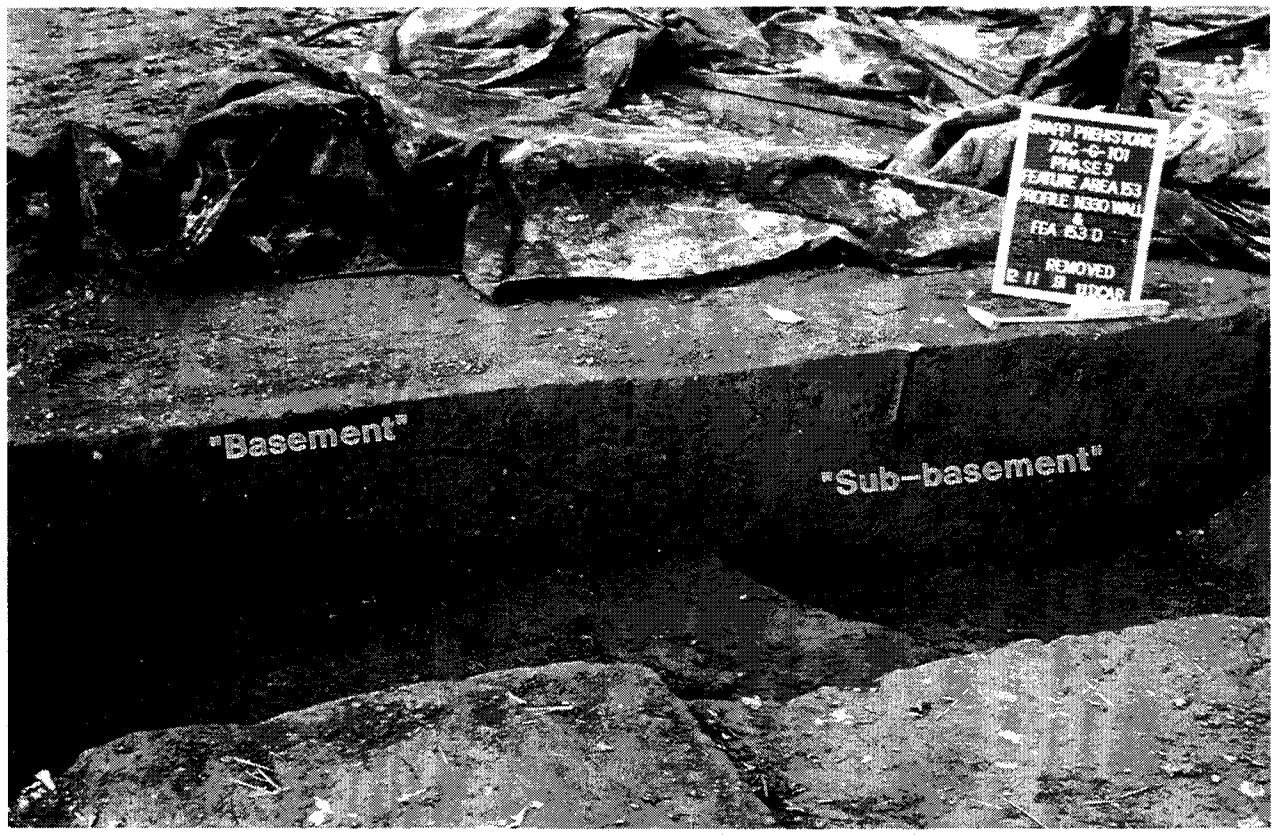
PLATE 15
Feature 153, Profile

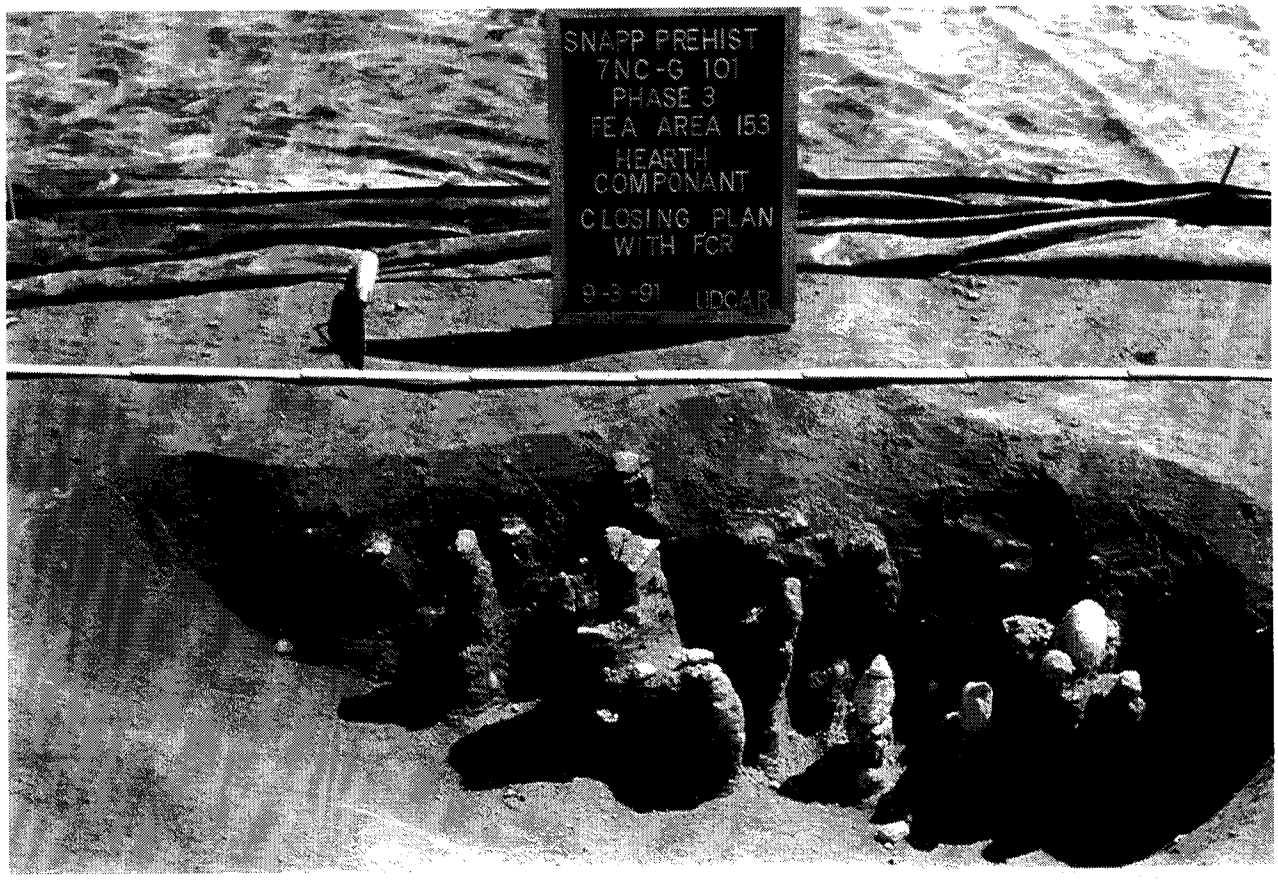


The storage pit "sub-basements" are almost always located so that their long axis is perpendicular to the long axis of the "basement." Because it would be somewhat inconvenient to enter the structure over the storage pit, even if it did have a covering, and because food storage is rarely displayed in the front of houses (see discussion in Hart 1993:95-96), the entrances to the houses were probably located on the short end of then oval structures opposite the storage pits. Similar arrangements of entrances and storage facilities are noted for late prehistoric Monongahela (Hart 1993) and Shenks Ferry (Custer, Hoseth, Chesaek, Guttman, and Iplenski 1993) houses.

The framework superstructure of the house cannot be determined directly from the archaeological evidence except for the post mold stains located outside the "basement" pit feature (Figure 30). The main structural posts are usually set outside the "basement" creating a shelf around the perimeter of the house. The outer structural post mold stains are angled, and indicate that the posts leaned toward the middle of the structure. Almost certainly, the roofs of the houses with interior hearths had holes in them to allow the smoke to escape. Ethnohistoric data (see review in Callahan 1985) indicate that structures were covered with either thatch, woven mats, bark, or a combination of these materials.

PLATE 16

Feature 153, Interior Hearth



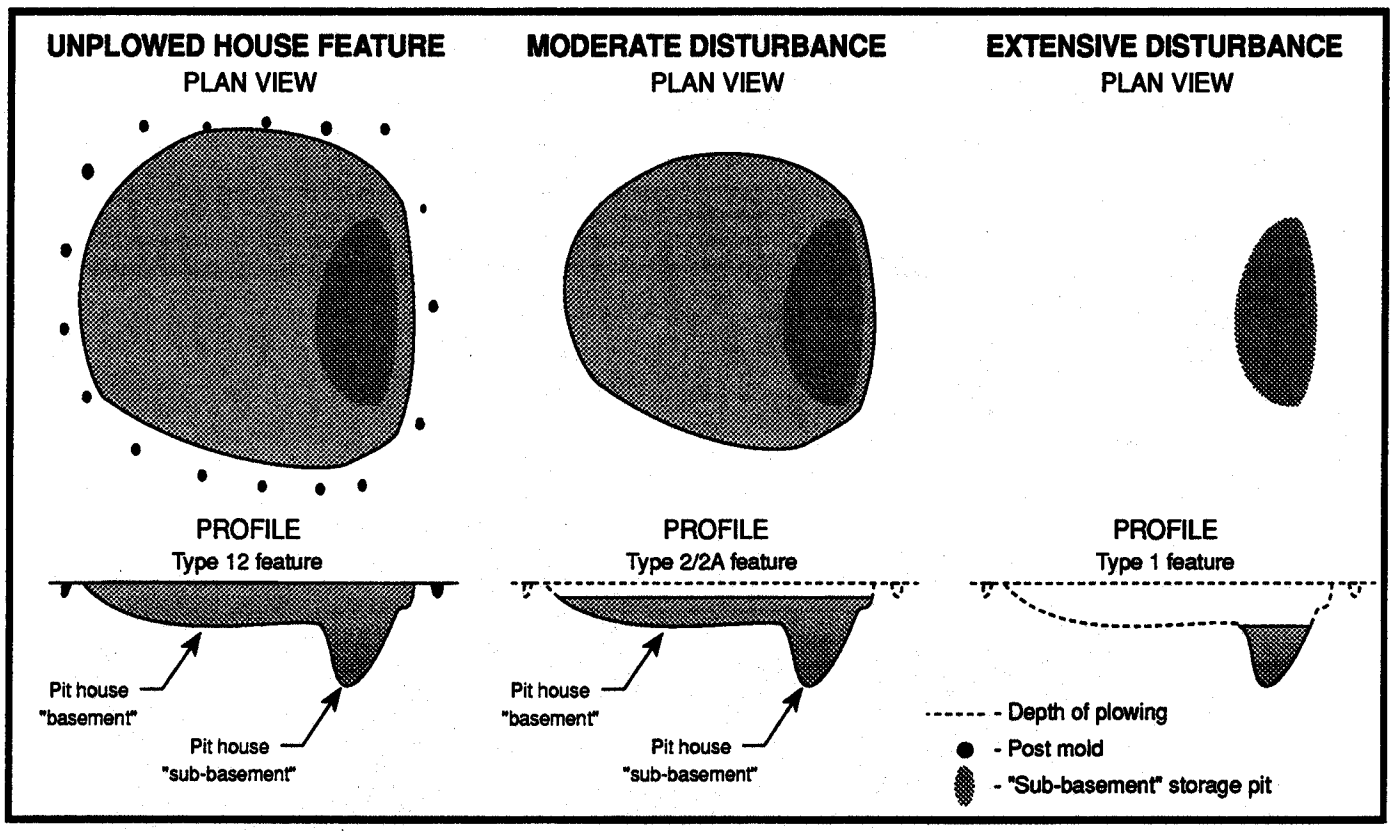
Note: Rocks on soil pedestals are fire-cracked.

The house illustrated in Figure 32 is an idealized version of a prehistoric house recognized in archaeological excavations. In general, the preservation of Feature 153 at the Snapp Site, upon which Figure 32 is based, is rarely encountered in the archaeological record and provides a guide to the interpretation of other less well-preserved house features. For example, if leaching, erosion, or modern cultivation removes the post molds, only the "basement" is preserved (Figure 33). If even more erosion and disturbance by modern agricultural cultivation takes place, all or part of the "basement" may be removed, and only the "sub-basement" will be preserved (Figure 33). However, the very distinctive D-shape of the sub-basement is almost always preserved, and the remnant feature can be recognized as the remains of a prehistoric house.

The taphonomic effects noted above were incorporated into the typological system used in the interpretation of the features encountered at the Snapp Site. Type 1 features are the remnant "sub-basements" of houses and Type 2 and 2A features are more well preserved versions which still have portions of the "basement" preserved.

FIGURE 33

Taphonomy of Pit House Features



A total of 224 cultural features were identified and excavated in the cultivated field area of the Snapp Site (Figure 34). Table 5 shows the frequency of each type of feature. No examples of Type 3 and Type 5 features are present. Examples of the feature types that are present are described below. The features chosen for description are the most representative examples of each type. A complete listing of all cultural features is included in Appendix I.

Forty-seven Type 1 pit features were identified at the Snapp Site (Figure 35). The average size of these features, which represent the "sub-basements" of houses, was 2.04 meters by 1.76 meters. The average maximum depth below the base of the plow zone of these features was .49 meters. The long axis of 29 of the Type 1 features exhibited a north-south orientation. Of the remaining 18 features, 16 features

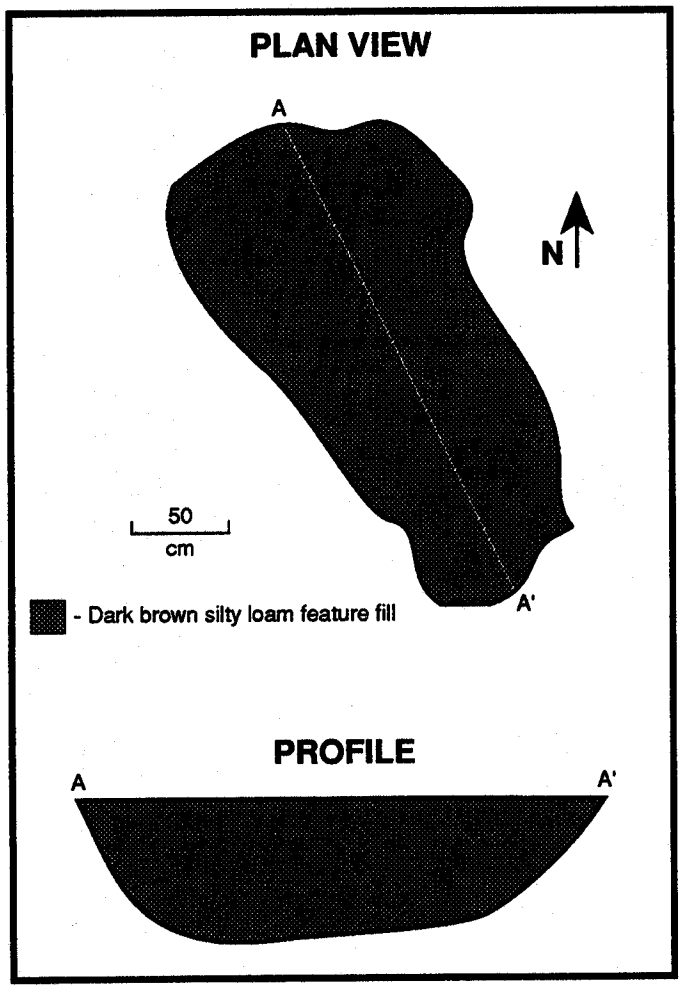
TABLE 5

Pit Type Frequencies

FEATURE TYPE	NUMBER
1	47
2/2A	6
3	0
4	34
5	0
6	20
7	23
8	11
9	15
10	3
11	50
12	1

FIGURE 36

Plan View and Profile of Feature 203 (Type 1)



exhibited an east-west orientation, and no specific orientation was apparent in two features. Plotted distributions of Type 1 features did not reveal any significant patterns (Figure 35). Plates 17 and 18 show two views of Feature 201, a typical Type 1 feature.

Feature 203 is a good example of a Type 1 feature and was located in the western half of the site (Figure 35). In opening plan view, this feature appeared as an oblong oval stain (Figure 36). The feature fill soil consisted of a medium brown silty loam with charcoal flecking. No apparent stratification was observed. Complete excavation of the feature yielded an oval shaped pit roughly 2.45 meters long and 1.3 meters wide (Figure 36). The maximum depth of Feature 203 was recorded at .55 meters below the stripped surface. Feature 203 exhibited smooth gently sloping walls of the sterile subsoil, which increased in clay content downward to join with a rounded pit floor of yellow brown clayey sand. The cross-section profile and the plan view of the excavated pit feature were relatively symmetrical (Figure 36). Artifacts recovered from Feature 203 included 245 lithic flakes without cortex, 149 flakes with cortex, one quartz utilized flake (with cortex), one chert utilized flake (with cortex), one

quartzite flake tool, one chert point tip, and 4.032 kilograms of fire-cracked rock of varying sizes. A single sherd of non-diagnostic grit-tempered ceramic was also recovered from Feature 203. The abundance of lithic flakes recovered from this feature and its shape suggested that Feature 203 was used as a refuse pit after being used as a storage pit.

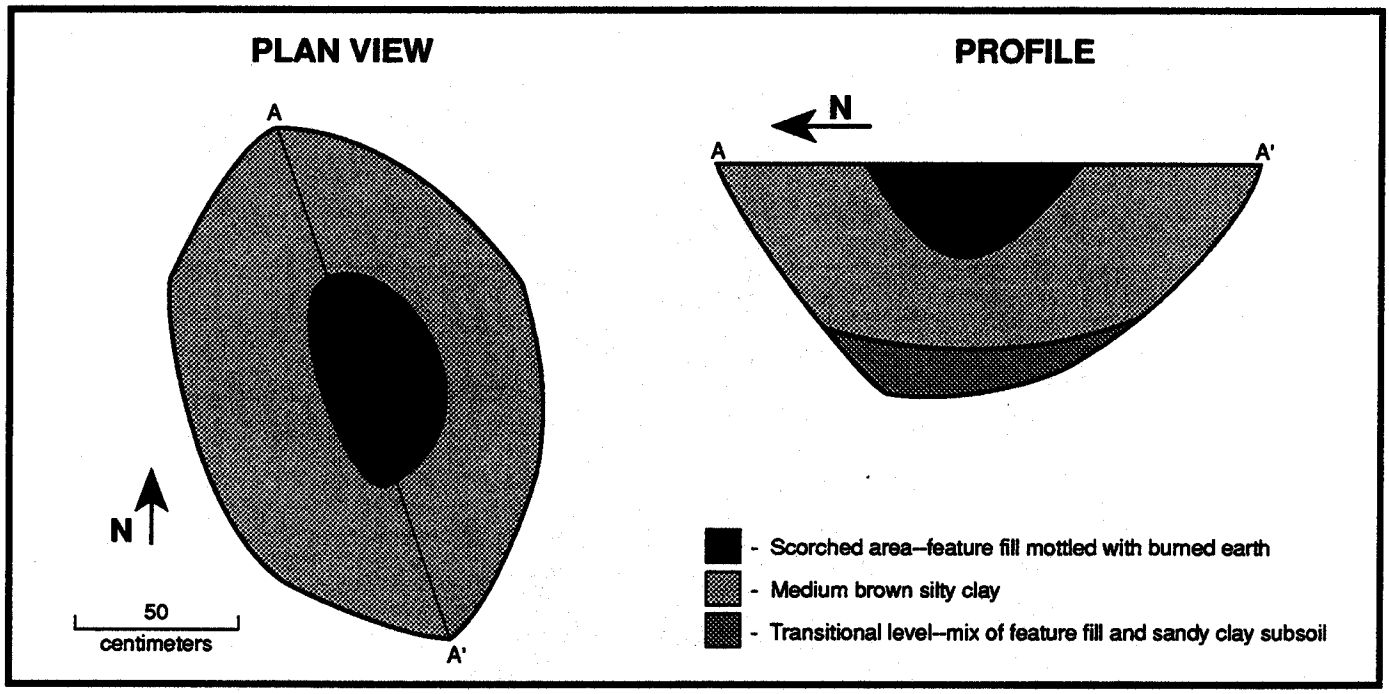
PLATE 18

Feature 201, Excavated Plan View - Type 1 Feature

Feature 204 was also identified as a Type 1 feature. In the opening plan view, this feature appeared as an oval shaped stain (Figure 37). Because of its apparent north-south orientation, Feature 204 was bisected along its north-south axis. A small circular area roughly .65 meters in diameter of scorched yellow brown silty clay mottled with dark patches of burned earth and charcoal was observed in the center of the feature. This soil was excavated and screened separately. Slight stratification within the feature was observed in the profile (Figure 37). The extent of the scorched soil of Feature 204 was recorded at .25 meters deep. The remaining feature fill soil of Feature 204 consisted of a tan silty clay

FIGURE 37

Plan View and Profile of Feature 204 (Type 1)



with charcoal flecking. Complete excavation of Feature 204 resulted in an oval depression roughly 1.65 meters long and 1.10 meters wide. The maximum depth of Feature 204 was recorded at 1.10 meters below the stripped surface. The gently sloping walls of the feature consisted of an orange brown silty clay sterile subsoil which increased in sand content to join a rounded pit floor. The pit floor consisted of a yellow brown sand with little clay. Non-diagnostic artifacts recovered from Feature 204 included 90 lithic flakes without cortex, 14 flakes with cortex, three jasper utilized flakes, and .710 kilograms of fire-cracked rock of varying sizes. Diagnostic artifacts included one red rhyolite stemmed point and approximately 10 sherds of clay and grit tempered ceramic dating to ca. 1200 - 700 B.C. A more detailed discussion of the chronological data from pit features and other parts of the site is provided later in this report.

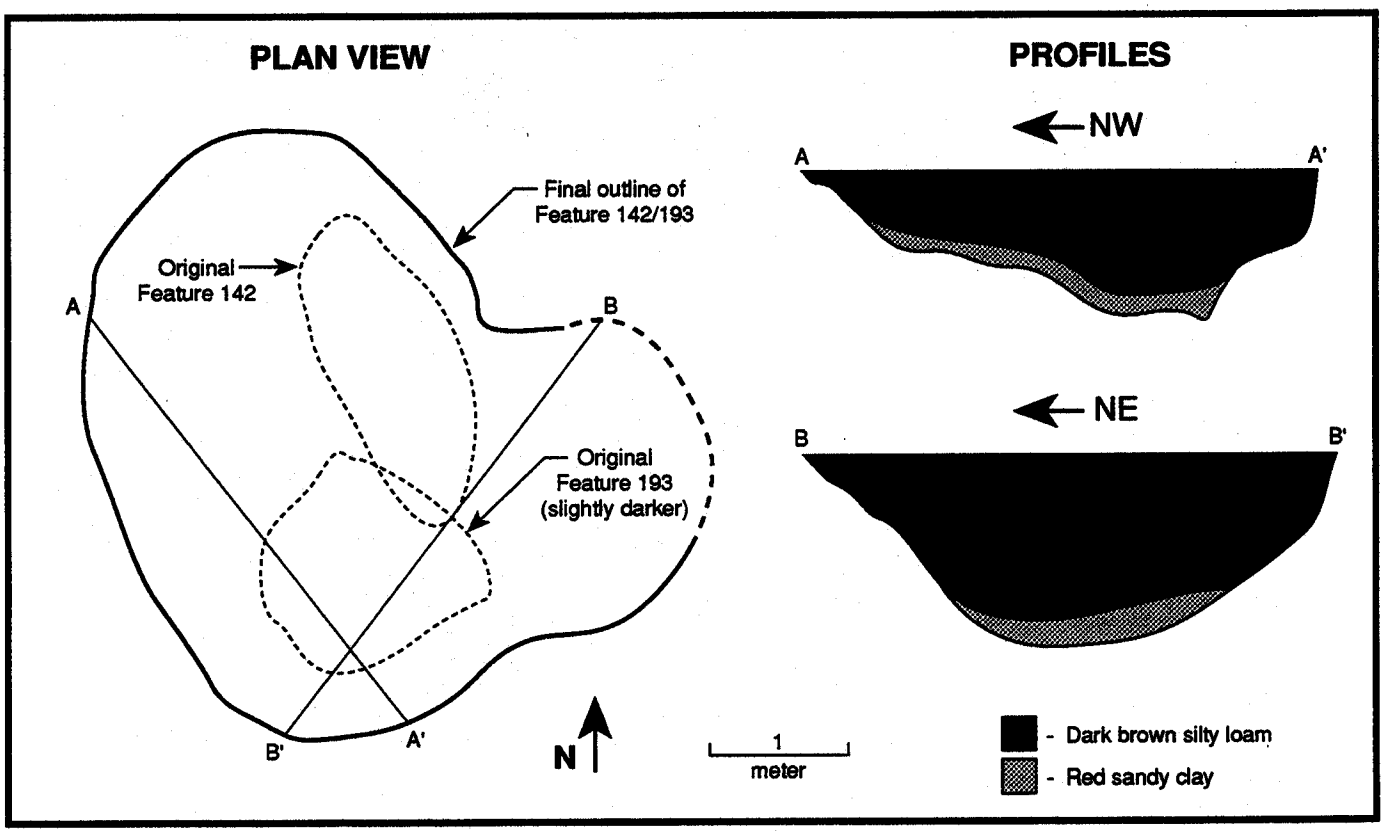
A total of six Type 2 and 2A features were identified at the Snapp Site (Table 5). Plotted distributions of the location of Type 2 features indicated a concentration in the southern half of the site area (Figure 38). The average diameter of Type 2 features at the Snapp Site was estimated to be 3.12 meters. Plate 19 shows the opening plan view of a typical Type 2 feature. The average maximum depth of these household structures was .84 meters below the stripped surface. No apparent trends in orientation of the deeper cellar hole areas of Type 2 features were observed at the site.

Feature 142/193 is one of the larger Type 2 features excavated at the Snapp Site. During opening plan view procedures, Feature 142 and Feature 193 were defined as two separate intersecting features (Figure 39). Both features appeared oval shaped and filled with a dark brown silty loam. Separation between the two features was based on observations of slightly darker soils in Feature 193 as compared to those in Feature 142.

At the onset of excavations of Feature 142, the actual boundary between Feature 142 and Feature 193 was difficult to define. To attempt to better define the limits of the two features, three arbitrary 10 centimeter levels (0-10 cm below surface, 10-20 cm b.s., and 20-30 cm b.s.) were removed consecutively from Feature 142 to monitor any soil changes. Significant quantities of steatite tempered sherds dating to ca. 1200 - 700 B.C., fire-cracked rock, and lithic flakes were recovered from the soils of these levels. At the bottom of Level 3, the soil became a red-brown sandy clay with some carbon flecking. However, the south wall profile of Feature 142 did not exhibit any soil changes between Feature 142 and Feature

FIGURE 39

Plan View and Profile of Feature 142/193 (Type 2)



193. Consequently, three arbitrary levels were removed from Feature 193. These soils yielded artifacts similar to those found in Feature 142, including a large steatite tempered sherd with a partial lug handle still attached (Plate 20). Because of the recovery of similar artifacts, especially similar ceramic sherds, and no apparent horizontal soil differences, Feature 142 and Feature 193 were concluded to be part of a single large feature (Feature 142/193).

As excavation of Feature 142/193 continued, the feature began to take on a Type 2 feature shape (Figure 39). The dark brown silty loam found in the first three levels of the feature continued in its southern half until the bottom of Level 10 (1 meter below surface). At the bottom of Level 10, the soil changed to the red brown sandy clay observed in the northern half of the feature. This soil was removed as a single level to a depth of 1.25 meters below surface. Complete excavation of Feature 142/193 resulted in a large triangular pit feature 4.30 meters long and 4.10 meters wide (Figure 39). Overall, the feature appeared to have a north-south orientation. Cross-section profiles of Feature 142/193 exhibit characteristics of Type 2 household structure features (Figure 39). The deeper southern portion of Feature 142/193 was concluded to be the remains of an internal cellar-hole, or Type 1 feature, which exhibited an east-west orientation. Lithic artifacts recovered from Feature 142/193 included 48 flakes without cortex, 28 flakes with cortex, three utilized flakes without cortex, two utilized flakes with cortex, one core with cortex, 49 kilograms of fire-cracked rock of varying sizes, and 15 large un-cracked river cobbles. A small sherd of Hell Island ceramic dating to ca. A.D. 600 - 1000 was also recovered in addition to the large quantities of steatite tempered ceramic sherds which date to ca. 1200 - 700 B.C.

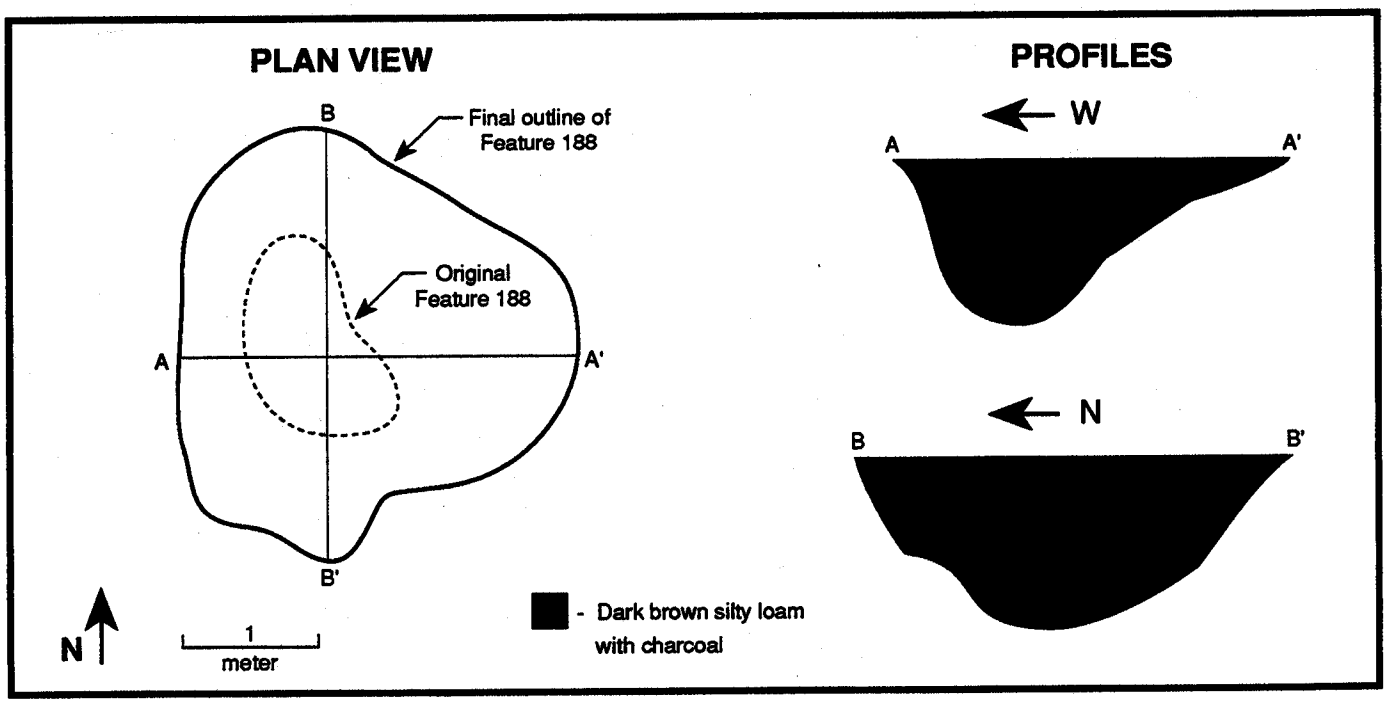
PLATE 20

Marcey Creek Ceramic Sherd In Situ - Feature 193

Feature 188, another Type 2 feature, was located in the southern half of the site area (Figure 38). In opening plan view, Feature 188 appeared more kidney shaped than the triangular shape of Type 2 features (Figure 40). The feature was bisected along its longer north-south axis and excavated in halves. No internal stratification of the feature soils was observed. The feature fill soils consisted of a highly organic very dark brown silty loam. Considerable mottling of the feature soils with pockets of heavily charcoal stained soils was observed during excavation of the feature. The final limits of Feature 188 were difficult to discern and definition of the walls of the feature was based on the extent of charcoal flecking in the soils along the peripheries of the feature. Completed excavation of Feature 188 resulted in a large triangular pit feature roughly 3.15 meters long along its north-south axis and roughly 2.93 meters wide along its east-west axis (Figure 40). The maximum depth of Feature 188 was in the western half of the feature and was recorded at 1.20 meters below surface. The walls of the feature consisted of a sterile orange brown sandy clay which decreased in clay content to join the sandier soils of the feature floor. Cross-section profile of the east-west axis reflects the gradually downward sloping wall, a rounded pit bottom, and a steeper opposing wall characteristic of Type 2 household structure features (Figure 40). The deeper portion of Feature 188 was determined to be the remains of a Type 1 cellar-hole

FIGURE 40

Plan View and Profile of Feature 188 (Type 2)



feature, within Feature 188. As apparent from its location in the western half of Feature 188, this cellar-hole was oriented in a north-south direction similar to the majority of Type 1 features found at the Snapp Site.

Artifacts recovered from Feature 188 included 31 flakes without cortex, 20 flakes with cortex, one rhyolite flake tool, one chert flake tool with cortex, one chert core with cortex, 28.01 kilograms of fire-cracked rock of varying sizes, and 20 large unfractured cobbles. One argillite stemmed point, one small quartz notched point, one sherd of Hell Island ceramic dating to ca. A.D. 600 - 1000, and one sherd of steatite tempered ceramic dating to ca. 1200 - 700 B.C. were also recovered from Feature 188.

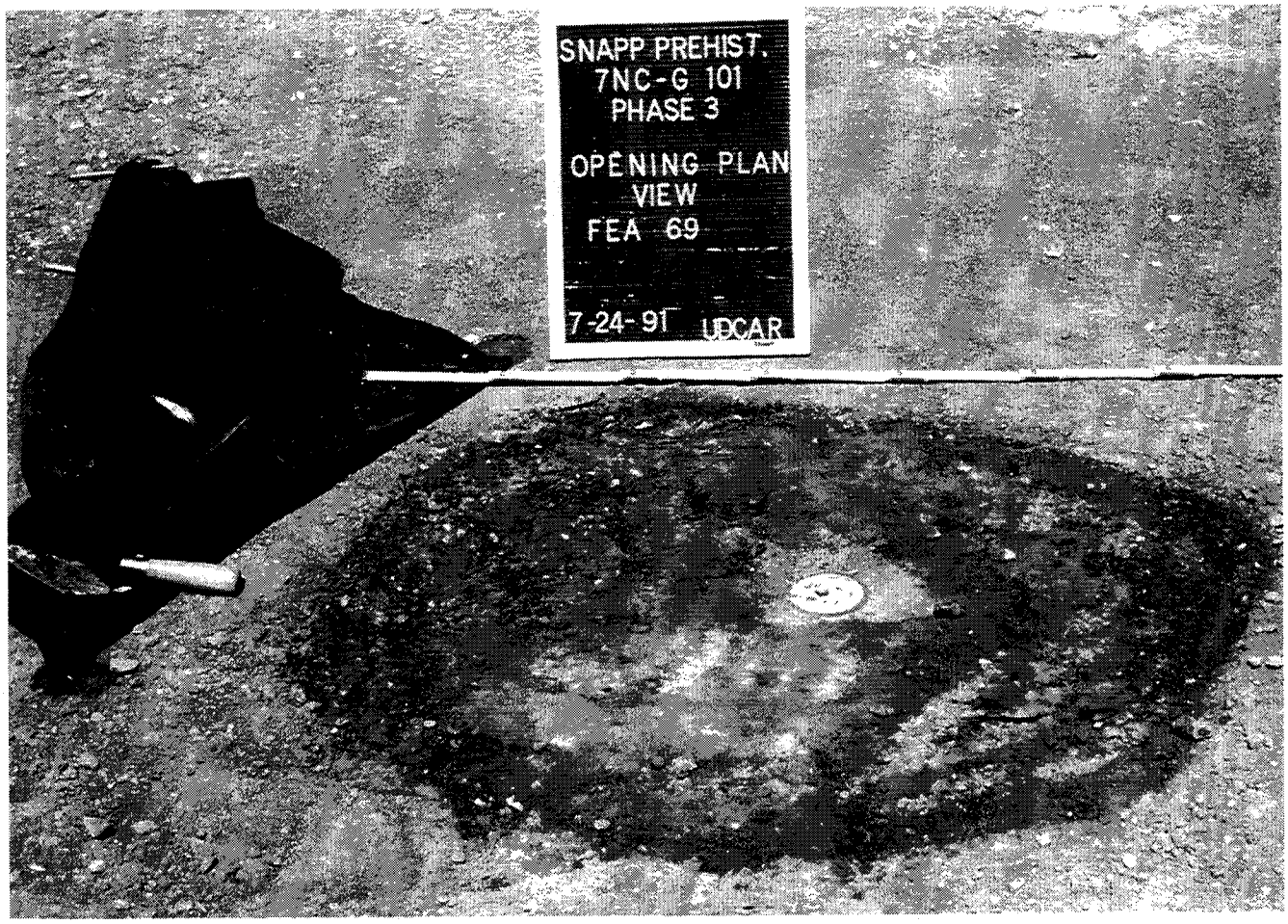
No Type 3 features were present at the Snapp Site.

A total of 34 Type 4 features were identified at the Snapp Site (Table 5). Plotted distributions of the locations of these features did not reveal any significant concentrations of these features across the site (Figure 41). The average diameter of Type 4 features at the site was estimated at 1.3 meters. The average depth of these circular depressions was estimated at .39 meters below surface. The majority of Type 4 features yielded no cultural material. Plate 21 shows the opening plan view of a typical Type 4 feature.

Feature 78 is a typical Type 4 feature and was identified as a small circular pit feature (Figure 42). The soil excavated from Feature 78 consisted of a medium brown clayey loam with some small gravels. Complete excavation of Feature 78 resulted in a shallow oval depression 2.25 meters long and 1.60 meters wide. The maximum depth of Feature 78 was recorded at .25 meters below the surface.

PLATE 21

Feature 69, Opening Plan View - Type 4 Feature



Cross-section profiles of the excavated feature were symmetrical and depict gently downward sloping walls and a rounded pit floor characteristic of Type 3/Type 4 features (Figure 42). Artifacts recovered from Feature 78 included seven lithic flakes without cortex, nine lithic flakes with cortex, one quartz early stage biface reject, one chert early stage biface reject, and one quartz stemmed point. A total of .792 kilograms of fire-cracked rock fragments of varying sizes were also recovered from Feature 78. Small sherds of steatite tempered ceramics dating to ca. 1200 - 700 B.C. were also recovered from Feature 78. The types of artifacts recovered from Feature 78 and the shape of the feature suggest that Feature 78 may have functioned as a small refuse pit.

Feature 132 was one of the larger and deeper Type 4 feature excavated at the Snapp Site. In opening plan view, Feature 132 appeared as a dark circular stain approximately 1.3 meters in diameter (Figure 43). Because of visible charcoal flecking, fire-cracked rock fragments, and two lithic flakes on the surface, this stain was concluded to be the remains of a cultural pit feature. Originally, the limits of Feature 132 were defined by the extent of a dark brown silty loam soil (Figure 43). Excavation of this soil in the south half of Feature 132 resulted in the partial exposure of a small pit feature roughly .25 meters deep. The natural walls and bottom of the excavated half consisted of a medium brown silty loam considerably lighter in shade than the removed soils. During troweling of the walls, charcoal staining and lithic flakes were observed in this lighter soil. Further excavation of the south half of

FIGURE 42

Plan View and Profile of Feature 78 (Type 4)

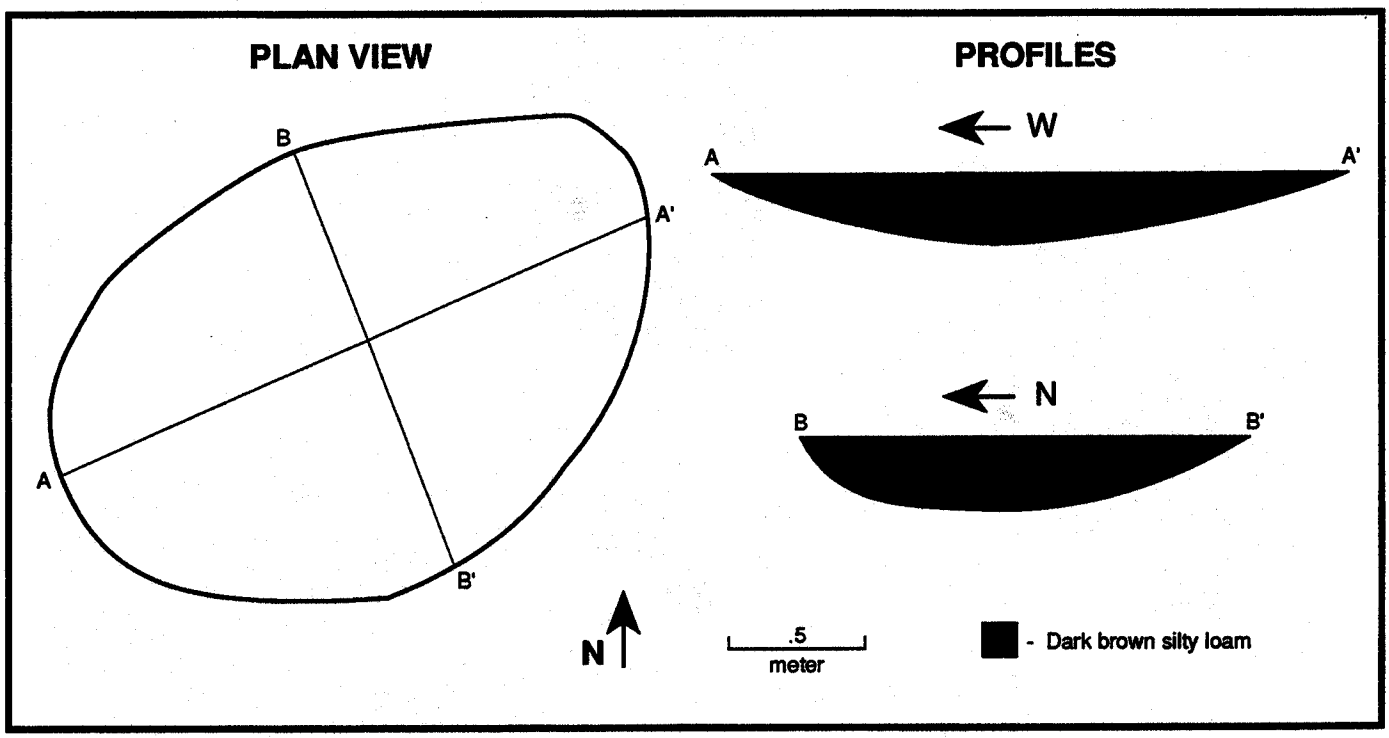
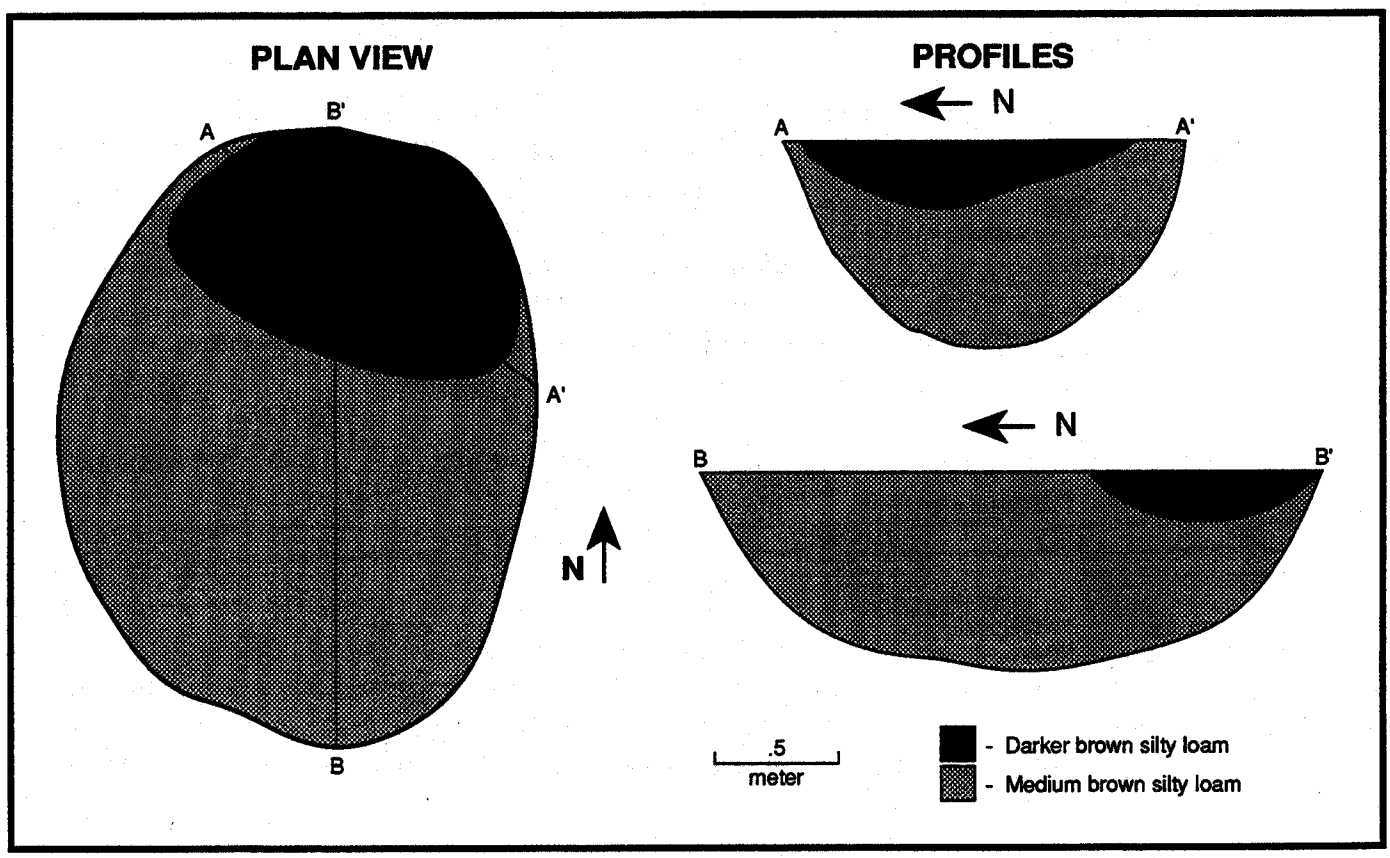


FIGURE 43

Plan View and Profile of Feature 132 (Type 4)



Feature 132 enlarged the feature and the final boundaries of Feature 132 were defined based on a soil change from the medium brown silty loam to a red clayey sand. Examination of the cross-section profile of Feature 132 revealed the extent of the dark soil within the feature fill (Figure 43). Excavation of the north half of Feature 132 was conducted in a similar manner. The two differing soils were excavated and screened separately. Complete excavation of Feature 132 resulted in a deep oval pit 2.50 meters along its north-south axis and 1.80 meters wide along its east-west axis. The maximum depth of this round bottomed pit feature was recorded at .80 meters below the stripped surface of the site. The final cross-section profile of Feature 132 is shown in Figure 43. Irregular artifact distributions were also observed during excavations of Feature 132. The majority of the 2.397 kilograms of fire-cracked rock fragments were recovered from the dark brown silty loam soils of the feature. All fire-cracked rock fragments were smaller than 10 centimeters in diameter. Unlike the fire-cracked rock, the majority of the 80 flakes, predominately quartz, were recovered from the lighter medium brown silty loam soils. Feature 132 was concluded to be two Type 4 features with one feature intruding into another feature. The presence of charcoal staining and abundance of fire-cracked rock suggest that the upper Type 4 pit may have functioned as a small hearth pit. The lack of fire-cracked rock, size, and presence of lithic flakes suggests that the lower larger Type 4 pit may have functioned as a refuse pit.

No Type 5 features were identified at the Snapp Site.

A total of 20 complete Type 6 features were excavated at the Snapp Site (Table 5). The average diameter of Type 6 features was 3.6 meters and ranged from 2.45 meters to 6.00 meters in diameter. The average maximum depth of Type 6 features at the site was .7 meters below the stripped surface and ranged from .4 meters to 1.6 meters deep. Although Type 6 features were found throughout the stripped area of the cultivated field, plotted distributions of the locations of Type 6 features indicate a general tendency of these features to be located in the southern half of the site (Figure 44).

Type 6 features have a complex morphology and have only been identified at the Snapp Site. In general, these features can have four distinct opening plan views (Figure 45). Plates 22 - 25 show photographs of some of these varied opening plan views. Regardless of their opening plan views, Type 6 features display other distinctive characteristics which warrant their definition in a special feature designation.

In plan view, a Type 6 feature consists of two distinct soils that differ from one another and the surrounding sterile subsoil. The first soil (Figure 26A) comprises the crescent, horseshoe, or "O"-shaped stains of the plan view (Figure 45; Plates 22-25) and usually consisted of a dark gray silty loam. The second soil is the inner core of the feature (Figure 26A) and consists of compacted, hard, coarse orange sands with clays and gravels. Excavation of the outer portions of Type 6 features yields trough-like pits that vary little from their opening plan views (Figure 26B). The profiles of the troughs are symmetrical and the bottoms of the troughs are rounded. When completely excavated, Type 6 features generally have a projection, or hump, in the center of their floors (Plate 26). Two examples of Type 6 features are described below and a detailed examination of the possible function of these features is presented later in this report.

During opening plan view procedures, Feature 207A and Feature 207B were identified as two parts of a Type 6 feature (Figure 46). The soil between the two stains consisted of a dark brown orange clayey sandy soil. The soils within Features 207A and 207B appeared to consist of a dark gray-medium brown silty clay with some charcoal flecking.