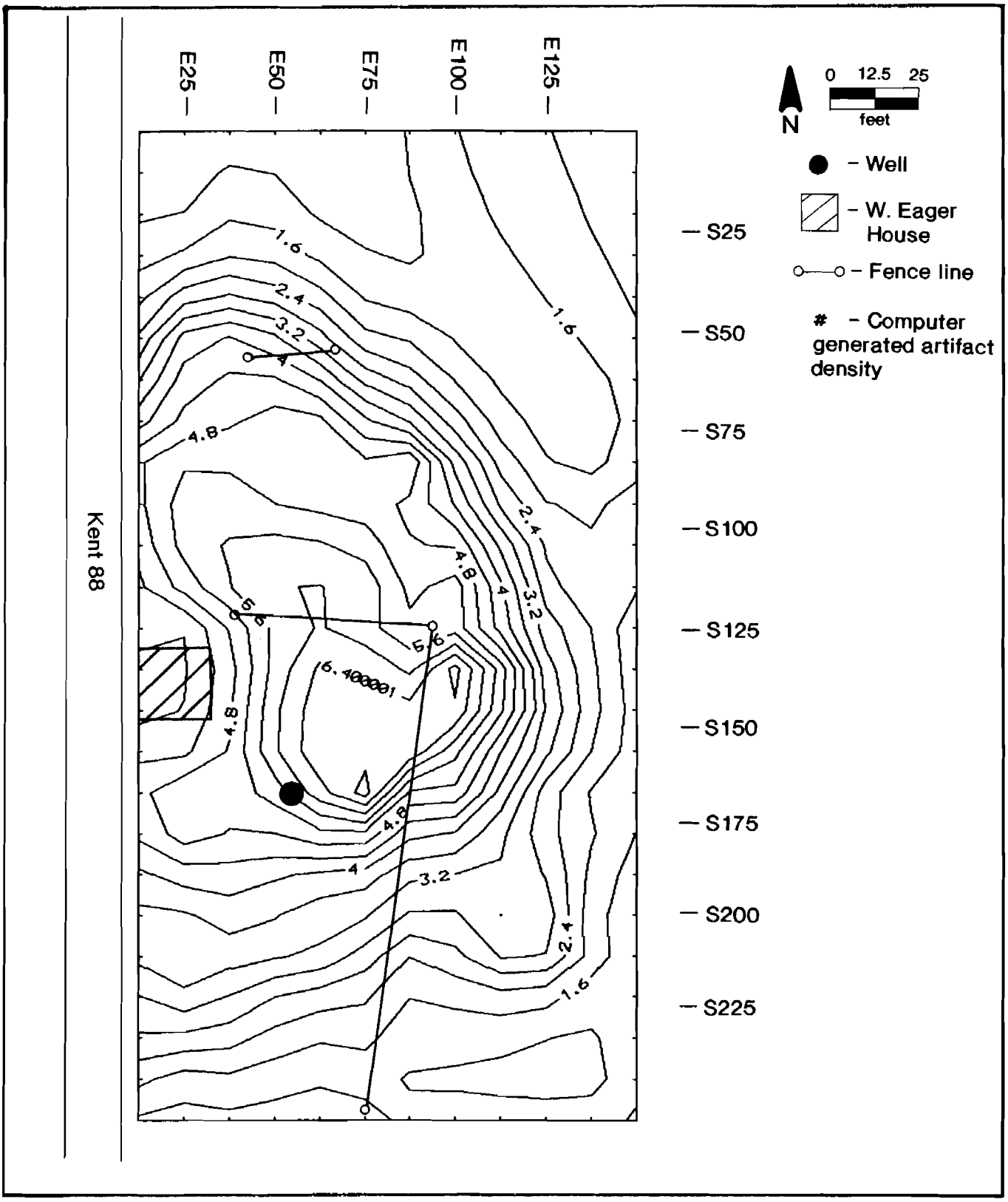


FIGURE 30

Distribution of Nails, W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

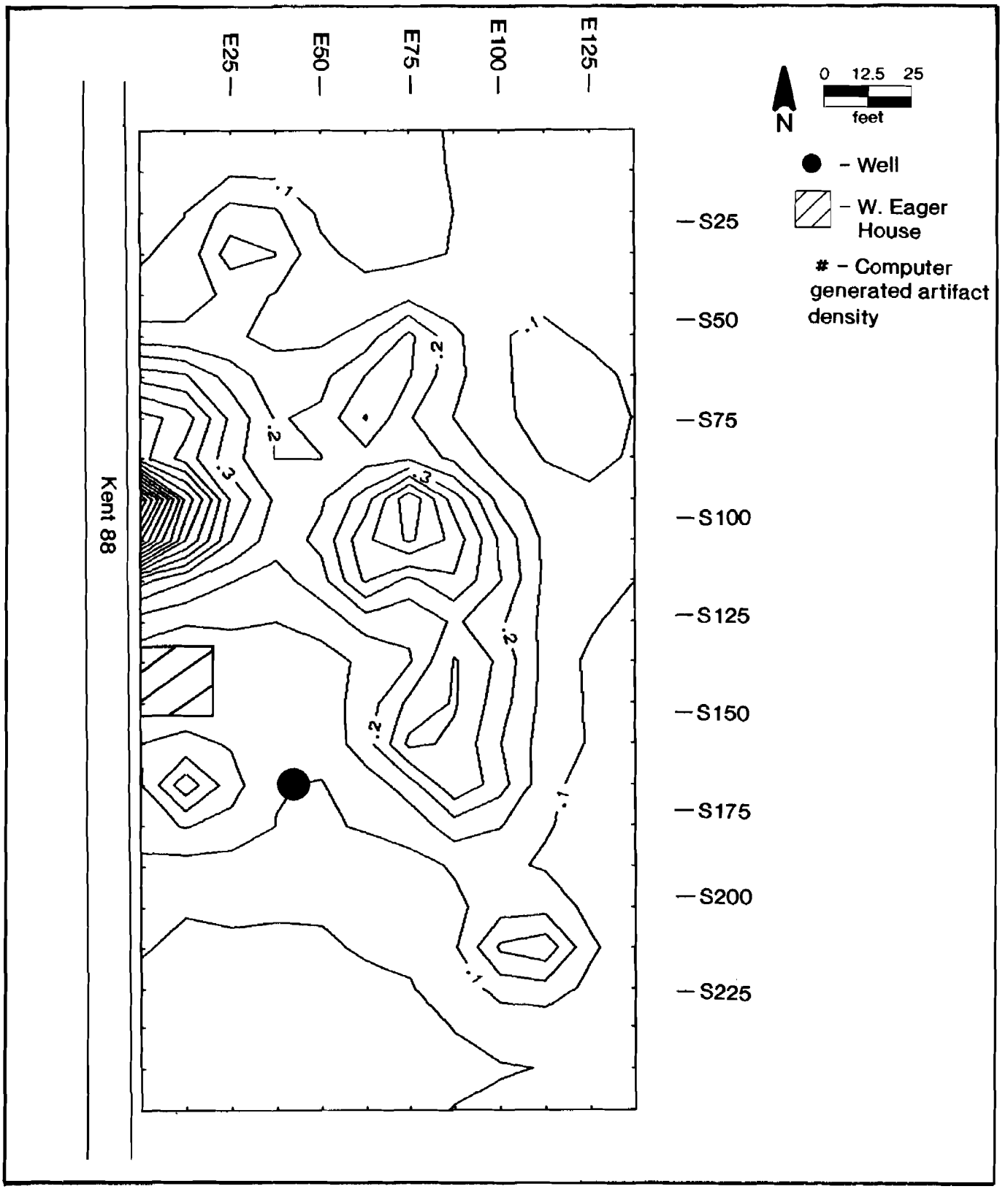


FIGURE 31

Distribution of Brick, W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

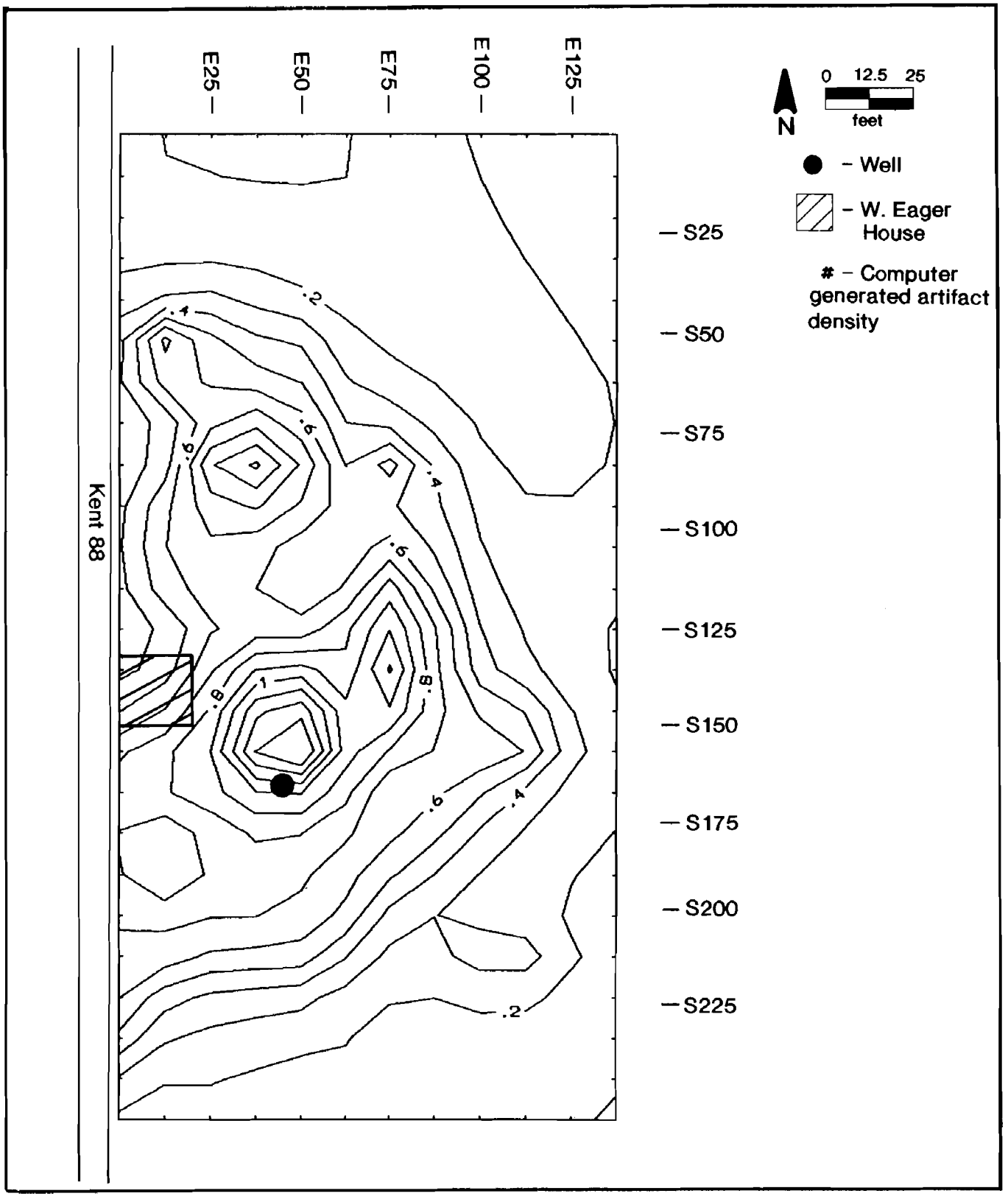


FIGURE 32

Distribution of Total Historic Ceramics, W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

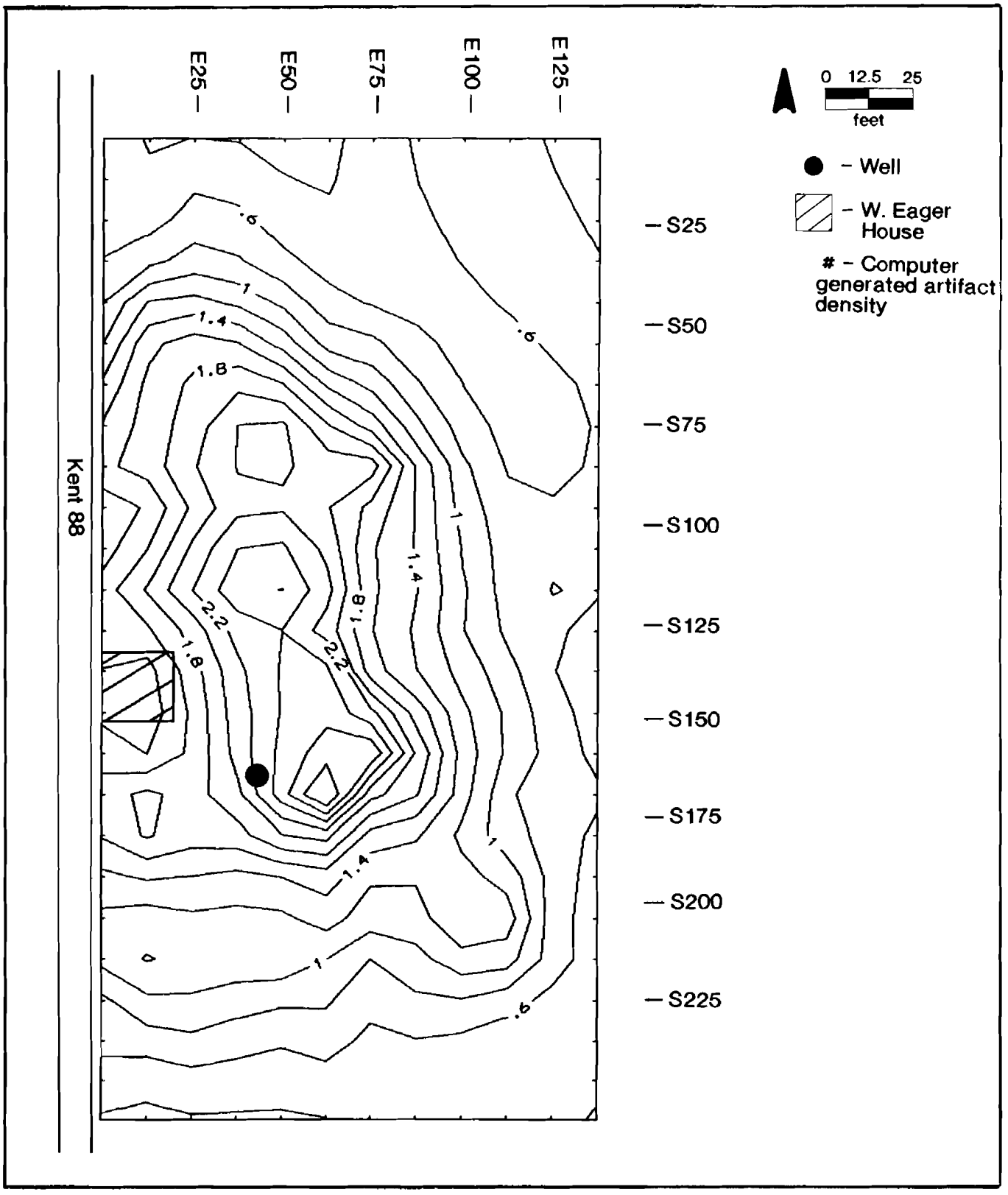


FIGURE 33

Distribution of Whitewares, W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

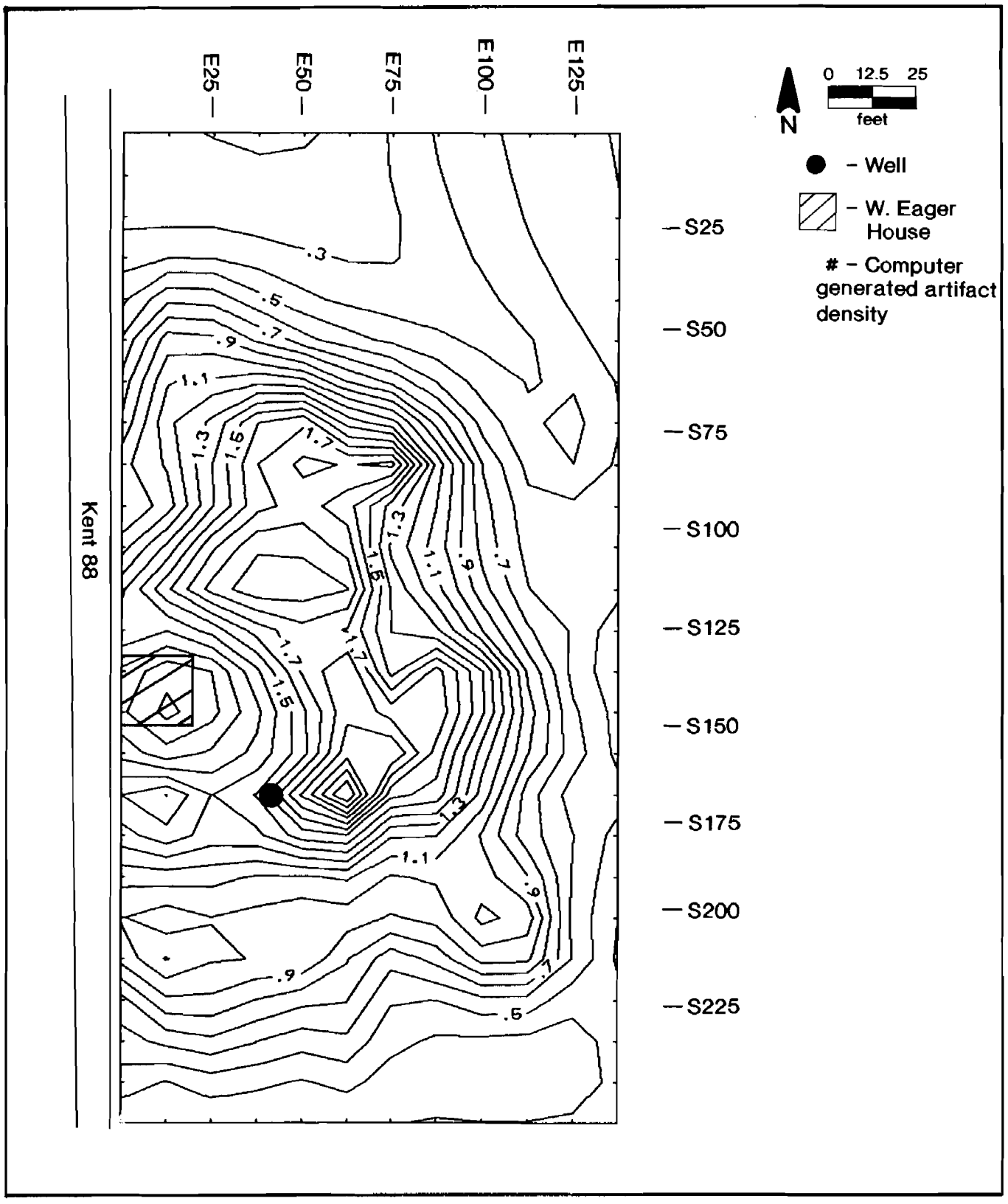
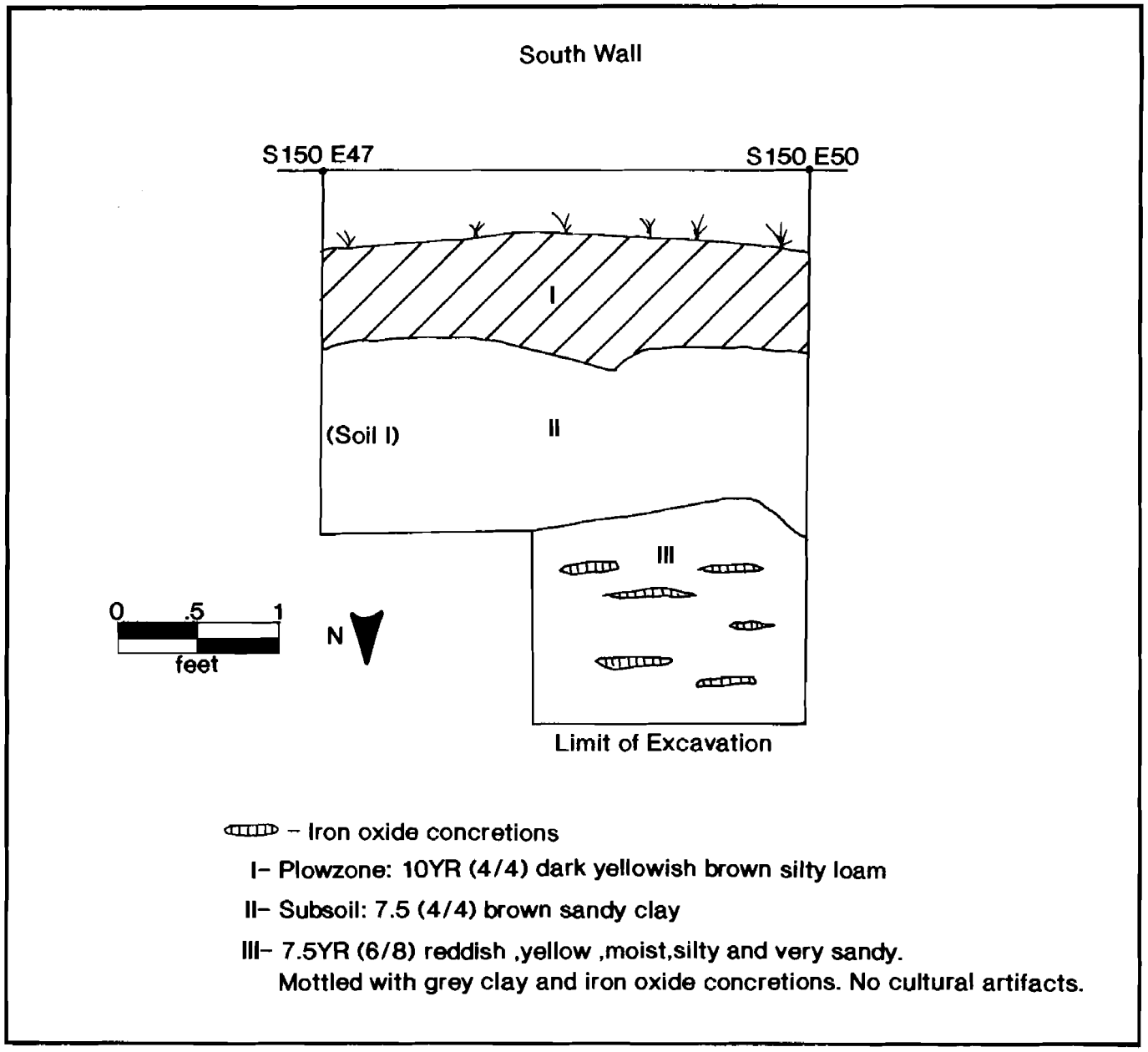


FIGURE 34

Profile of T.V. S150E50, W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)



yellow-gray (7.5 YR 6/8) silty clay mottled with numerous red brown iron oxide stains that extended from 1.8' to 3.0' feet below ground surface. The depth of the plow zone and the presence of large plow scars seen over the entire site are also visible in the profile of Test Unit S150E50 shown in Figure 34.

The extent of plow disturbance to the site was especially visible in the features identified in Area I. With the exception of the well, Feature 23, only four other cultural features over the entire W. Eager site extended more than one foot into the subsoil (Table 4). More than half (53%) of the 64 cultural features at the site extended 0.5' or less into the subsoil. These truncated, poorly-preserved features typically contained few artifacts and mean ceramic dates, vessel reconstructions, and other more intensive archaeological analyses were generally impossible.

Figure 35 shows the 55 total cultural features located in Area I and the probable location of the W. Eager House. Almost all of the 31 non-cultural features not shown in Figure 35 were rodent burrows. These rodent burrows were concentrated near the two known fencelines behind the W. Eager House where the artifact distributions indicate trash was deposited. Such trash deposits would have attracted numerous rodents, particularly rats and mice.

The location of W. Eager House indicated by artifact distributions is consistent with the known location of two primary fence lines in Area I. Fence-related features comprised 33 of the 55 (60%) cultural features in Area I. These features are aligned in two major fencelines. The first fenceline, Fenceline A, runs parallel to the W. Eager House from the northeast corner of the house east to Feature 97 at S119.5 E105.6. Fenceline A is comprised of five known post mold and hole features (Features 1, 2, 4, 44, 99, and 97. These features are uniformly deep, extending from 0.5' to 1.3' into the subsoil.

FIGURE 35

Location of All Cultural Features in Area I, W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

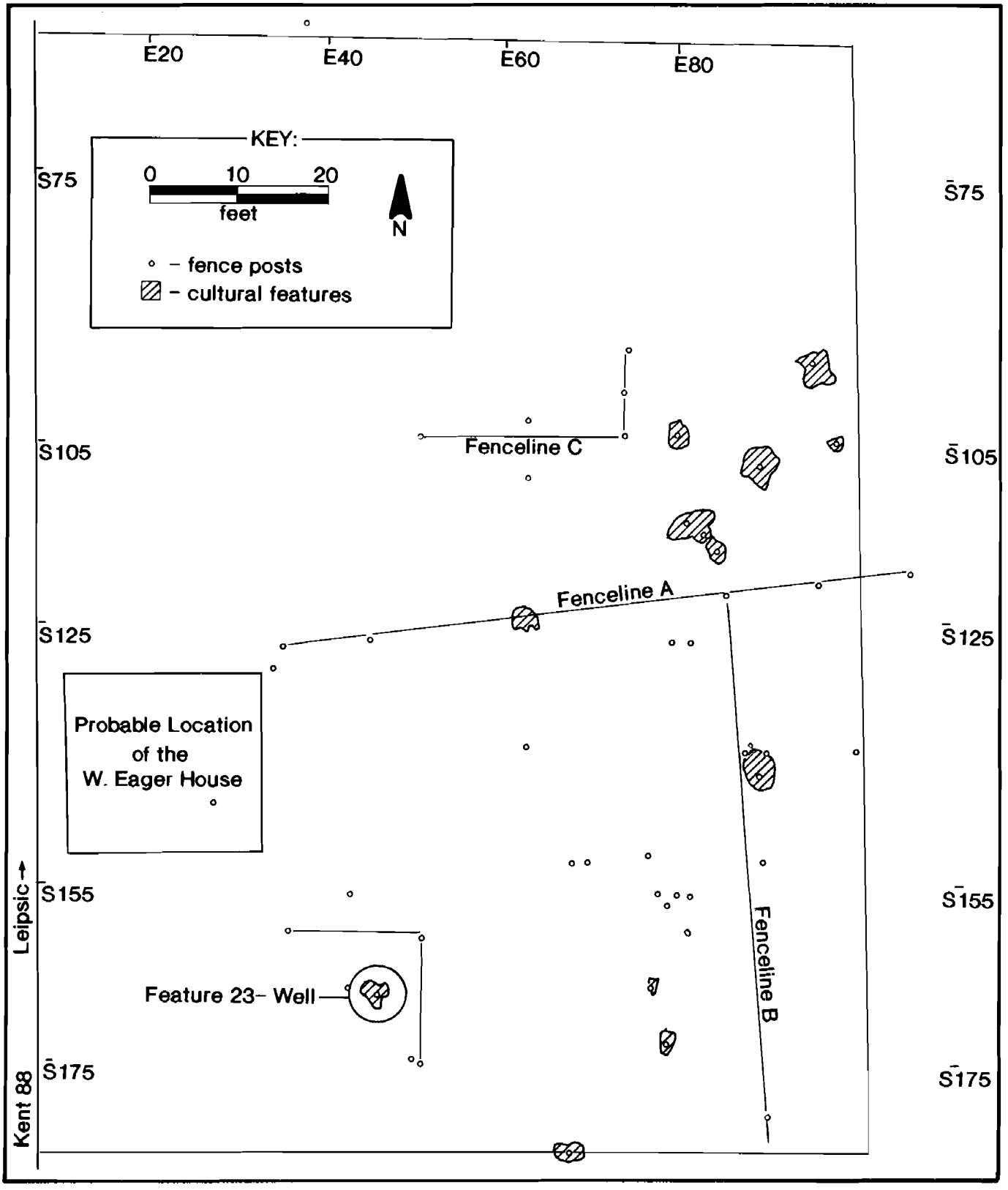
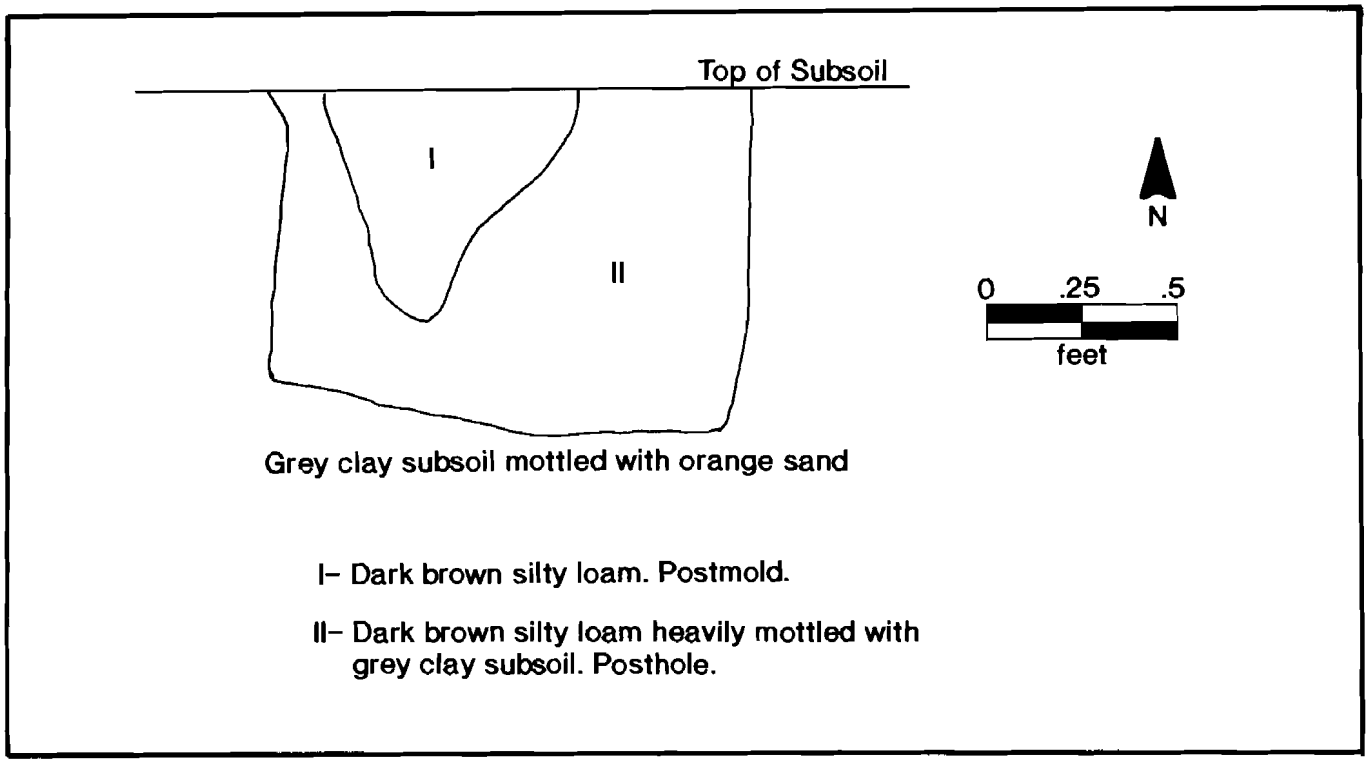


FIGURE 36

Profile of Feature 97 (Fence Post), W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)



The posts of Fenceline A are the deepest such features located at the site. Both the westernmost and easternmost posts, Features 1 and 97 respectively, were particularly substantial and included post holes. A profile of Feature 97 is shown in Figure 36. Two additional, smaller post features, Features 13 and 20, are also probably associated with Fenceline A.

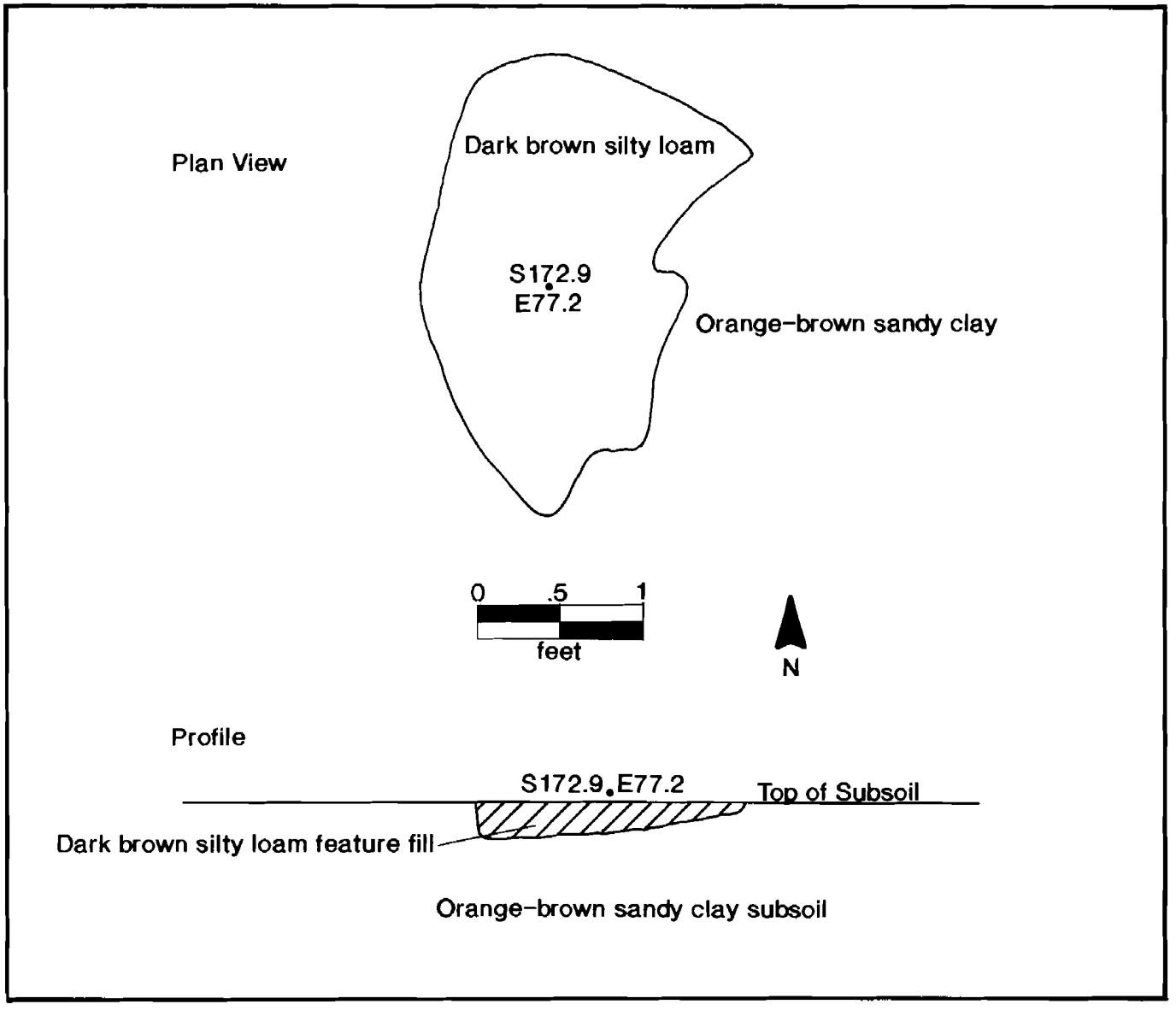
Perpendicular to Fenceline A is Fenceline B, the second major fenceline (Figure 35). Fenceline B runs parallel to the probable orientation of the W. Eager House. This fenceline marks the eastern edge of the W. Eager site yard area and is located approximately 100 feet east of the Eager house. Fenceline B is comprised of Features 44, 48, 49, and 85 constructed similarly of driven posts as Fenceline A.

Fencelines A and B mark the edges of the yard area of the W. Eager site. Artifact densities increase dramatically north of Fenceline A and east of Fenceline B (Figures 29 to 33). With the exception of the well and its associated post features, all of the remaining features in Area I are located near these two fencelines. Eleven of these remaining features, Features 6, 61, 67, 68, 42, 43, 47, 70, 39, 12, and 93, are the truncated remains of small trash deposits. With the exception of Features 6, 43 and 68, all of these features are small (less than three feet in diameter) and extended less than 0.5 foot into the subsoil. The poor preservation of these ten features makes them difficult to identify, but their location and irregular profiles indicates that they are trash features associated with Fencelines A and B.

A typical profile of one of these small trash features, Feature 67, is shown in Figure 37. These small features contained numerous historic artifacts, including diagnostic mid-to- late nineteenth century whitewares, redwares, and one pearlware fragment. This pearlware fragment is a small rim of an underglazed, monochrome, hand-painted cup or small bowl from Feature 47 near S142E88 (Figure 28). Feature 47 also yielded one small fragment of window glass and two small brick fragments, typical artifacts for these trash features. Faunal remains were recovered from three of these trash features: Features 47, 70, and 39. These three features yielded one cow mandible, four nut hulls, oyster shells, clam shells, and 24 small cow and pig bones. A mid-nineteenth century molded olive panel bottle recovered from the north half of Feature 47 is shown in Plate 1. All of the faunal remains in these trash features were small and

FIGURE 37

Plan View and Profile of Feature 67



no butchering marks were visible. In addition, Feature 39 yielded one diagnostic mid-nineteenth century button, a round copper alloy button with a back loop (Noel-Hume 1985: 91).

Features 43 and 68 are slightly larger trash features. Feature 43 is located north of the intersection of Fenceline A and B near S120E85. Feature 68 is located south of Fenceline B

PLATE 1

Olive Panel Bottle From Feature 47, W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

at S185E66.1. Both features were amorphous and approximately 4.2' feet at their greatest diameter. Both features were shallow; the deepest, Feature 68, extended only 0.9' into the subsoil. Both features, like the other smaller trash features at the site, were filled with the same dark brown silty loam fill identified in Feature 67 (Figure 37). Features 43 and 68 also exhibited highly irregular profiles typical of trash features and the neighboring smaller trash features.

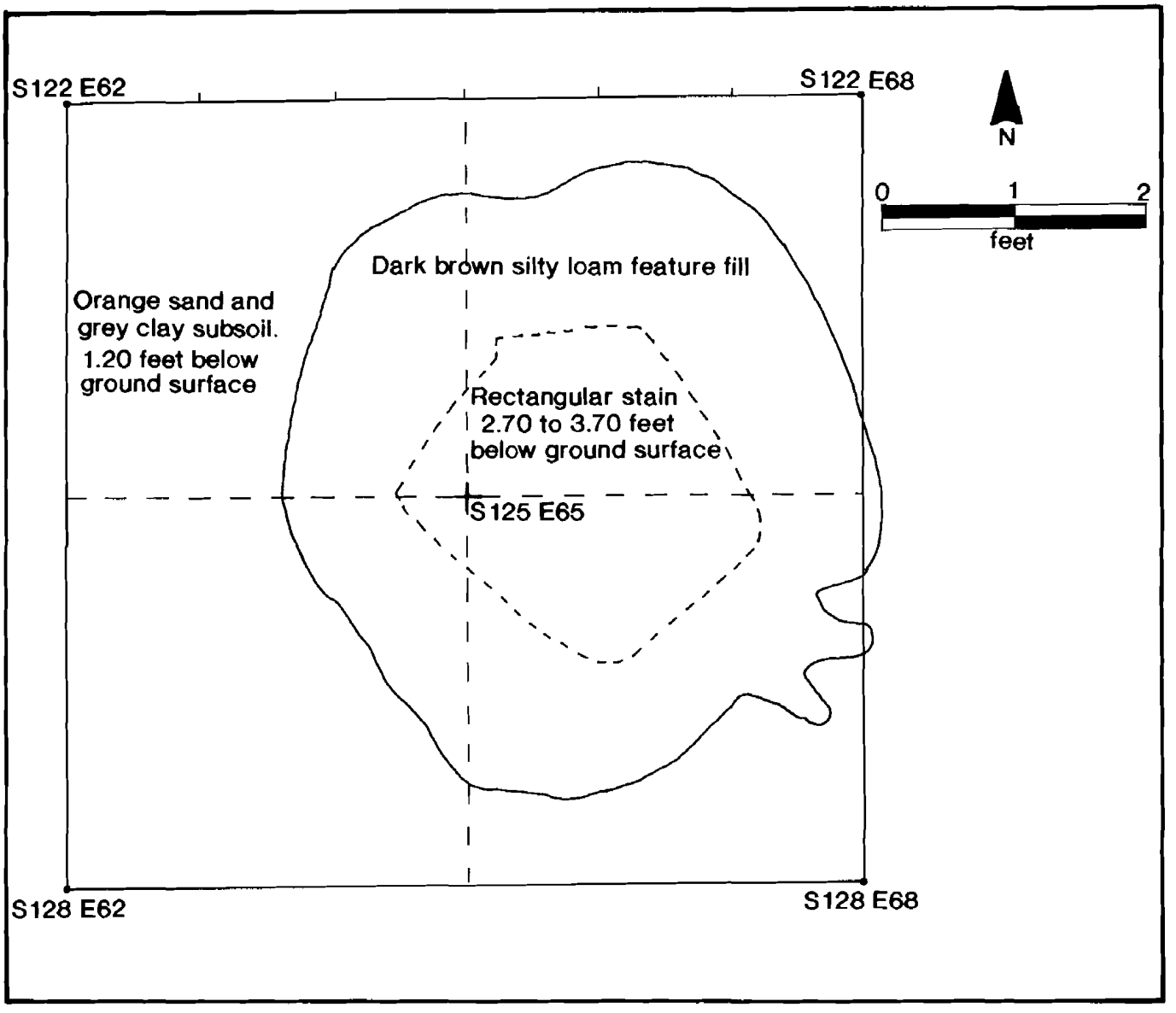
Both features, however, contained relatively few artifacts and may mark the location of small outbuildings. No structural remains, however, were recovered from either feature and the only diagnostic artifacts were two small, undecorated whiteware rim sherds from Feature 43. No associated structural features were identified near either Feature 43 or 68 and no diagnostic concentration of architectural artifacts indicative of associated outbuildings were identified (Figures 30 and 31).

The remaining large trash pit is Feature 6. Feature 6 is located along Fenceline A at S125E65 (Figure 35). This feature was the only trash feature that showed evidence of intentional excavation. At the bottom of the plow zone at 1.20' feet below surface, Feature 6 was a roughly circular stain approximately 4.4' feet in diameter. Upon excavation, however, Feature 6 became roughly 2.0' square with relatively straight walls. This rectangular portion of Feature 6 extended from 1.7 to 2.7' below plow zone surface. A plan view of Feature 6 showing the rectangular bottom portion is shown in Figure 38.

Feature 6, like all of the other trash features at the W. Eager site, showed no evidence of any internal stratigraphy.

FIGURE 38

Plan View of Feature 6, W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)



Feature 6 was filled with a uniform dark silty loam feature fill that contained numerous mid- and late-nineteenth century artifacts. Coal, brick, wire nails, window glass, and clear and aqua bottle glass were the most common artifact recovered. A total of 29 undecorated whiteware plate and cup fragments were identified. One fragment of white salt-glazed stoneware, a

diagnostic eighteenth century ware, was recovered. Also recovered from Feature 6 were large fragments of an annular pearlware bowl, a type of pearlware produced until the late 1830s. This vessel has been reconstructed and appears in Plate 2. No evidence of any associated structure was located.

Evidence of one secondary fenceline outside of the primary W. Eager House yard area was located in Area I. This fenceline, Fenceline C, forms a right angle and is aligned to both primary fencelines, Fencelines A and B. Fenceline C is located 20' north of Fenceline A and measures approximately 25' by 15' (Figure 35). Fenceline C is defined by six small fence post features, Features 7-11 and 14 (Figure 35).

All of the post features associated with this secondary fenceline were poorly preserved and were extended less than 0.4' into the subsoil. These posts were also less than 0.3' in diameter--too small to support even the smallest outbuildings. A profile of one of the posts, Feature 71, is shown in Figure 39. No other features or artifact concentrations were located with Fenceline C. It is possible that this fenceline formed an animal pen, but the lack of features from animal rooting and low artifact densities makes it unlikely that animals were penned in this area. The extent of plowing and poor preservation of features at the site, however, may have destroyed any associated features. Similarly, it is unlikely that this area is the remains of an outbuilding because of the small size of the posts and the uniformly low artifact densities, particularly of structurally-related artifacts (Figures 30 and 31).

PLATE 2

Annular Pearlware Bowl, W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

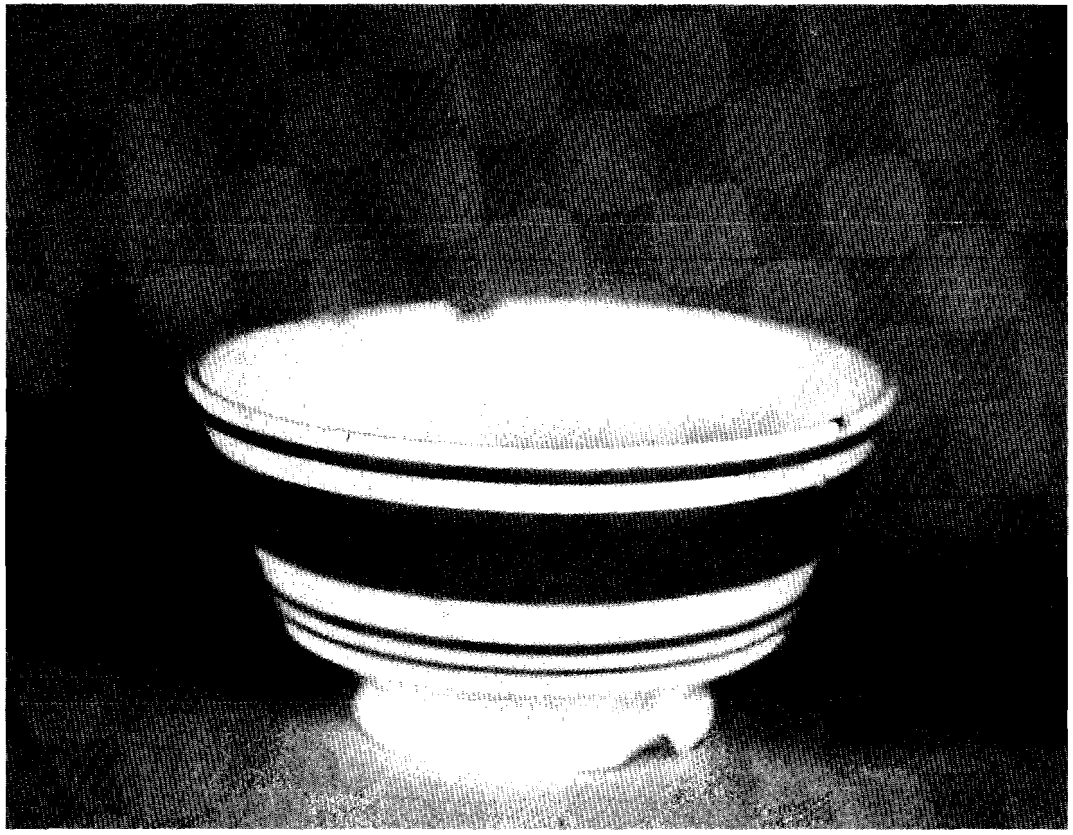
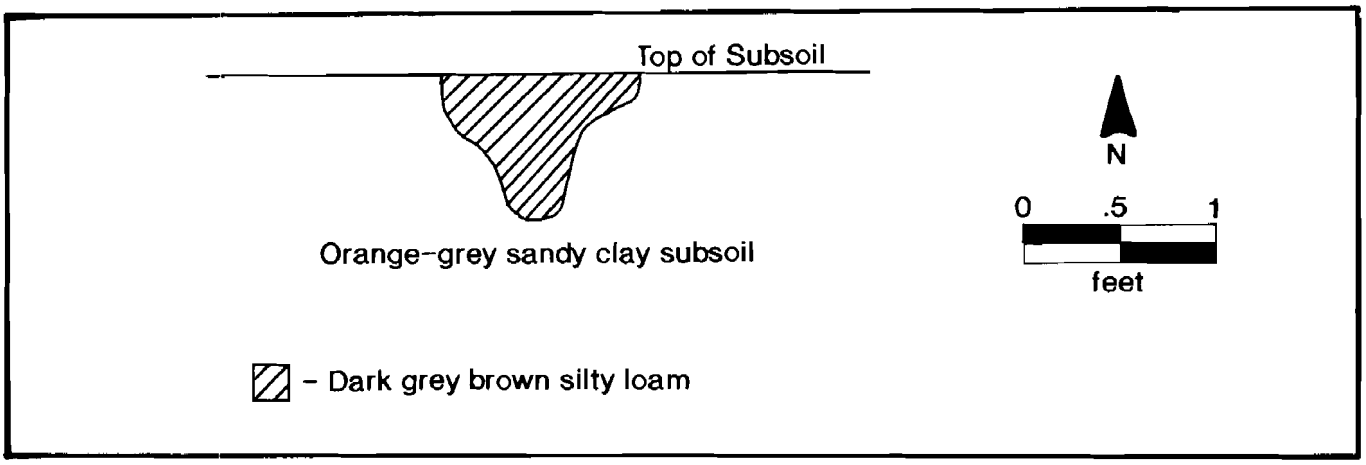


FIGURE 39

Profile of Feature 71 (Fence Post), W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

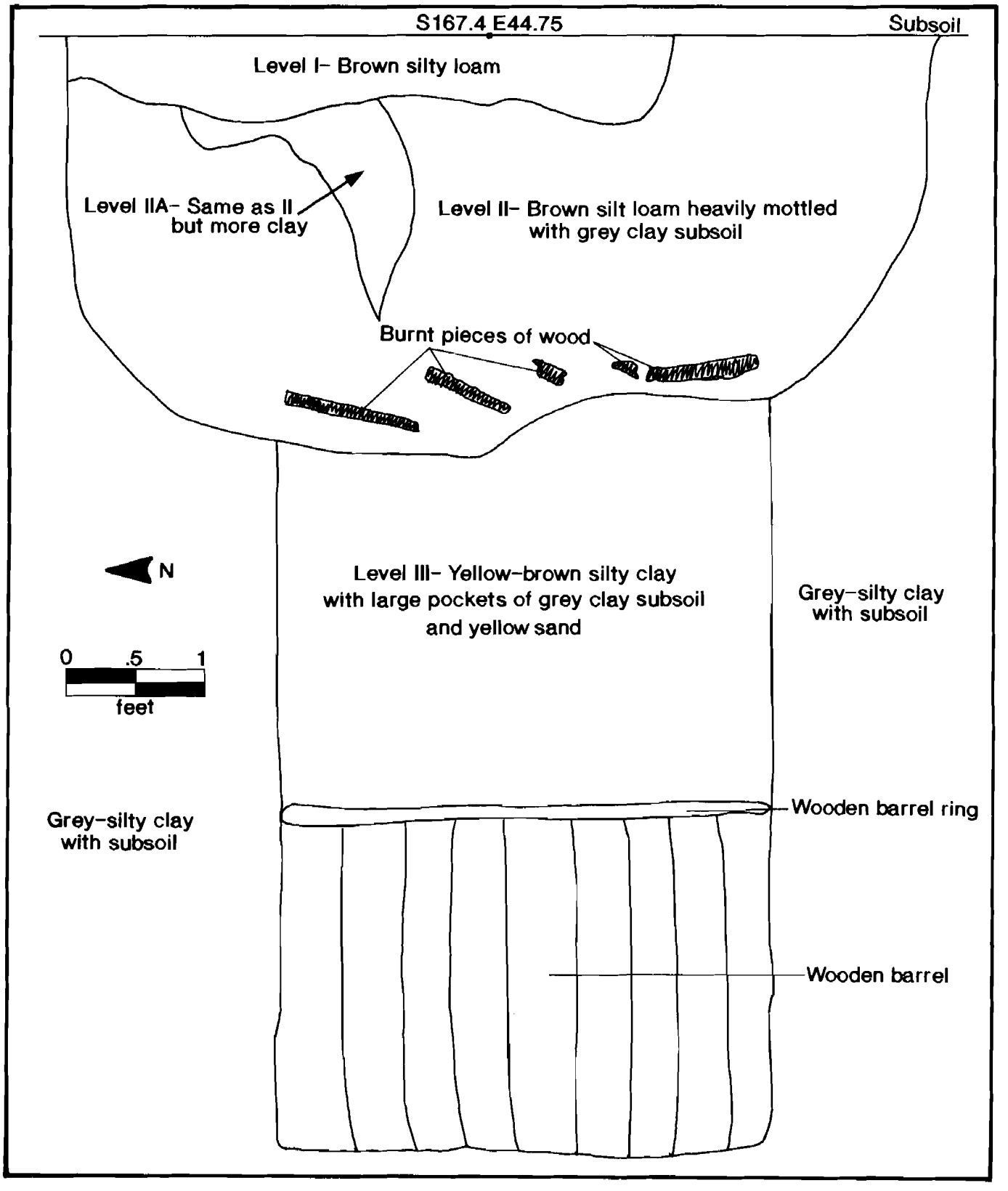


The largest feature in Area I was Feature 23, the remains of a well. Feature 23 was completely excavated and a profile of it appears in Figure 40. Excavation was done by hand and the surrounding subsoil was excavated with a backhoe for safe access to the bottom of the well. Feature 23 is located approximately 20 feet from the southwest corner of the Eager House at S167.4 E44.75. The well was shallow and extended to only 8.0' below the plow zone. Feature 23 was also barrel-lined. The barrel was first encountered at 5.5' below the plow zone. The barrel had been set into a 4.0' square shaft that may have had additional wooden supports.

The stratigraphy of Feature 23 was very simple. Only three distinct strata were encountered (Figure 40). The first strata encountered below the 0.9' thick plow zone was a dark brown silty loam (Figure 40). Below this was a thick deposit of brown silt loam heavily mottled with gray clay subsoil that extended from 0.6' to 3.0' feet into the surrounding gray clay subsoil. One

FIGURE 40

Profile of Feature 23 (Well), W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)



pocket of slightly more clayey soil was seen within Level II (Level IIA, Figure 40). Large fragments of burnt wooden boards were encountered in Level II beginning at 2.3 feet below the plow zone. Below these fragments at 3.0 feet below the plow zone was Level III, a medium yellow brown silty clay mottled with large pockets of gray clay subsoil and yellow sand. Level III extended to 5.5' below plow zone where the top barrel ring of the barrel at the bottom of the well was encountered. A photograph of Feature 23 and the square well shaft at 4.0 feet below the plow zone is shown in Plate 3.

The simple stratigraphy of the well suggests that it was filled over a relatively short period. All three levels of the well contained relatively few historic artifacts which suggests that the well was filled with imported fill. All three levels contained whitewares and wire nail fragments which also suggests that the well was filled over a short period in the late-nineteenth or early twentieth century, probably when the site was abandoned prior to 1906. One small fragment of white-salt glazed stoneware, a diagnostic mid-eighteenth century artifact was recovered from the east half of Level I near the plow zone-subsoil interface. This single artifact does not indicate an eighteenth century occupation.

The large pieces of burnt wood recovered from the well between 2.3 and 3.0 feet below the plow zone probably came from a small fence associated with the well. The primary evidence for this fence is five small post holes surrounding the well. These five post holes, Features 25 and 27-30, form a 10' by 15' enclosure oriented to Fencelines A and B and the probable

PLATE 3

Feature 23 (Well) at 4.0 Feet Below Ground Surface, W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

orientation of the W. Eager house (Figures 28 and 35). The small size of these post holes (typically extending less than 0.4' into the subsoil) suggests that these posts did not support a structure. The only larger post was Feature 25 which extended 0.9' into the subsoil. This feature, however, is located at one end of the enclosure and may have been more substantially set to anchor the fence surrounding the well.

Area II consists of a large area of low artifact density and few historic features surrounding Area I. Evidence of one fenceline was located in Area II. No evidence of any structures, either in the features or the artifact distributions, was located although this was probably the area in which the barn, stable, and corn crib mentioned in the 1860 tax list were located.

Fenceline D, the single fenceline identified in Area II, is located 45' south of the well and 10' west of Fenceline B (Figure 35). Fenceline D is comprised of five post molds on an approximately 10' interval. This interval is similar to that seen in the other three fencelines, Fencelines A, B, and C. Fenceline D is located along the same general orientation as the well and the other fencelines. The posts of Fenceline D, Features 71, 72, 76, and 78, were similar in size and shape to the other simple, driven fenceposts at the site (Figure 39). One corner post, Feature 76, extended to 0.7' below the plow zone and was set into a prepared post hole. Only two of the posts of Fenceline C (Features 9 and 10) and three of Fenceline A (Features 4, 14, and 97) had prepared post holes. A profile of Feature 97 is shown in Figure 36.

One other feature was identified in Area II. This feature, Feature 111, is the remains of a short drainage ditch perpendicular to Kent 88 along the S245 line (Figure 28). The feature is located south of the small rise on which the W. Eager house is sited. Feature 111 was exposed along its entire 20' length and was completely excavated. Few artifacts were recovered from Feature 111 and the majority of the artifacts recovered were non-diagnostic brick and nail fragments (4 brick and 2 nail fragments). Six diagnostic historic ceramic sherds were recovered: 2 plain creamware fragments (MCD 1791), one redware sherd, and three whiteware fragments, including a piece of sponge-decorated ware (MCD 1847.5). Three small, truncated post molds were found associated with Feature 111, but contained no historic artifacts. It is thus difficult to date Feature 111. It is possible that Feature 111 may represent part of a paling fence, a feature often associated with eighteenth and even seventeenth century sites. The presence of later mid-nineteenth century whitewares in the same feature fill, however, makes such an association unlikely. As with the rest of Area II, no evidence of a structure in this area is indicated by artifact densities (Figures 29-31).

Soil chemical analyses were undertaken to identify the locations of the barn and stable indicated by the 1860 tax list and to provide a more generalized understanding of spatial utilization at the W. Eager site. It has been shown that archaeologically-derived patterns or concentrations of certain soil trace elements can be correlated with the occurrence of particular activities which reflect the human occupation of the

site (Sopko 1983: 24-30; McManamon 1984; Custer et al. 1986). The chemical analyses were conducted by the Soils Laboratory of the University of Delaware College of Agriculture. Soils analyses have been used with favorable results on other recently excavated historic sites in Delaware (Custer et al. 1986; Coleman et al. 1985; Shaffer et al. 1988: 132-141; Catts and Custer 1990: 180-190).

The soil analysis for the W. Eager site consisted of determining the relative frequency levels of soil pH, phosphorous, potassium, calcium, and magnesium across the entire site. Soil samples were taken at random within every 10' by 10' area from both the plow zone (Level 1) and the subsoil (Level 2). The level of phosphate in the soil is probably the most significant of the soil analyses because high phosphorous levels indicate human and animal wastes. High phosphate accumulation is usually caused by the deposition of urine, excrement and highly organic refuse (Sjoberg 1976; Eidt 1977). The distribution of phosphates has been used to accurately locate privies, animal pens, barns and stables-- areas of concentrated animal wastes (Catts and Custer 1990: 180-190). High calcium levels have been used to identify the location of houses because of the presence of decayed mortar, lime, plaster, and other concentrated, calcium-rich building products. Magnesium levels are related to calcium levels. High potassium levels indicate the presence of wood ashes, deposited as either surface burnings or from the dumping of fireplace or stove ashes. Soil pH levels are used to determine the presence of agricultural fertilization as readings

above 6.0 generally indicate fertilization (Sopko 1983; Custer et al. 1986).

The results of the soil pH for the plow zone (Figure 41) and the subsoil (Figure 42) indicates that the W. Eager site has been extensively fertilized, an expected result. The subsoil was also less contaminated by recent fertilization than the plow zone. Similar difference between the soil chemistry of the plow zone and the subsoil were seen for phosphorous (Figures 43 and 44), calcium (Figures 45 and 46), potassium (Figures 47 and 48), and magnesium (Figures 49 and 50). The densities of the various soil chemicals from the subsoil are more indicative of the occupation of the site than the plow zone sample and the subsoil distributions will be emphasized in the following discussion of the results of the various chemical analyses.

The results of the phosphorous chemical analysis clearly indicate that Area II was the primary locus of animal penning activity (Figures 43 and 44). Area I, the primary locus of domestic activity, contained little phosphorous and no evidence of a privy. The high concentrations of phosphorous south of the S160 line in Area II is consistent with the animal pens indicated by post mold features and by the distribution of historic artifacts. One area of high subsoil phosphorous density along the S235 line indicates that Fenceline D is indeed an animal pen. Another area of high soil phosphorous from the plow zone appears near S150E112 (Figure 43). This area, however, does not appear in the subsoil and is an artifact of subsequent fertilization. This same unusual concentration appears in the plow zone density of all of the other chemicals, but not in the subsoil

FIGURE 41

Soil pH Densities (Plowzone), W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

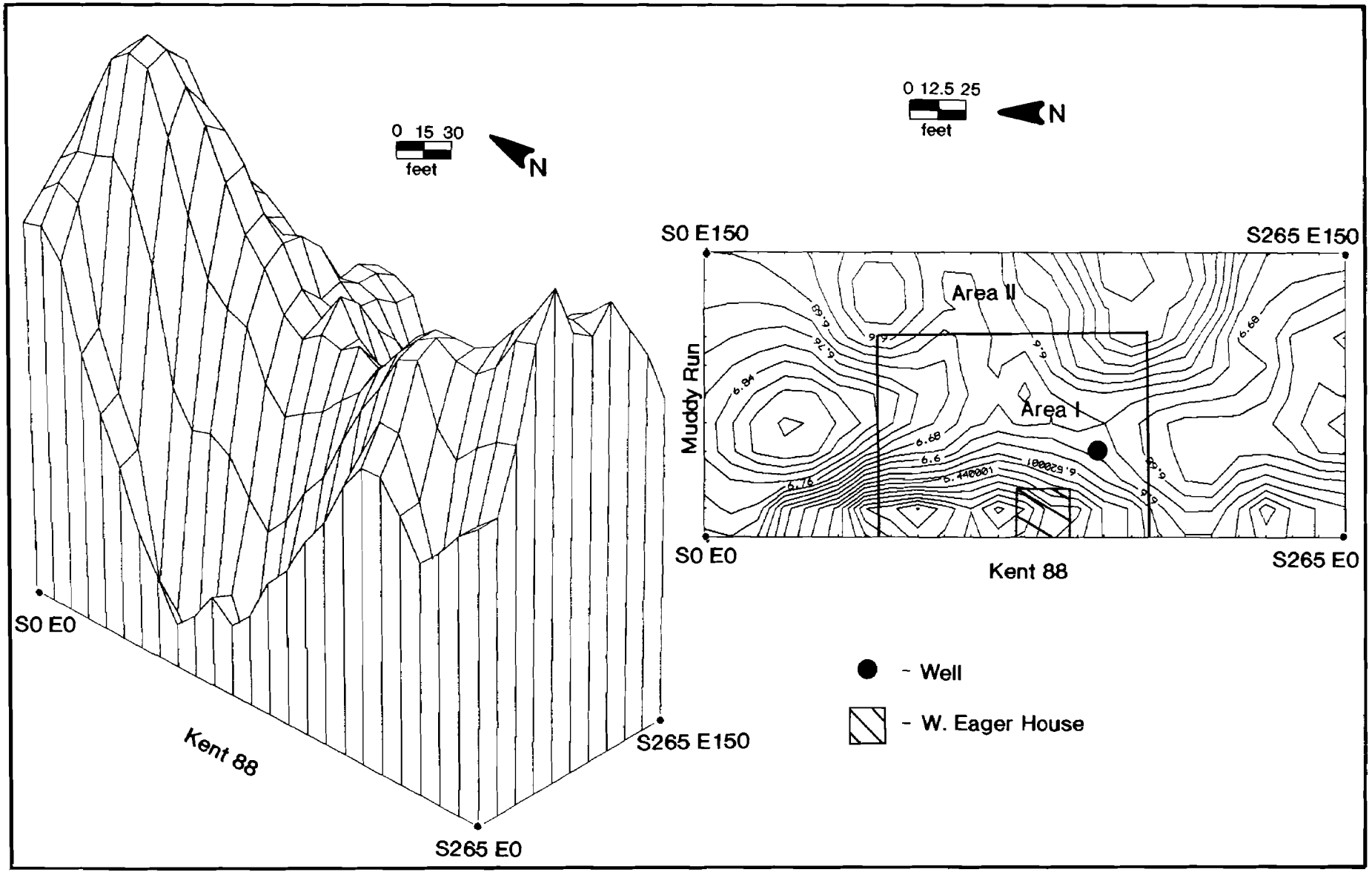


FIGURE 42

Soil pH Densities (Subsoil), W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

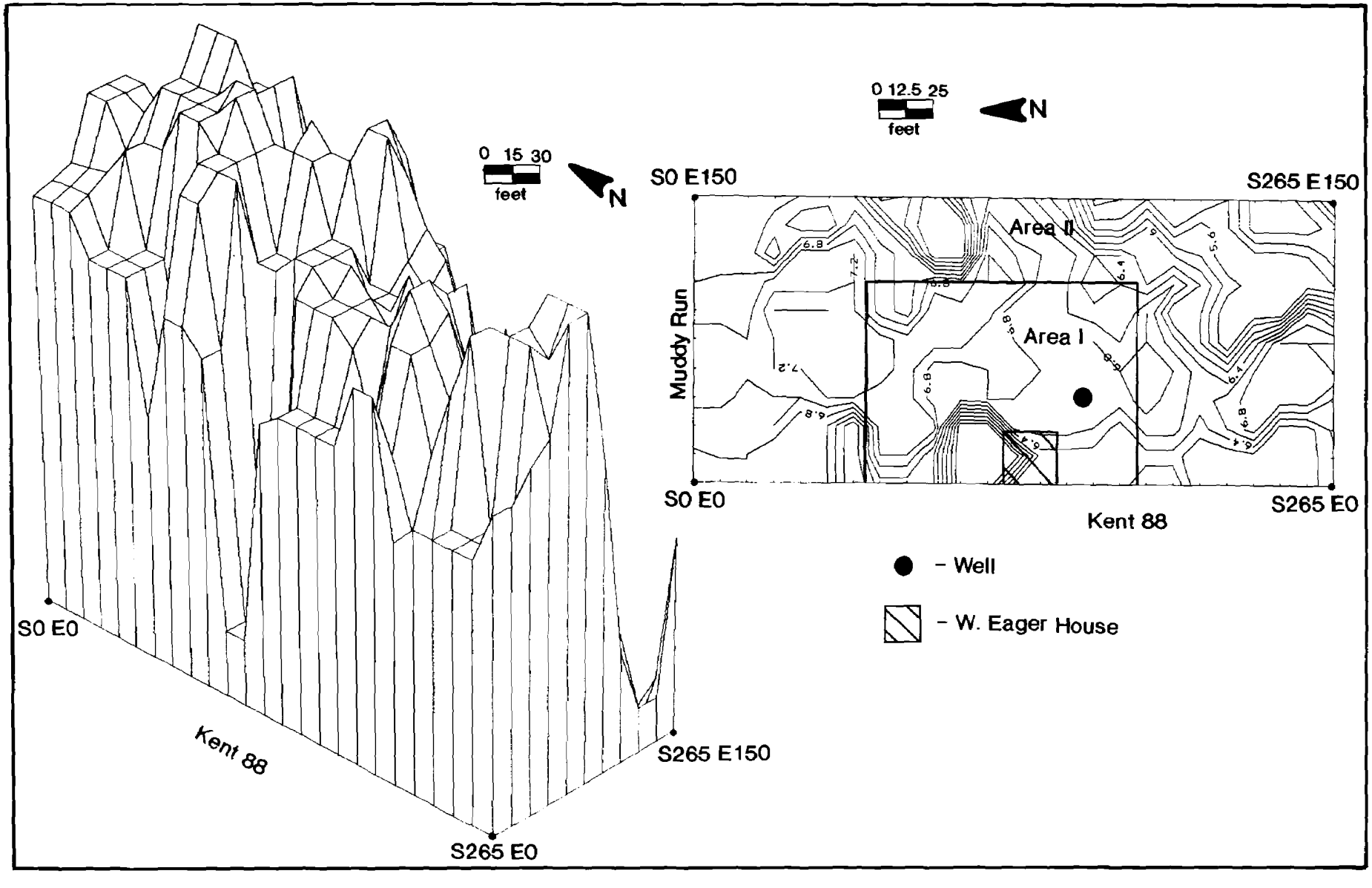


FIGURE 43

Soil Phosphorus Densities (Plowzone), W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

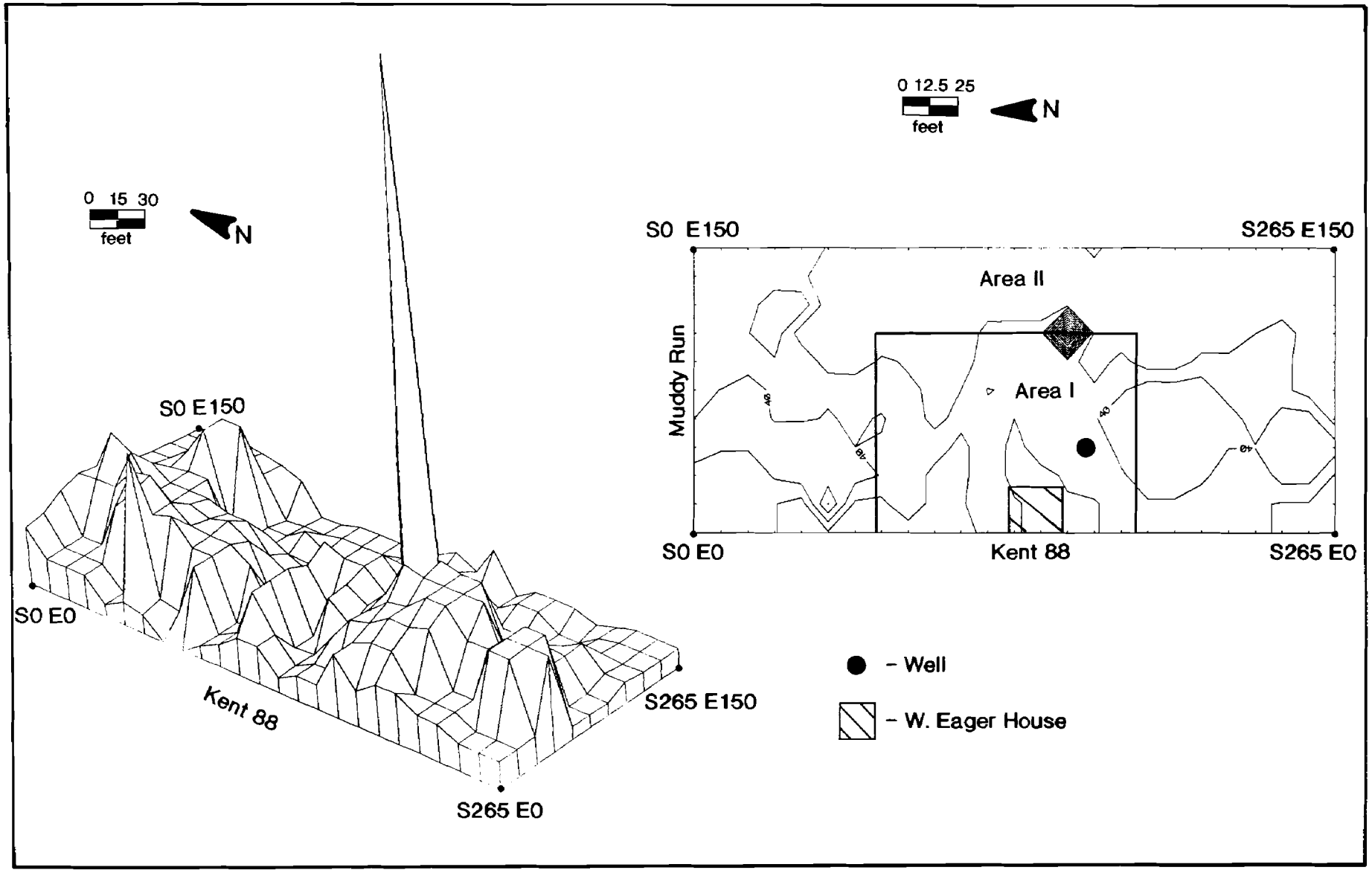


FIGURE 44

Soil Phosphorus Densities (Subsoil), W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

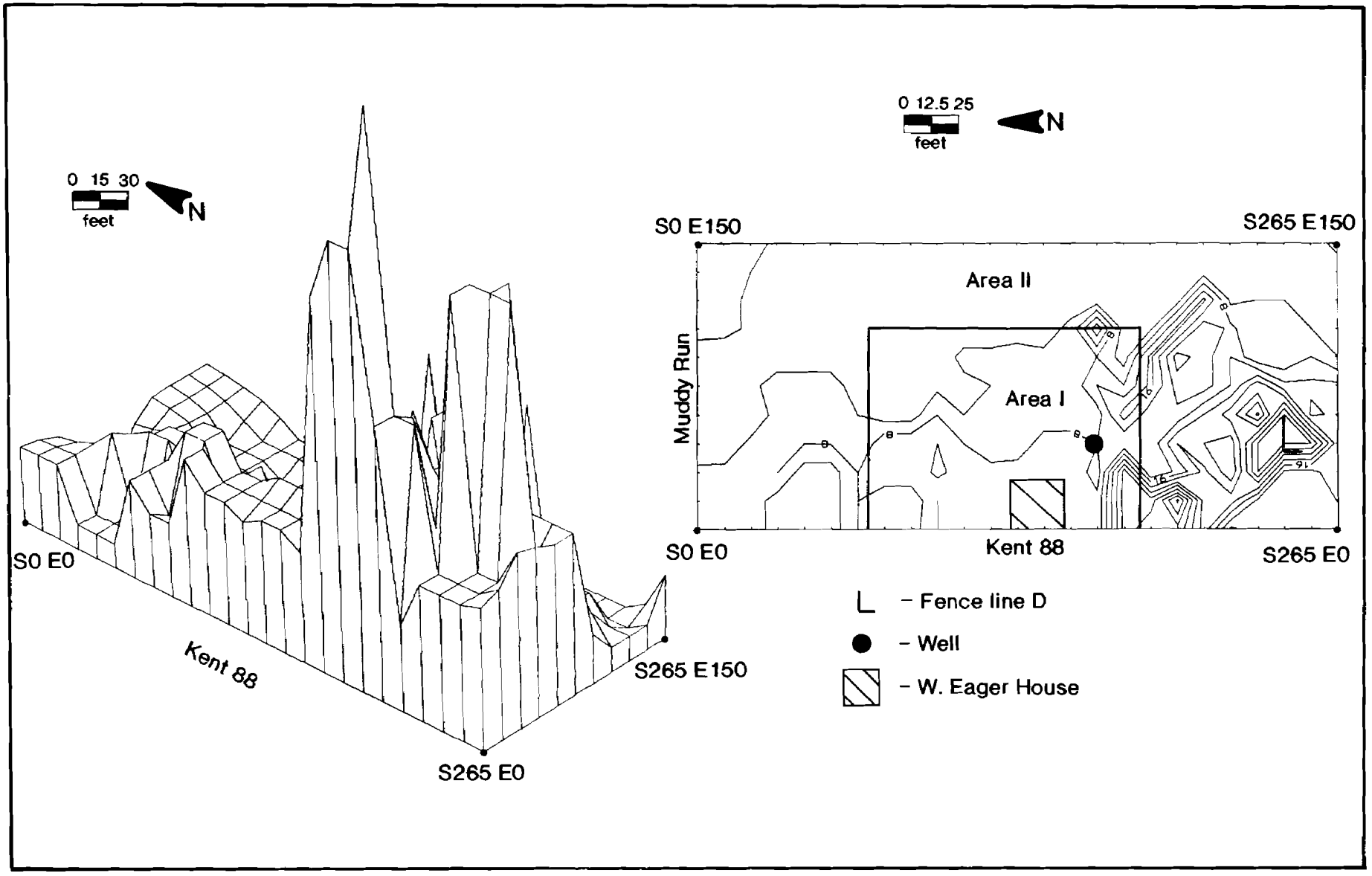


FIGURE 45

Soil Calcium Densities (Plowzone), W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

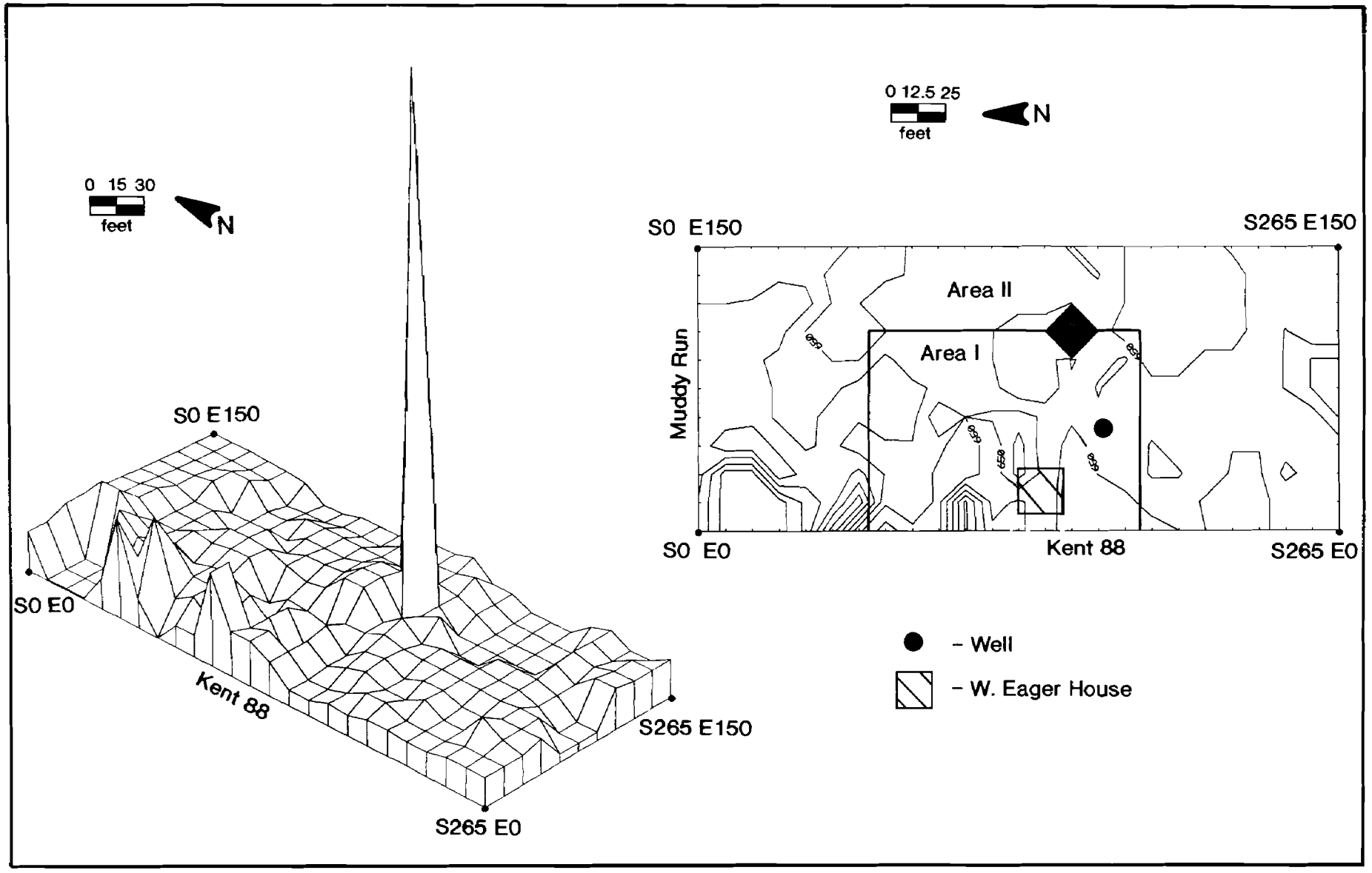


FIGURE 46

Soil Calcium Densities (Subsoil), W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

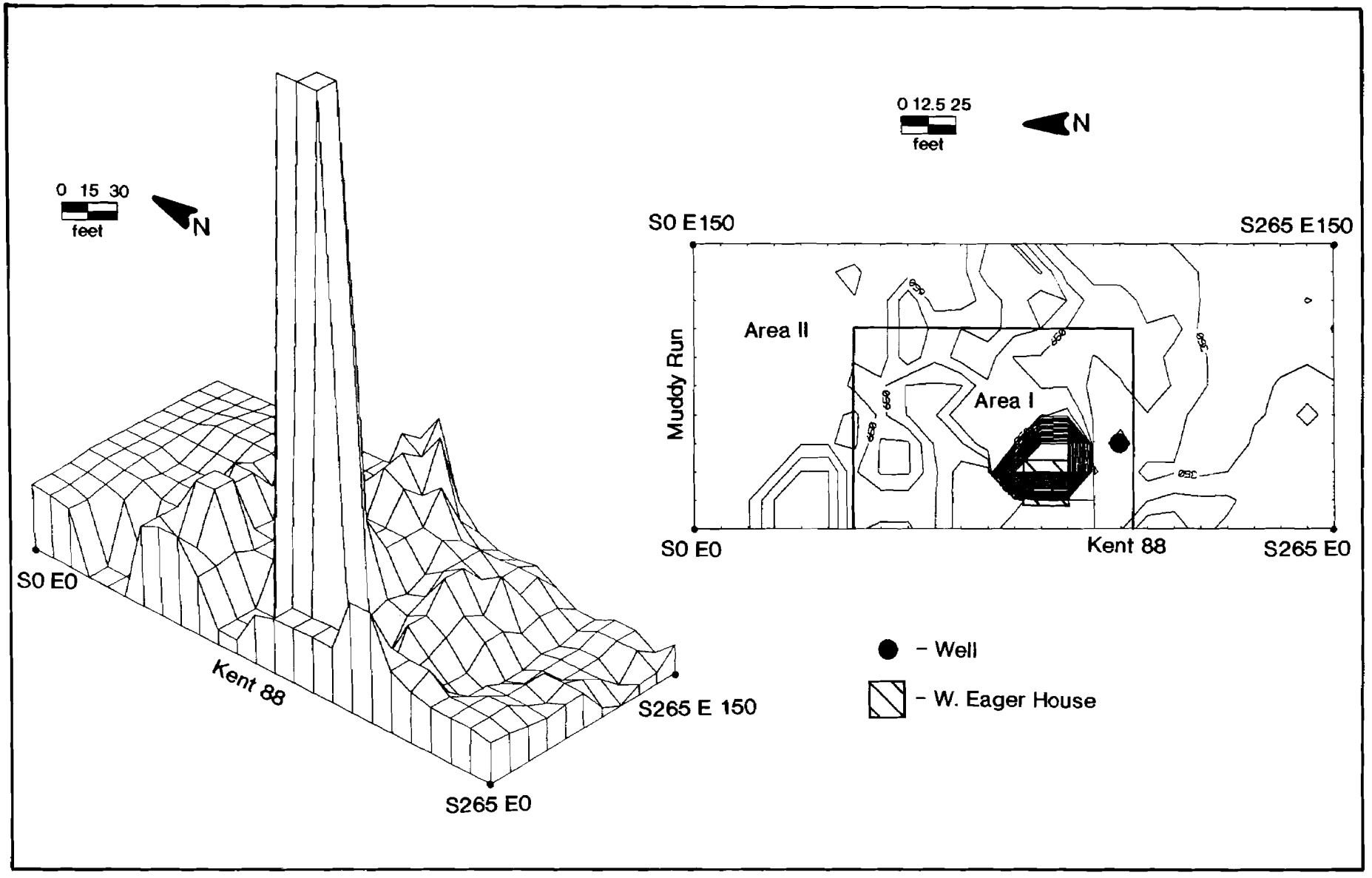


FIGURE 47

Soil Potassium Densities (Plowzone), W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

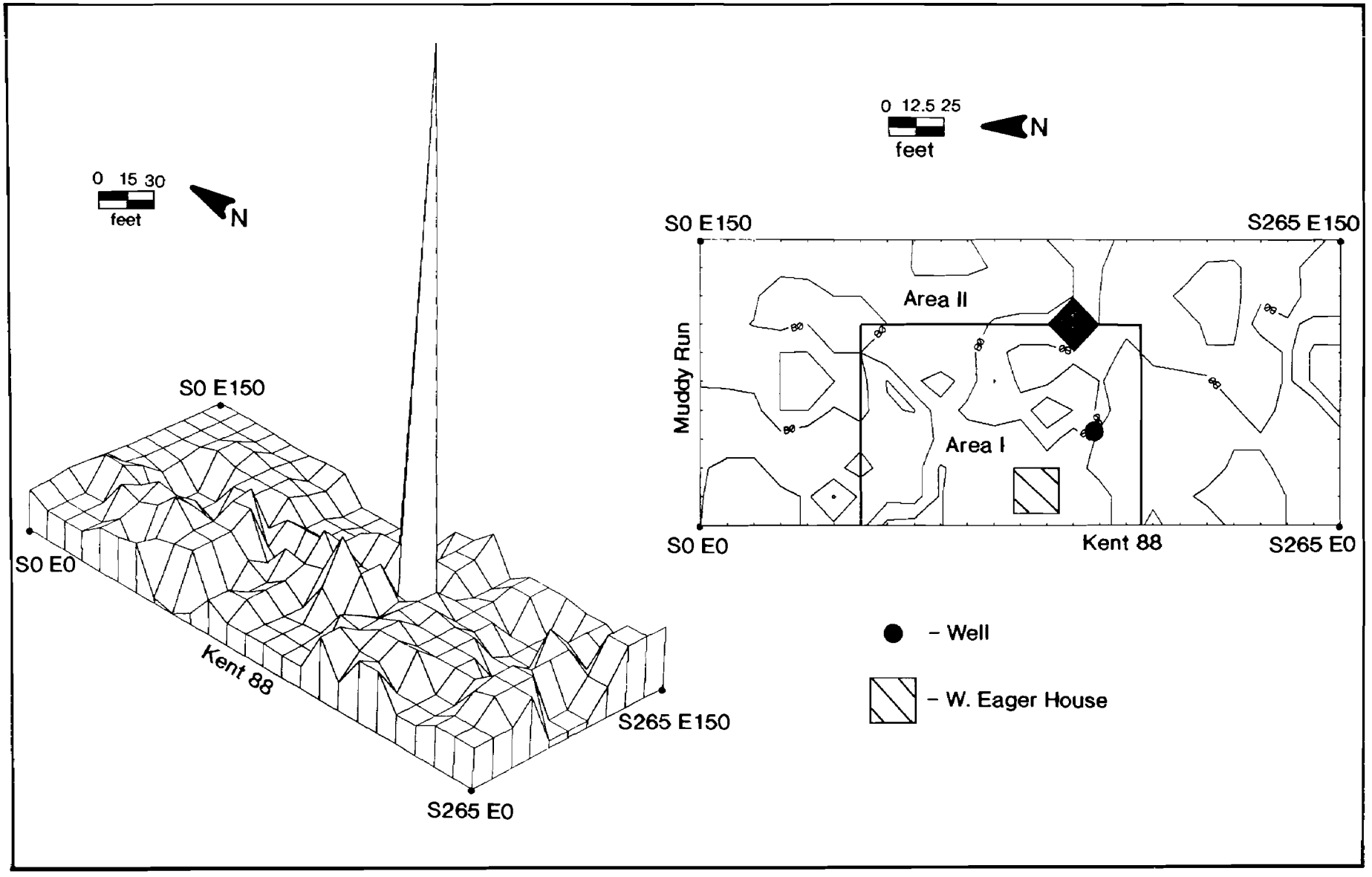


FIGURE 48

Soil Potassium Densities (Subsoil), W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

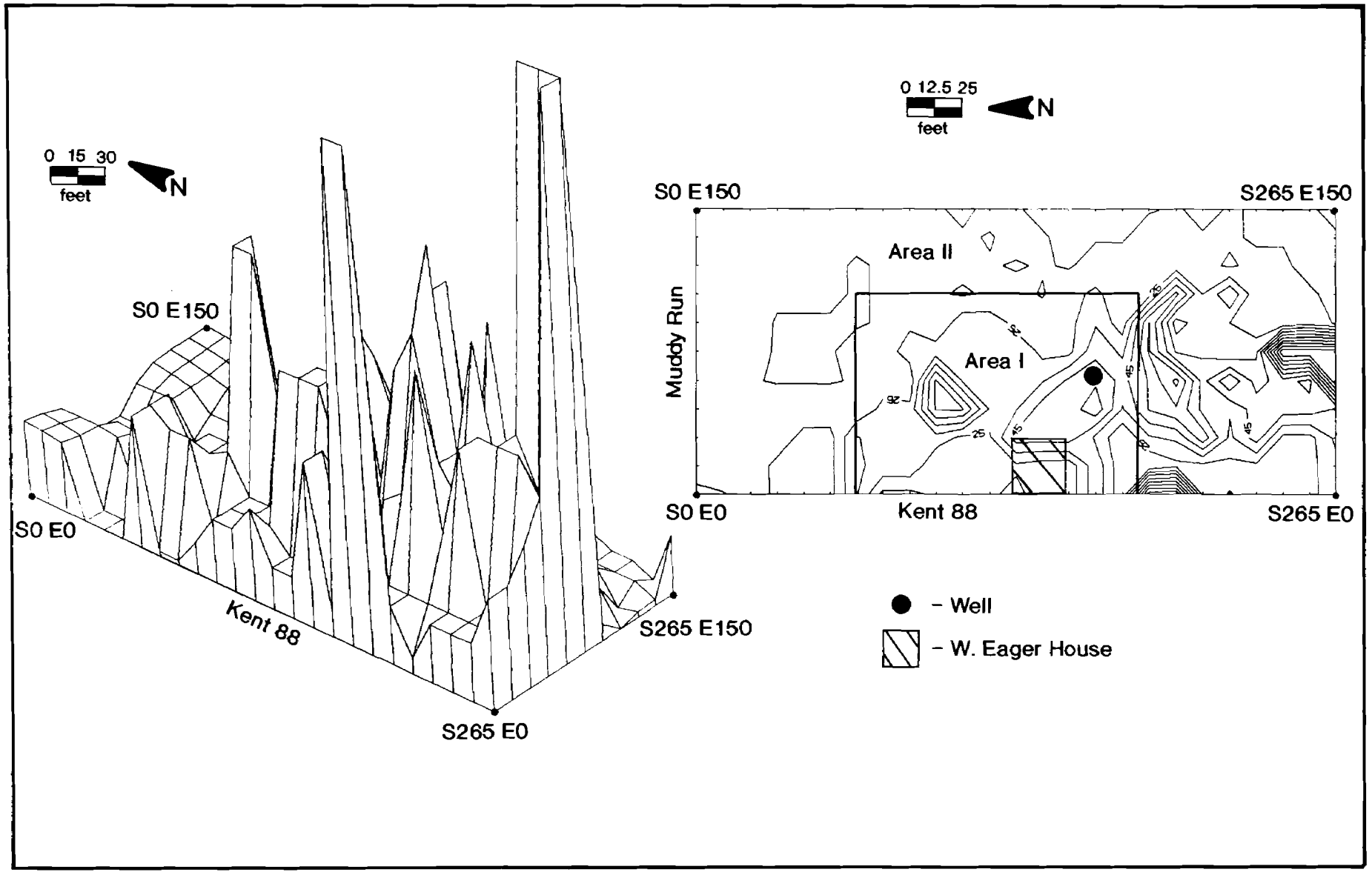


FIGURE 49

Soil Magnesium Densities (Plowzone), W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)

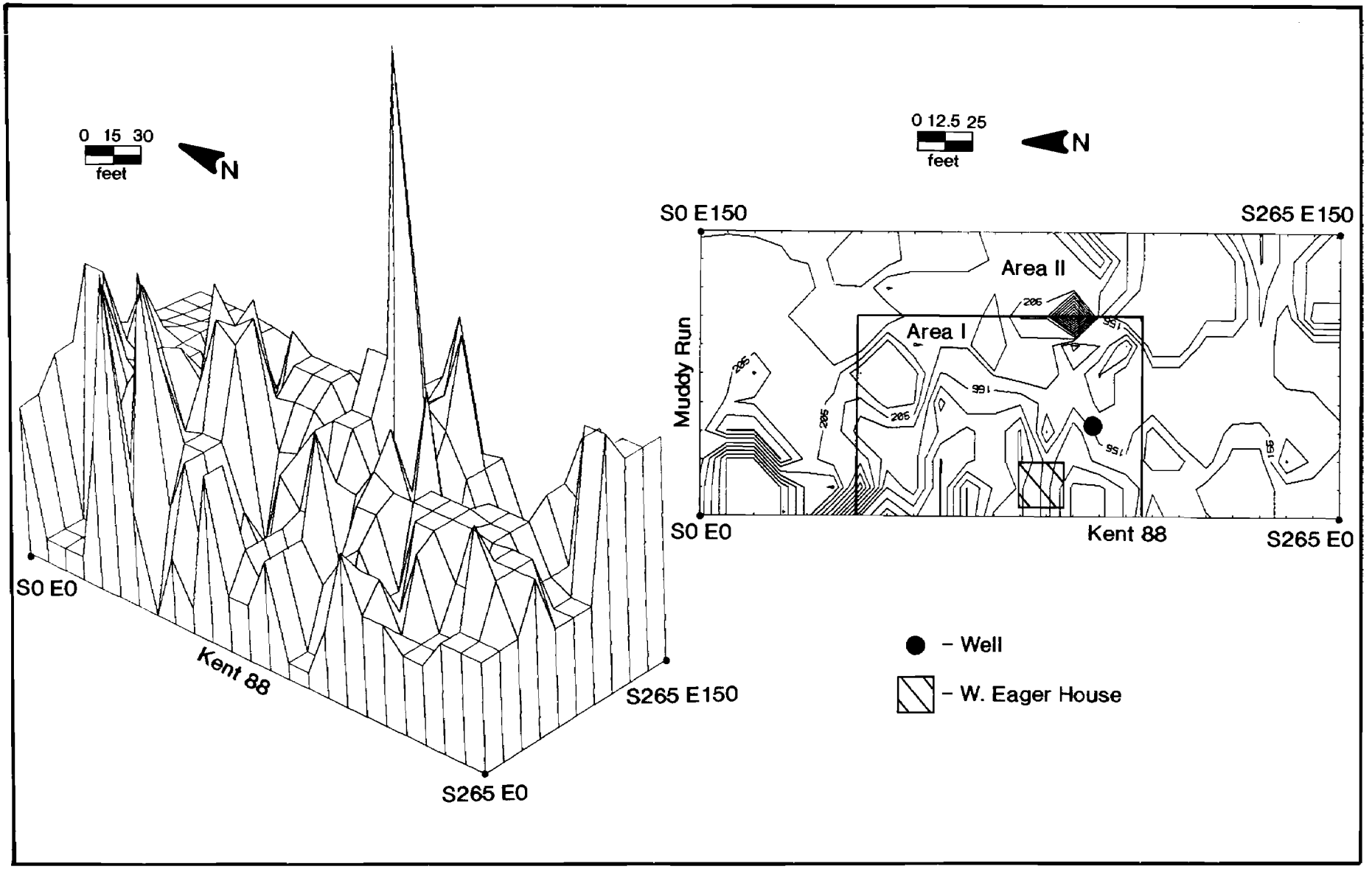
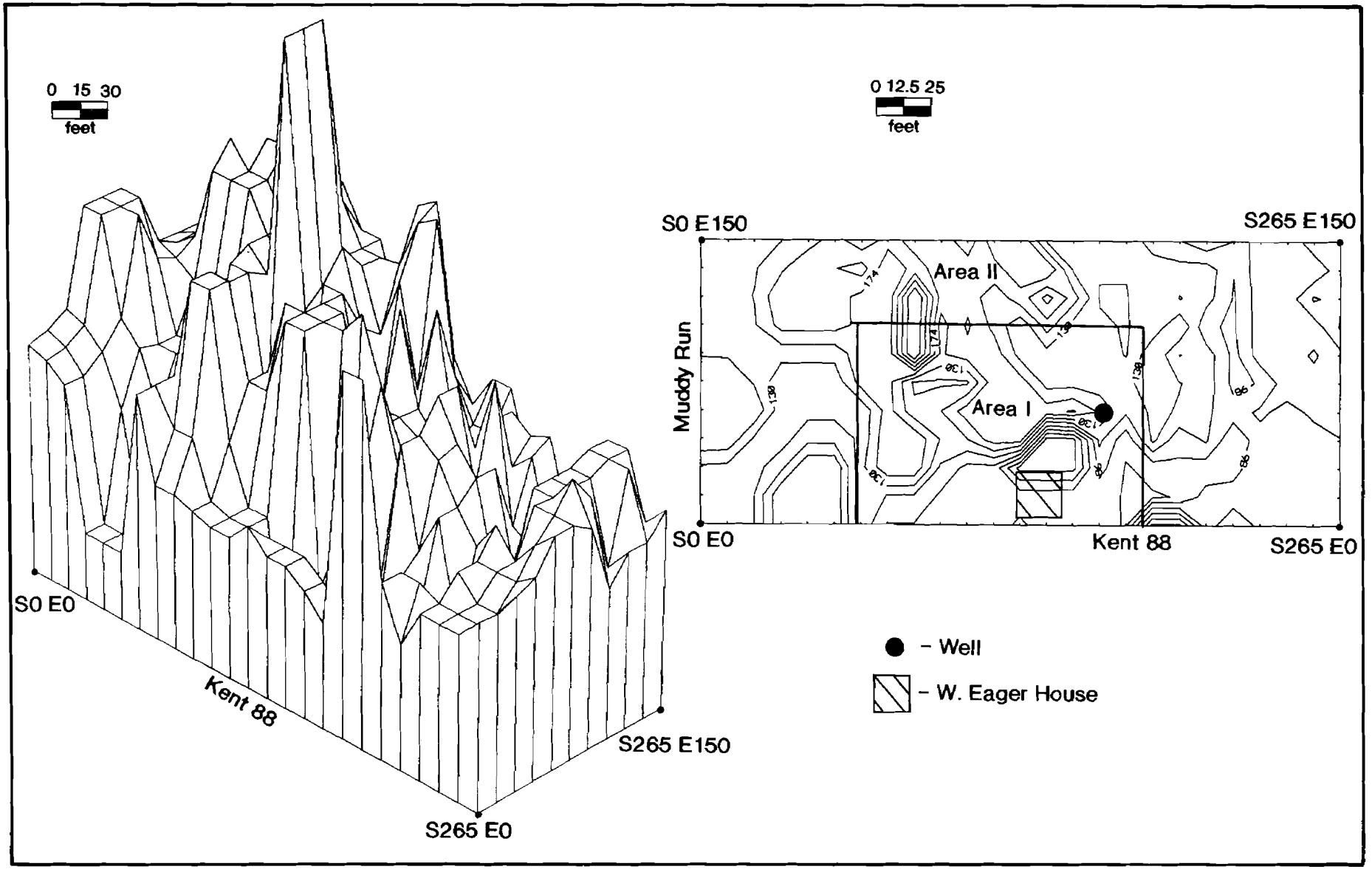


FIGURE 50

Soil Magnesium Densities (Subsoil), W. Eager Site (7K-C-383)



distribution of these same chemicals. These patterns suggest that this concentration is not significant and relates to post-occupation fertilization of the site.

The analysis of subsoil calcium shown in Figure 46 clearly shows the location of the W. Eager House. The location indicated by calcium is consistent with the location indicated by the Fencelines A and B and the various historic artifact densities (Figures 29-33). The high calcium values in the subsoil below the W. Eager House indicate the presence of plaster, mortar, or cement, all calcium-based products. The density of calcium in the plow zone does not show the location of the W. Eager House as clearly; additional evidence of post-occupation fertilization (Figure 45). Subsoil and plow zone magnesium were similar to the calcium densities, although slightly more variation is evident in the magnesium densities (Figures 49 and 50).

The density of soil potassium over the W. Eager site suggests that wood ashes, the primary source of soil potassium, were dumped in Area II beyond the known fencelines in the vicinity of the animal pens. The highest densities of potassium occur along both major fencelines where the numerous small, unstratified trash pits give add tional evidence of trash disposal. One small subsoil area of wood ash dumping is visible near the W. Eager House, approximately 20' to the northeast just beyond Fenceline A (Figure 48). This small concentration is probably due to wood ashes from either the stove or chimney. No evidence of a fireplace or hearth was located by Phase II testing at the W. Eager site and it is likely that the house had a stove

rather than a fireplace. One very high concentration of potassium is visible in the plow zone sample (Figure 47), but this concentration is probably due to post-occupation agricultural contamination.

A total of 6,814 historic artifacts were recovered during Phase II testing at the W. Eager site. A summary of all these artifacts is given in Appendix IV. Historic ceramics comprised 57 percent (N=3,8199) of all artifacts recovered. The mean ceramic date (MCD) value of all of the historic ceramics (N=3,899 including redwares valued at 1860) is 1845.7. The mean ceramic date values used in these calculations are given in Appendix I. The mean ceramic date of all ceramics excluding redwares (N=3,266) is 1842.9. These mean ceramic date values are slightly earlier than the known mid- to late-nineteenth century occupation of the site. This difference is due to the wide range of mean ceramic values for undecorated whitewares (1820-1900+, MCD value 1860), the most common ceramic type at the site and to the presence of 620 fragments of predominantly undecorated pearlwares (MCD value 1805). By far the most common ceramic type at the W. Eager site were undecorated whitewares which comprised 37% of all non-redware sherds. Other kinds of mid-to-late nineteenth century whitewares, especially cut-sponge decorated, flow-blue transfer-printed, and mocha decorated wares comprised an additional 20 percent of all ceramics. Whitewares constituted almost three-fifths (57%) of all ceramics recovered.

Architecturally-related artifacts constituted the next most common artifacts recovered at the W. Eager site. Window glass, nails, plaster, and other architectural remains comprised 24

percent of the total artifact sample (N=1,637). Brick and coal fragments are not included in this total and an additional 5,435 small fragments of coal and brick were recovered. As with the historic ceramic sample, architecturally-related artifacts were typically poorly preserved and heavily plow-damaged. The preservation of metal was particularly poor. Of a total of 460 nail fragments, only 44 (9%) were diagnostic. Of these 44 diagnostic nails, cut and wire nails were the most common. A handful of wrought nails were recovered, but were outnumbered by wire and cut nails by more than five to one.

Bottle glass, faunal remains and other domestically-related artifacts other than ceramics comprised 19 percent (N=1,278) of the total artifact assemblage. Molded bottle fragments and faunal remains were the most common domestic artifacts recovered. Of a total of 398 bottle glass fragments, almost all (93%) were from mid- to late-nineteenth century two- and three-piece molded bottles. The majority of these molded bottle glass fragments were aqua (35%), olive (20%), and amber (18%) in color. Only seven small fragments of hand-blown bottle glass were recovered. Two complete, but unmarked and relatively non-diagnostic, panel bottles were recovered from two of the small trash features along Fenceline A. Clear oil lamp and tumbler glass sherds were the most common (50% and 13% respectively) of the 47 total fragments of table and household glassware recovered.

Faunal remains, including oyster shells, comprised less than four percent of all artifacts recovered. Only 190 fragments of animal bone were recovered and with the exception of a partial

cow mandible in Feature 47, were small and poorly-preserved. The acidity of the soil (average plow zone pH 6.6 and subsoil pH 6.5) and the extent of plowing are major factors in this poor preservation. A total of 81 oyster shell fragments were recovered. Like the bone, these oyster shells came primarily from the series of small trash features along Fencelines A and B.

Only 38 (20%) bone fragments were diagnostic. This extremely low sample size makes it difficult to make meaningful comparison with other sites. Of these diagnostic faunal remains, the majority (92%) were from cattle (Bos tarus) and the remainder were from swine (Sus scrofa). No wild animal remains were identified, although it is likely that some of the unidentifiable faunal remains were from wild animals. Of the diagnostic beef bones, five are metatarsal and metacarpal fragments--leg and foot bones of relatively cheap cuts of meat.

A total of 729 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during the excavation of the historic component of the W. Eager site. The majority (89%) of these artifacts came from disturbed plow zone contexts. The remaining 11% of all prehistoric artifacts came from historic features that disturbed any associated prehistoric features. No intact prehistoric features were identified and no artifacts were recovered from intact prehistoric contexts.

Fifteen diagnostic prehistoric artifacts were recovered: two steatite fragments, six quartz and jasper projectile points, and one Marcey Creek steatite-tempered sherd from the Woodland I Period, and five Minguannan and one Townsend ceramic sherds from the Woodland II Period. The broad range of raw lithic

materials, the degree of historic activity at the site and the subsequent lack of any intact prehistoric features or artifact deposits led to the determination that the prehistoric component of the W. Eager site was not potentially National Register eligible.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The W. Eager site is the remains of a mid- to late-nineteenth century tenant- and owner-occupied farm. Overall, the site was poorly preserved and no foundation or other structural features were located. Artifact densities, yard layout, and soil chemical densities, however, clearly located the W. Eager house and the primary area of domestic activity. Deed and tax assessment records indicate that the site was tenant-occupied from the initial occupation of the site ca. 1851 until 1866 when W. Eager purchased the farm. In 1860, the farm was tenanted by William Jewell, a relatively poor tenant judging from the rate and total assessment of the farm. The site was owner-occupied from 1866 until 1877, when Eager subdivided the farm and sold the parcel containing the house and outbuildings. The site was then occupied by a succession of short-term owners and tenants until the site was destroyed between 1898 and 1906. Most of the occupation in this final period was by tenants as the parcel passed to a number of out-of-state owners.

Two primary areas of occupation were identified by Phase II testing. Area I contained the highest artifact densities and was the primary locus of domestic activity. The remains of two major fencelines, Fencelines A and B, were located. These fencelines

mark the primary spatial utilization patterns at the site. Associated with these fencelines were a series of shallow and generally poorly-preserved trash features containing mid-to-late nineteenth century artifacts. A well and animal pen were also located. All of these features were oriented to Fencelines A and B and the probable location of the W. Eager house.

Area II contained consistently low artifact densities. Evidence of one animal pen area indicated by soil chemistry and post mold features was located. A large shallow drain, Feature 111, was also identified. No structural features associated with the barn, stable, and corn crib described in 1860 were located. Artifact densities and soil chemistry indicate probable locations, but the extent of plowing, the relatively ephemeral nature of these buildings, and the poor preservation of the site make any further identification impossible.

The W. Eager site is small and contained relatively few artifacts and historic features. The site is located on marginal agricultural land and both the tenant and owner occupations were from low socioeconomic strata. So few features and artifacts were recovered from the Phase II test units that the decision was made to strip the plow zone after sampling of the plow zone was complete to locate additional features. Low socioeconomic status tenant sites, such as the nearby H. Wilson-Lewis Tenant site (7K-C-375), typically have few ephemeral features and small artifact assemblages. Subsoil features are typically the primary evidence of occupation and the best way to locate these features is to mechanically remove the plow zone from the entire site.

Phase II testing identified the limits of the site and determined that the site was eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Such relatively poor tenant sites from this period are poorly preserved and yield evidence of occupations that are poorly documented in the archival record. Phase II testing, however, included the location and excavation of all subsoil features and the recovery of a representative sample of artifacts from both plow zone and subsoil contexts. Thus, Phase II testing was determined to constitute data recovery and no further work is recommended at the W. Eager site.

PARCELS 11-14

These small parcels lie within the proposed right-of-way of the realignment of Leipsic Road just south of the current right-of-way of Persimmon Tree Lane and some contain twentieth century houses (Figure 2). Thirteen shovel test pits at 25-foot intervals were placed along the centerline of the proposed right-of-way with entirely negative results (Figure 51). The soils were very poorly-drained gray clays or clayey silts. The profiles of the shovel test pits in parcels 11-14 were similar to those seen in Parcel 7 (Figure 23). No further work is recommended for these parcels.

PARCEL 15

This is a fallow field which is owned by Mildred Reed (Figure 2). It was subjected to post hole testing and 18 holes were set along the proposed centerline at 25-foot intervals (Figure 52). All test holes exhibited poorly drained gray clays

FIGURE 51

Location of All Phase I Tests in Parcels 11-14

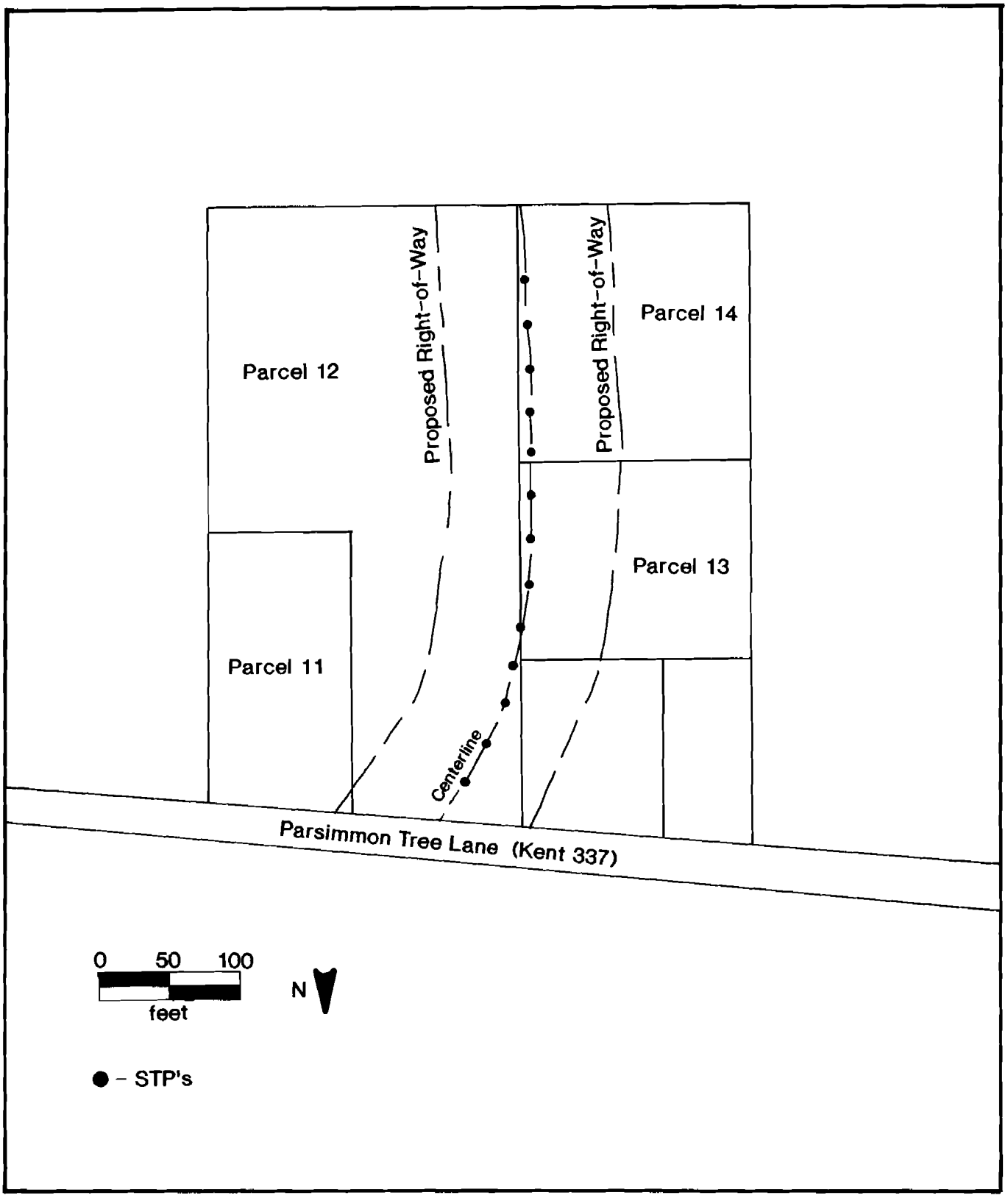


FIGURE 52

Location of All Phase I Tests in Parcel 15

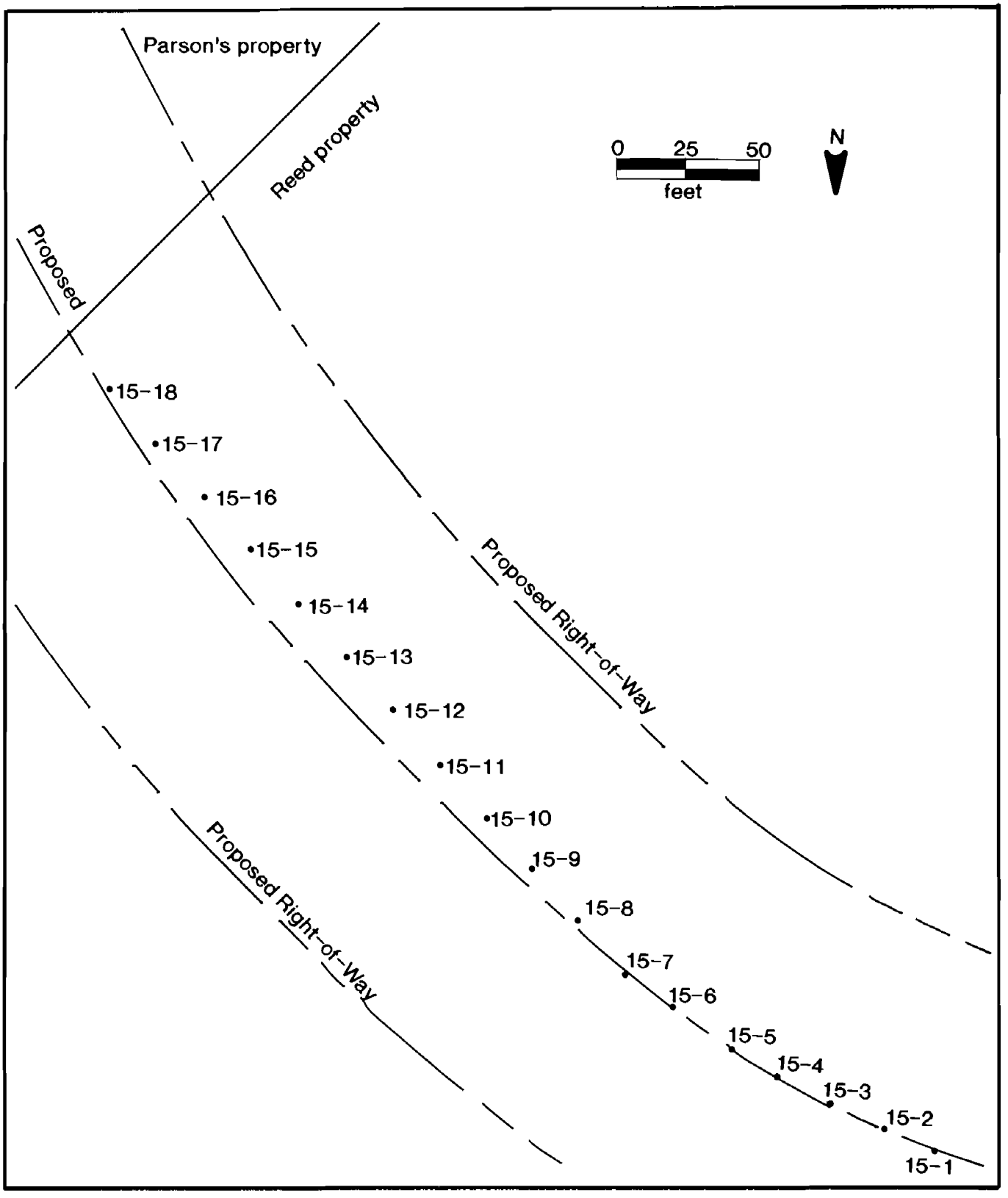


FIGURE 53

Location of All Phase I Tests in Parcel 16

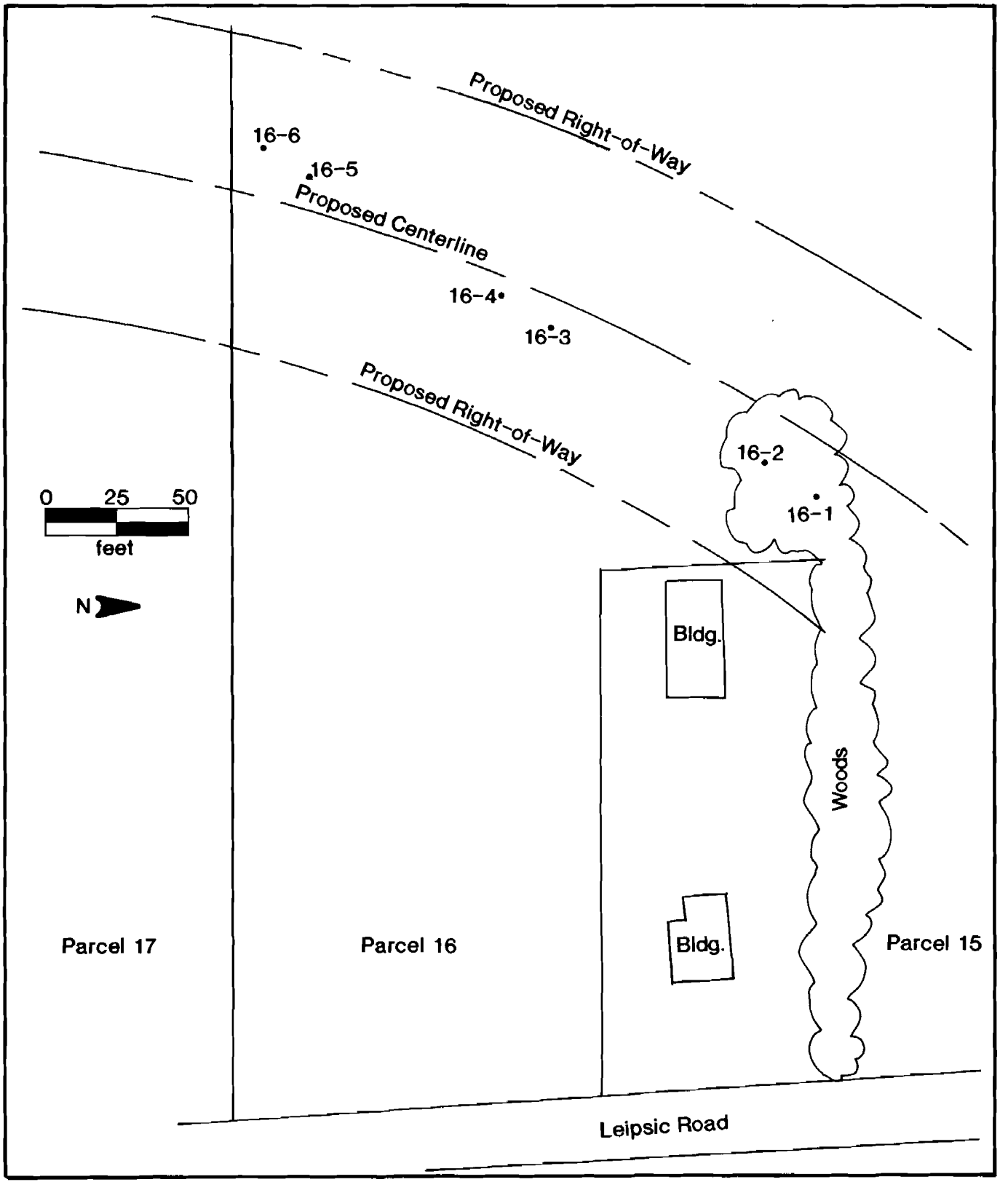
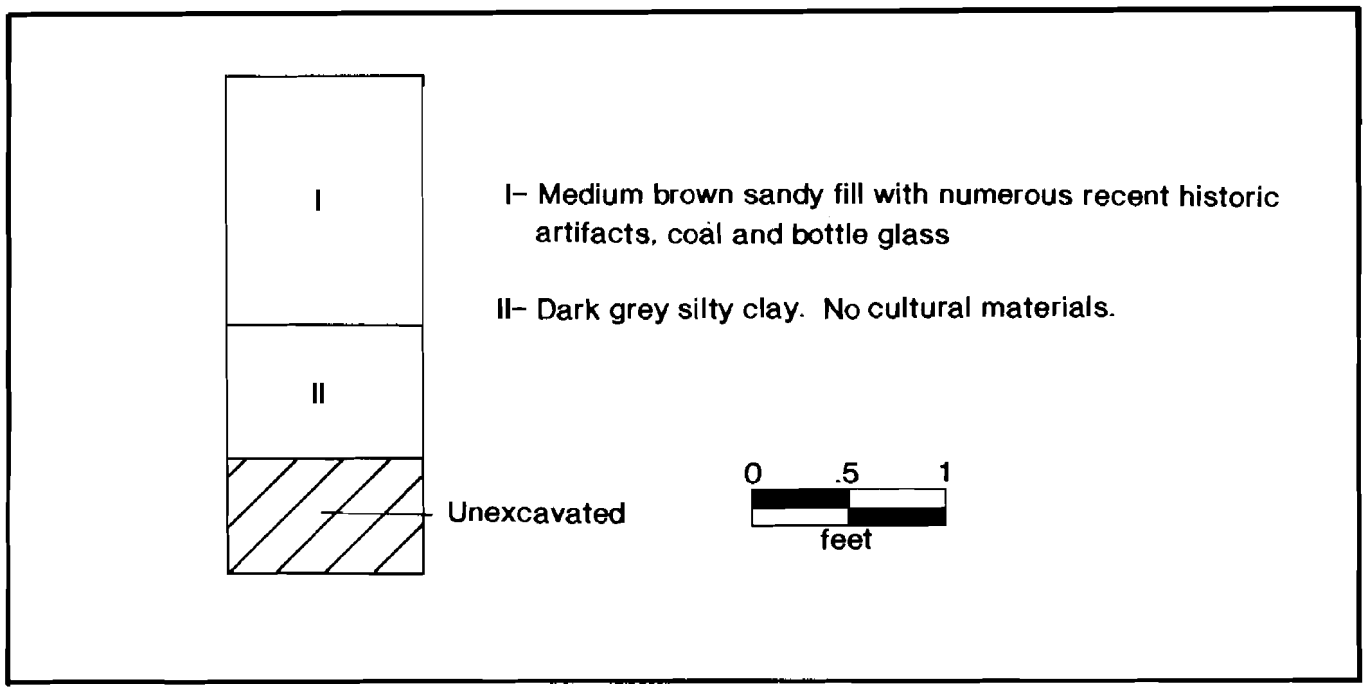


FIGURE 54

Typical Soil Profile in Parcel 16 (STP 16-3)



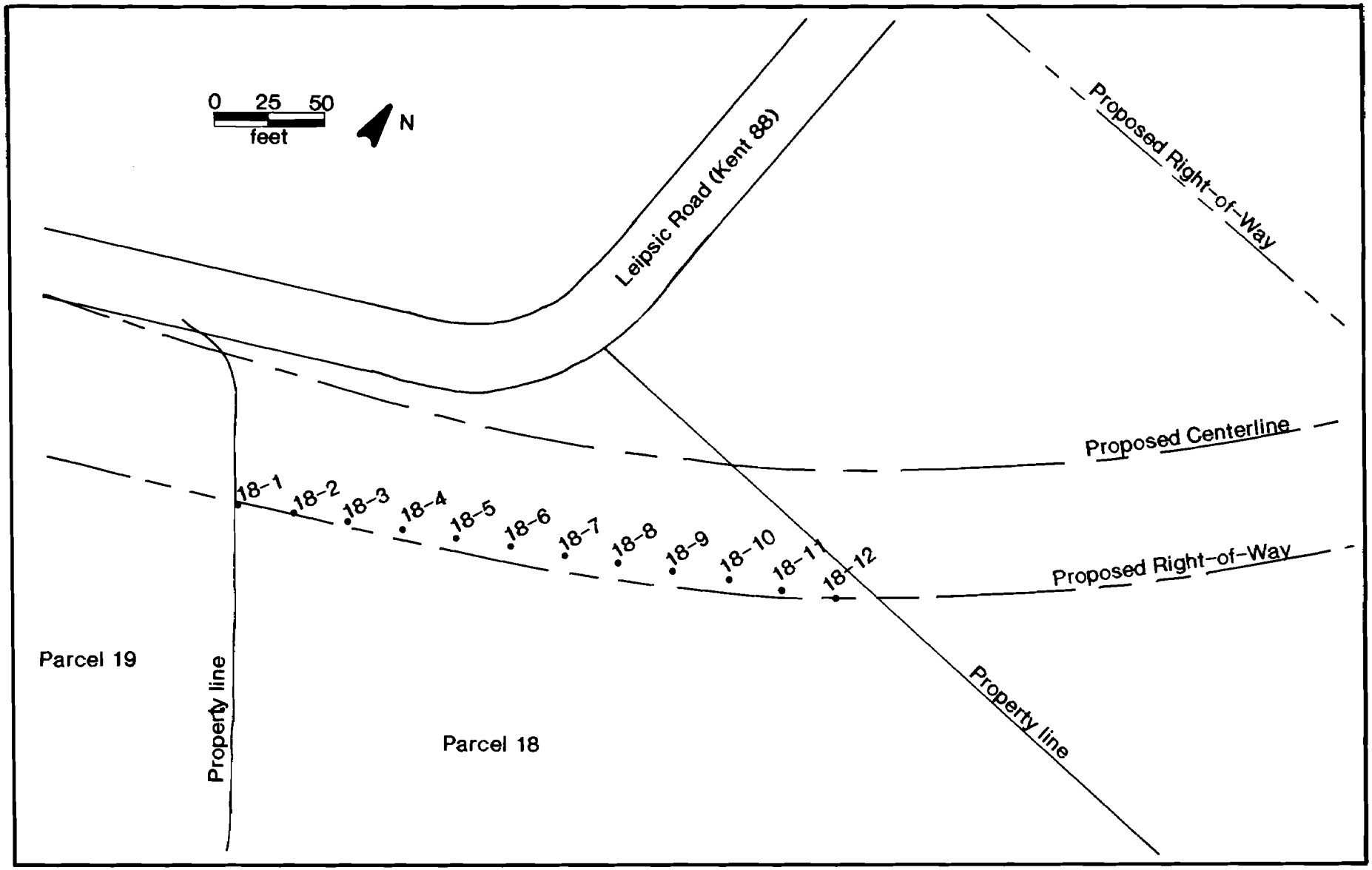
and silts similar to Parcel 7 (Figure 23) and all were culturally sterile. No further work is recommended for this parcel.

PARCEL 16

This is a fallow field which, like Parcel 2, is owned by Dover Downs Racetrack and is used for overflow parking for sports events (Figure 2). The section of the property within the proposed right-of-way has been disturbed by drainae ditches and gravel spoil piles. Six shovel test pits were excavated in the proposed right-of-way (Figure 53) and the soil profiles (Figure 54 shows typical profile) indicated some fill had been placed over the site. The fill contained occasional clear bottle glass, nails, asbestos shingle, and whiteware fragments. No

FIGURE 55

Location of All Phase I Tests in Parcel 18



concentrations were identified. All of the soils below the fill were culturally sterile and no further work is recommended for this parcel.

PARCEL 17

Access denied by owner.

PARCEL 18

This small parcel at the elbow in present Kent 88 was tested with 12 shovel test pits at 25-foot intervals (Figure 55). Only one artifact was recovered, a fragment of whiteware from shovel test pits 18-10. Profiles consisted of a brown clayey plow zone over a gray clay subsoil. The entire parcel had been plowed. No further work is recommended for this parcel.

PARCEL 19

This is a plowed field which offered excellent visibility and was investigated by pedestrian survey (Figure 2). Only one artifact, a fragment of gray stoneware, was recovered within the proposed right-of-way and no further work is recommended for this parcel.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL PREHISTORY

Prehistoric components of two sites were identified. Both sites, the W. Eager site and the Bason Field site, are located along the Muddy Run drainage. Both sites are small procurement/processing loci. The prehistoric components of both sites were determined not to be National Register eligible, but it is still possible to place them in a larger regional context.