

## CURRENT RESEARCH

### Introduction

The goal of the present research at the Wilson-Slack site was to gather sufficient data to determine the eligibility of the site for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Research was thus directed to defining the limits of the site and to the determination of the contextual integrity of the site. In order to satisfy these Phase II requirements, archaeological testing was accomplished through: 1) a systematic sampling scheme utilizing shovel/postholer units excavated at 10 foot intervals, 2) excavation of test units adjacent to the site's main house and extant and non-extant outbuildings, and 3) the complete excavation of features located by the shovel/postholer tests by measured units. A mechanical backhoe was employed to facilitate the removal of mid-20th century fill deposits and as a final step in the testing of all yard areas for the presence of intact features.

This section of the report will detail the results of the archaeological excavations at the Wilson-Slack site. Prior to the presentation of these results and their interpretation, general comments will be made concerning the site description, site content, and site structure. Methods used in artifact description and analysis will also be noted.

### **Areas with No Relevant Cultural Material**

The preliminary Phase I/II excavation at the site had provided little information on the distribution of artifacts from the domestic area of the site. Therefore, the present Phase II research was responsible for examining approximately 75% of the site's area. Within this area, earthmoving activity prior to the present 1983 research, but post-1981, had significantly disturbed 25% of this total area. The limits of this disturbance were clearly defined on the ground surface and are shown on Figure 12. Fortunately, this area had been previously examined in the Phase I work through the excavation of strata cuts placed along the western and southern boundaries of this area. The results of this excavation revealed a 12 to 18 inch accumulation of undisturbed, but essentially sterile, topsoil. Therefore, the data loss, while not totally known, was judged to be not significant to the overall content of the site. Otherwise, the limits of completely disturbed soils located through the preliminary testing were avoided by the Phase II research. The main area of this disturbance was north of a well-defined boundary separating plowed from non-plowed soils in the northwestern section of the site (Figure 12).

### **Site Description and Structure**

The boundaries of the Wilson-Slack Agricultural Works were completely defined by the present work. The southern boundary was represented by present day Route 4 (Chestnut Hill Road), the western by the Conrail railroad tracks, the eastern boundary by a small drainage culvert running north-south from an area in the northeastern section of the site, and the northern by the previously mentioned line separating plowed from non-plowed soils. The total area within the site was 87,120 square feet, or 2.0 acres. The proposed National Register site boundaries would include approximately 52,272 square feet or 1.2 acres.

Previous historic research has determined that the site had not been disturbed by previous road widening. In fact, a realignment had acted to add previous roadway right-of-way back to the site's property. Approximately 100% of the proposed Wilson-Slack site will be affected by the presently planned road widening. Within this area the limits and content of the site were extensively tested by a total of 34 excavation units and 333 shovel/postholer tests.

At the time of the initiation of the final testing, the site was completely covered by grass or trees and shrubs precluding surface reconnaissance for the determination of artifact distribution. A walkover prior to excavation did reveal the presence of several structural foundations known through informants to be the former site of a chickenhouse, a storage barn, and the 20th century privy (Figure 12).

### **Stratigraphy**

The previous Phase I/II excavations had shown the Wilson-Slack site to be composed of several different stratigraphic sequences. Behind (north of) the extant outbuildings a buried topsoil horizon was present 12 to 24 inches below the present ground surface (Figure 13). Farther to the west, and north of the rear yard area only a 4 to 6 inch plowzone remained. Other shallow, but well stratified deposits were encountered south of the agricultural works shop. To the east of the shop the deposits were both shallow and unstratified. In this area was located the grist mill machine shop foundations. The stratigraphy of the east and rear (north) yard areas was thought to be very shallow, but this was based on very limited testing.

The results of the final Phase II research showed the yard area stratigraphy to be much thicker and better preserved than originally thought. To better interpret the stratigraphic results of the research, one east-west profile and one north-south profile were prepared (Figures 14 and 15). The east-west profile

Figure 13: **DEPTHS OF BURIED TOPSOIL**  
(in feet below surface)

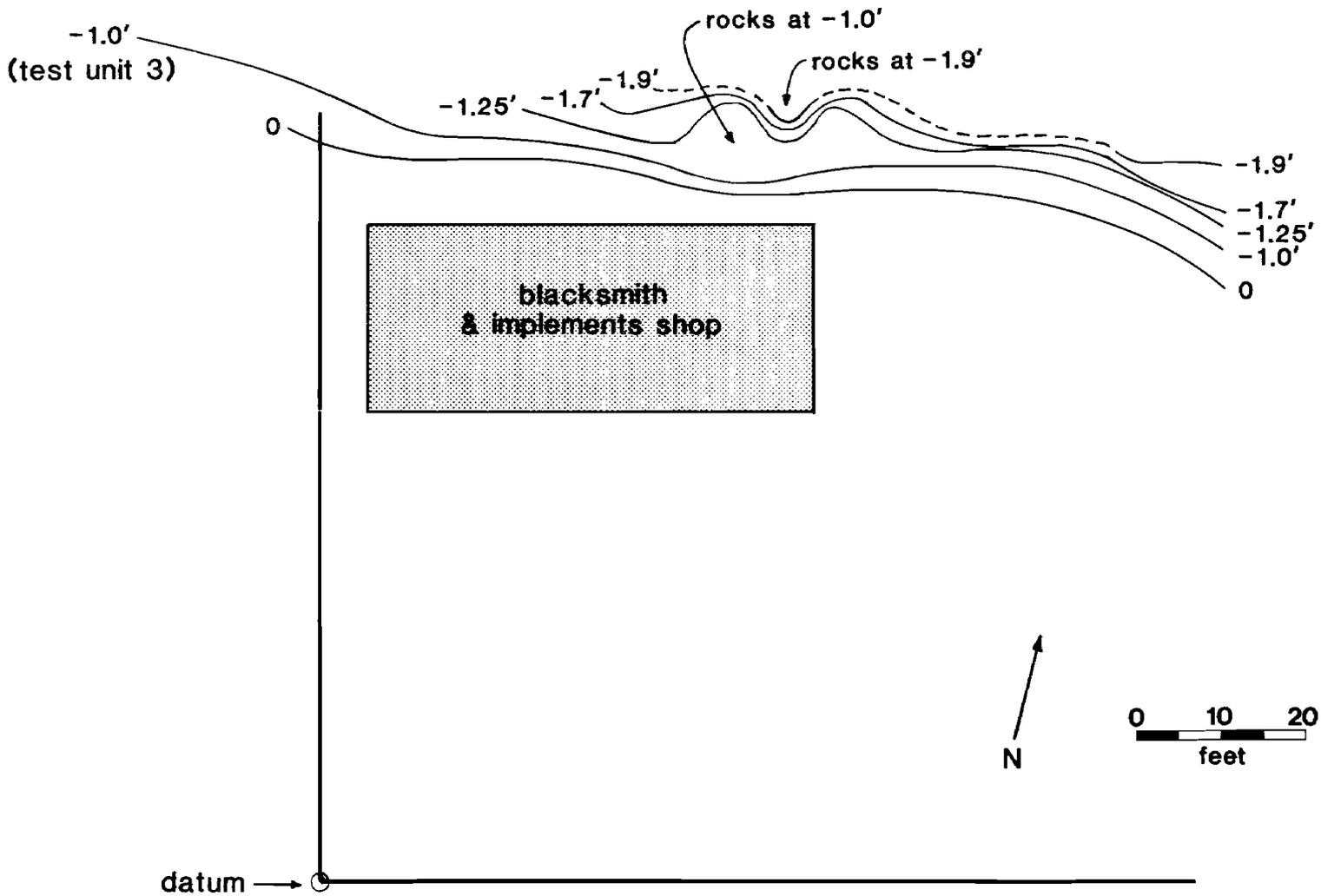


Figure 14: **EAST-WEST STRATIGRAPHIC PROFILE**

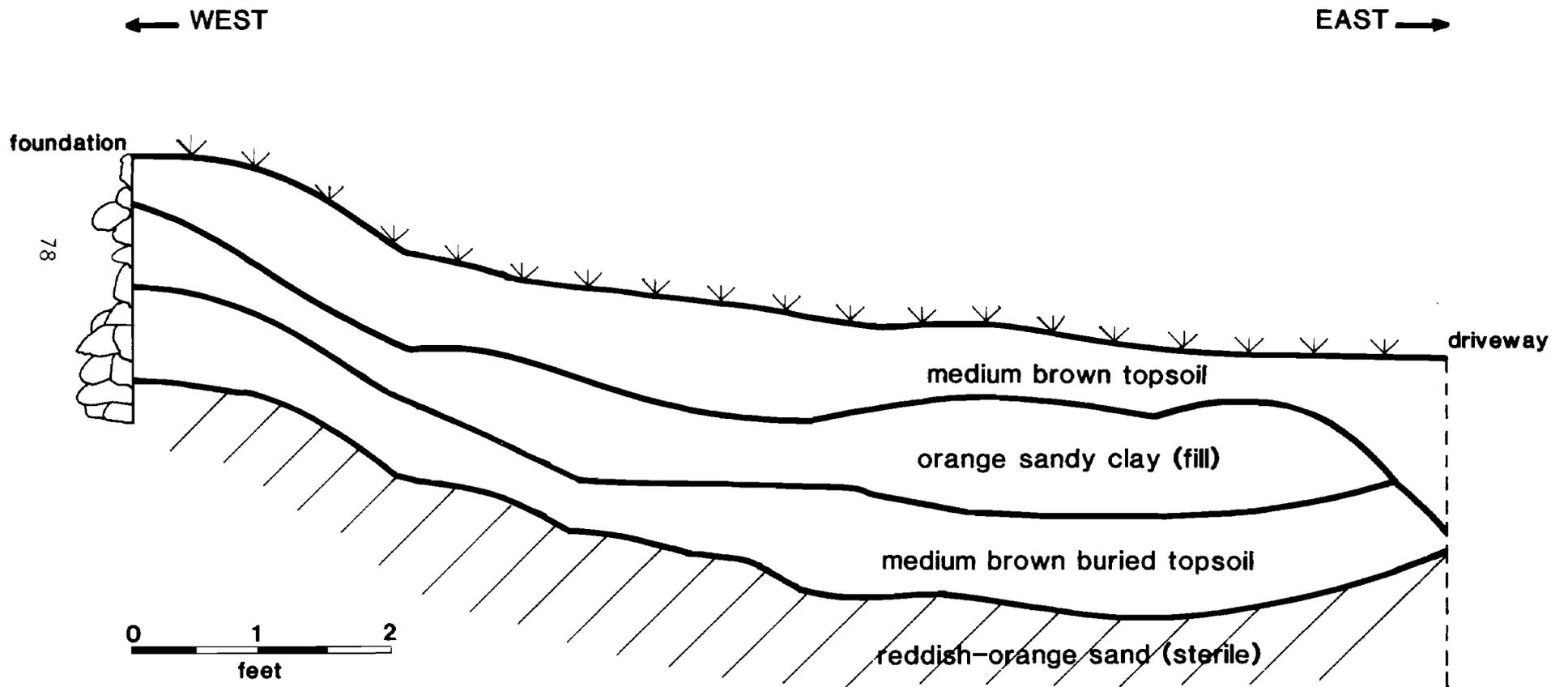
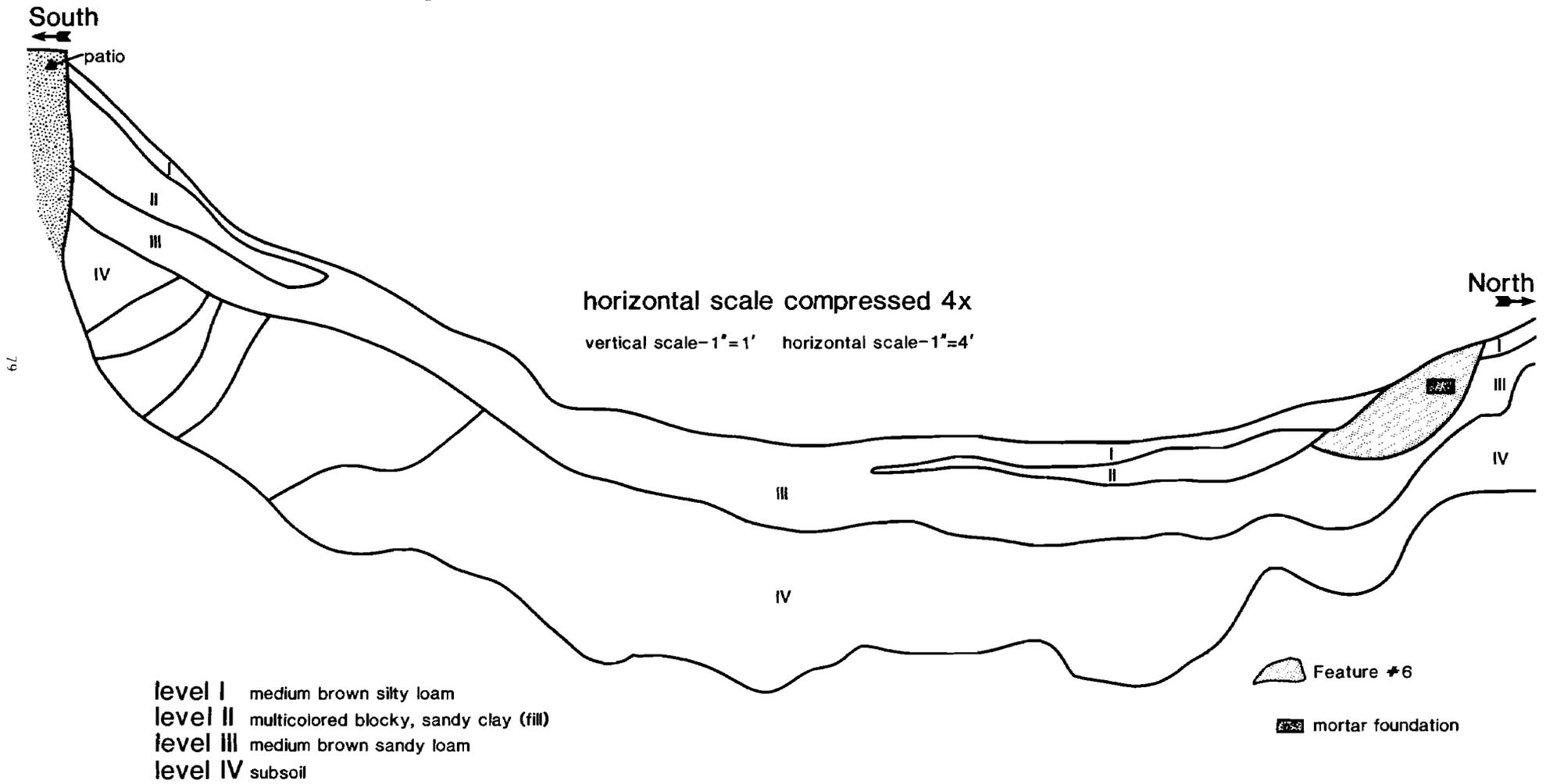


Figure 15: NORTH-SOUTH STRATIGRAPHIC PROFILE



derived from the 2ON line and located in the east yard areas clearly delineated the buried topsoil horizon present throughout the yard. Above this was a layer of compact orange clay fill that increased in thickness from west to east. A relatively deep topsoil layer had formed since this filling episode. A textural difference distinguished the two topsoils; the original was sandy loam while the present topsoil was silty loam. This sequence was partially interrupted in the area of ornamental plantings, the driveway, and by 20th century construction around the main house. This yard had been used as the family vegetable garden during 1932 (Clifford Slack personal communication). The fill had been placed by Mr. Norman Slack in ca. 1950 derived from an unknown source area and contained no artifacts.

The north-south profile (Figure 15) located in the north yard area, showed a similar stratigraphy, but with much less depth of filling. In the northern section no filling was present. The yard area was rimmed by an approximately one foot high berm composed of very fine (windblown) silt. It is thought that these soils were deposited in and around a then existing hedge row. The stratigraphy of the remainder of this yard area was not nearly as homogeneous as that of the east yard and it was evident that the north yard had been the site of considerable cultural activity. The detailed stratigraphy of this area will be discussed through examination of the test unit results in the following section. It must be noted that a major component which added to the more complex stratigraphy was the inclusion of thick coal and coal ash deposits.

In sum, the 19th and early 20th Century stratigraphy of the Wilson-Slack site suggests a house site situated on the edge of a natural rise, with the ground surface sloping sharply downward to the east and less so to the north of the house. A low area existed in the east yard areas and it is known from archival research that a swampy area existed behind the machine shop. In the mid-twentieth century the site was partially leveled through the application of fill, especially in the east yard area and behind the machine shop where the swamp was completely filled in.

## Soil Analysis

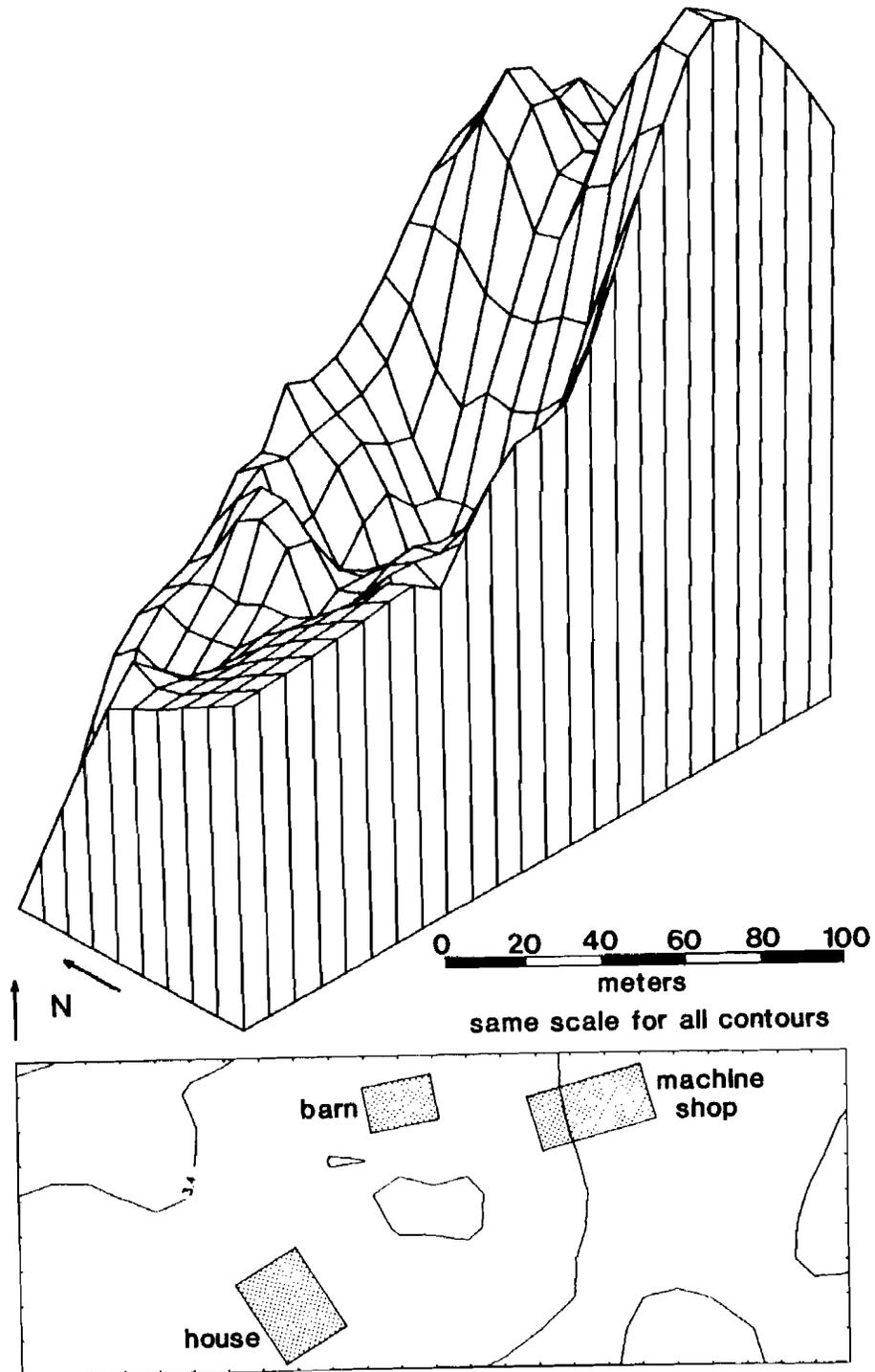
Previous analyses of soils on historic sites have used soils analysis as a means to further substantiate the patterning determined from artifact studies. The results of these analyses have been based on inference rather than on a more structured hypothesis testing. In most instances this inductive reasoning seems to have resulted from a lack of information on yard usage and general site inter-relationships. At the Wilson-Slack site, detailed historic documentation allowed the development of hypotheses and test implications involving the prediction of the distribution of soils chemical patterning at the site. To study this a series of distribution maps (Figures 16-20) were constructed by plotting the concentrations of calcium, magnesium, potassium, phosphate, and also the ph for 333 soil samples obtained from shovel/postholer tests (Figure 12).

Each of the chemicals plotted are informative of past processes acting on the archaeological record. Relatively high levels of phosphate are known to be derived from the deposition of organic wastes through purposeful manuring or due to the presence of an area where animals were confined either by fences or by a structure. Elevated concentrations of potassium are derived from the deposition of wood ash through surface burning or by the dumping of fireplace or stove ash. Calcium concentrations result from agricultural liming, the deposition of oyster shells, or the existence of building materials such as mortar or cement. Magnesium concentrations are affected by most of the processes controlling calcium concentrations and magnesium is especially elevated if dolomitic limestone had been applied. With the ph of a soil sample, readings greater than 7.0 indicate alkaline soils and less than 7.0 indicate acidic soils. Delaware soils are naturally acidic, and readings above 6.0 indicate agricultural liming.

At the Wilson-Slack site certain areas were expected to produce distributions of chemicals characteristic of yard functions known through historic research.

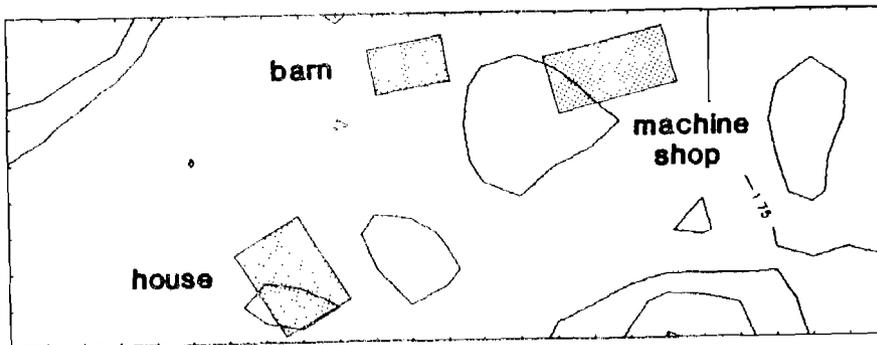
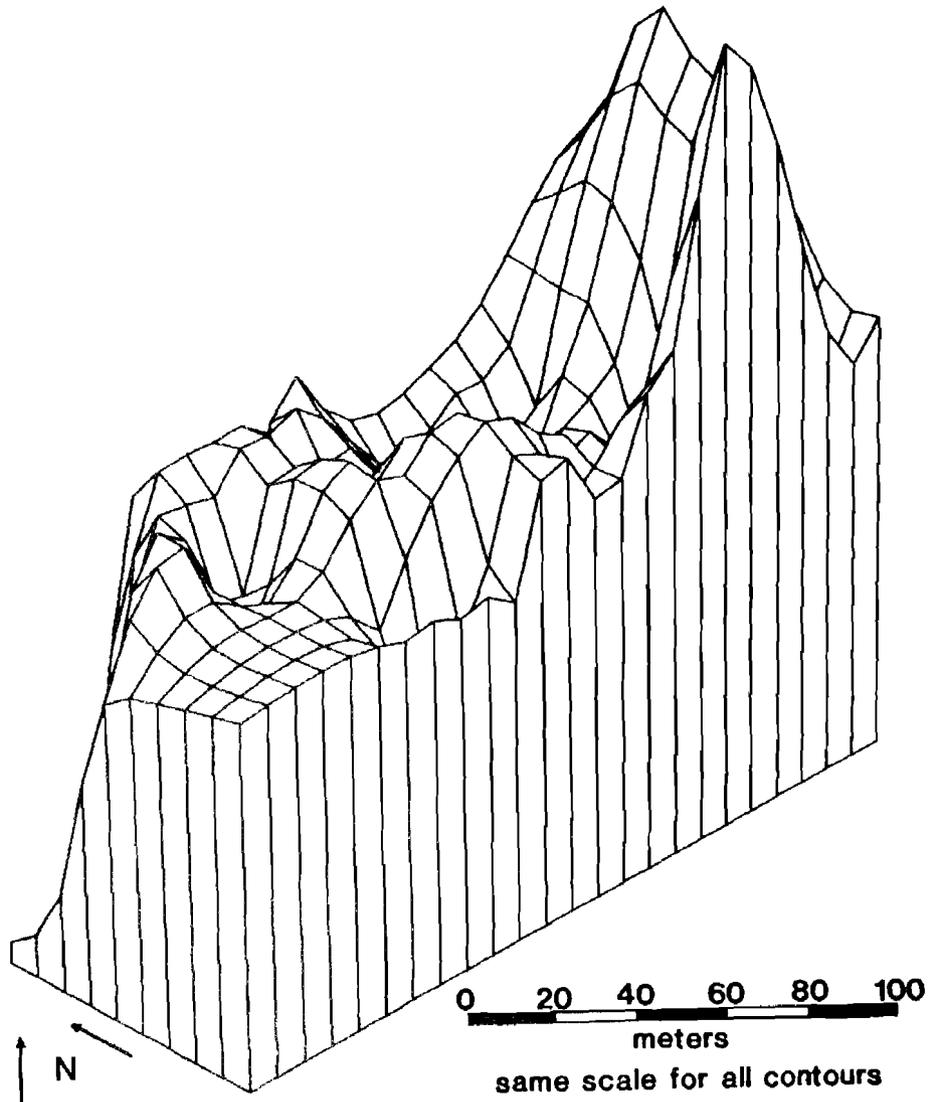
# Figure 16: SOILS pH DISTRIBUTION

CONTOUR IS pH INDEX, NOT EXACT pH



# Figure 17: SOILS CALCIUM DISTRIBUTION

CONTOUR IS CALCIUM INDEX



# Figure 18: SOILS MAGNESIUM DISTRIBUTION

CONTOUR IS MAGNESIUM INDEX

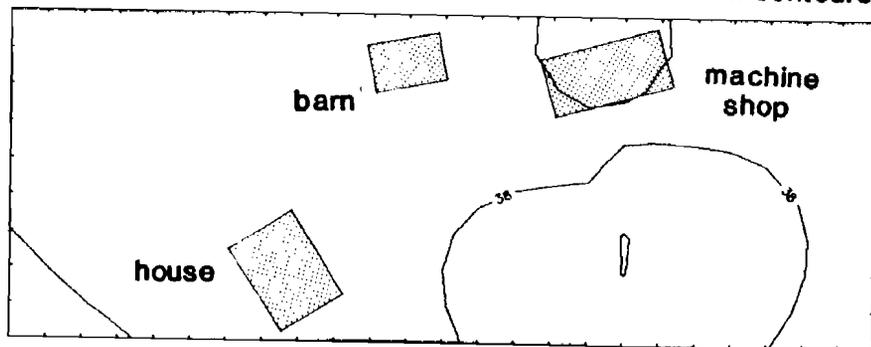
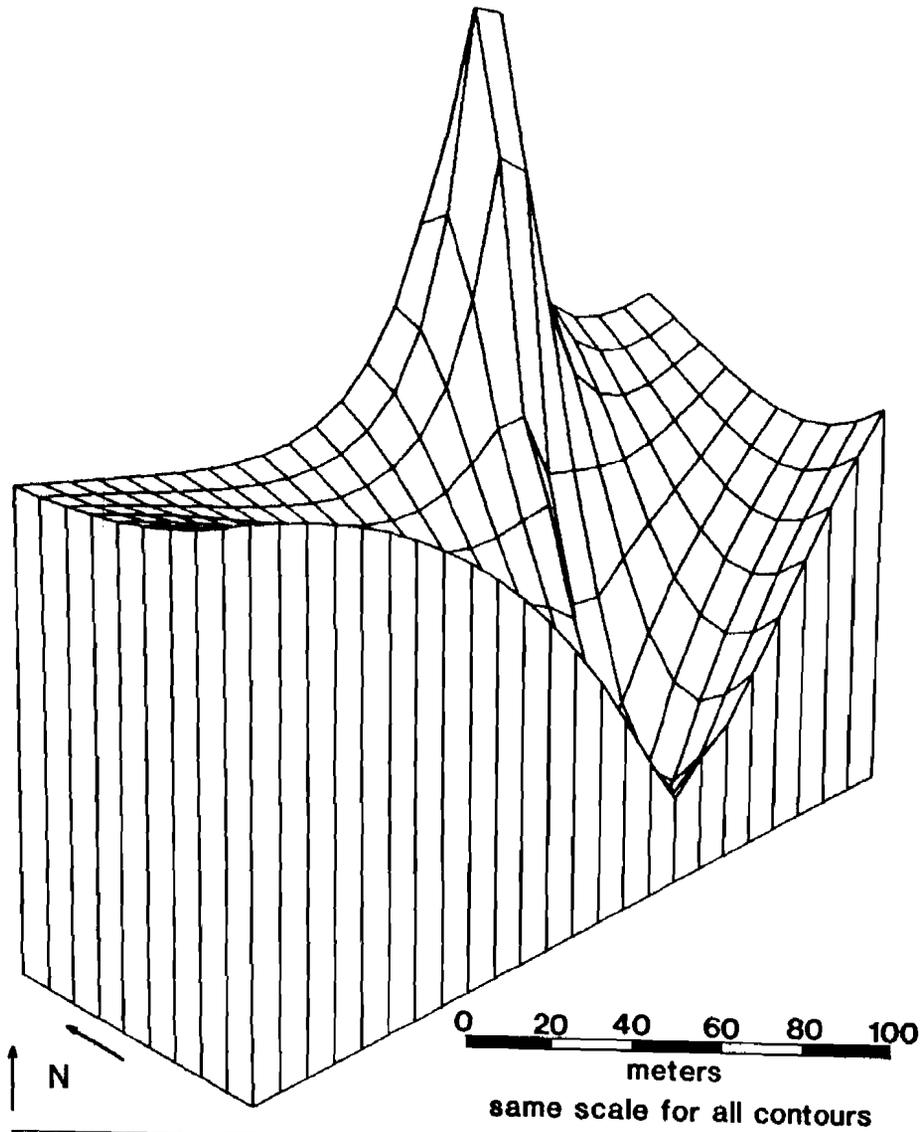
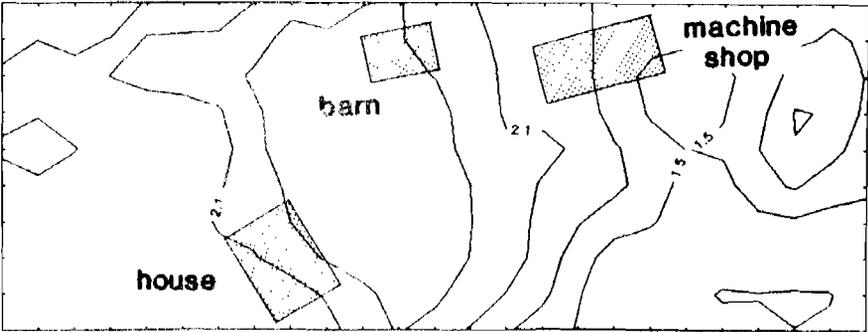
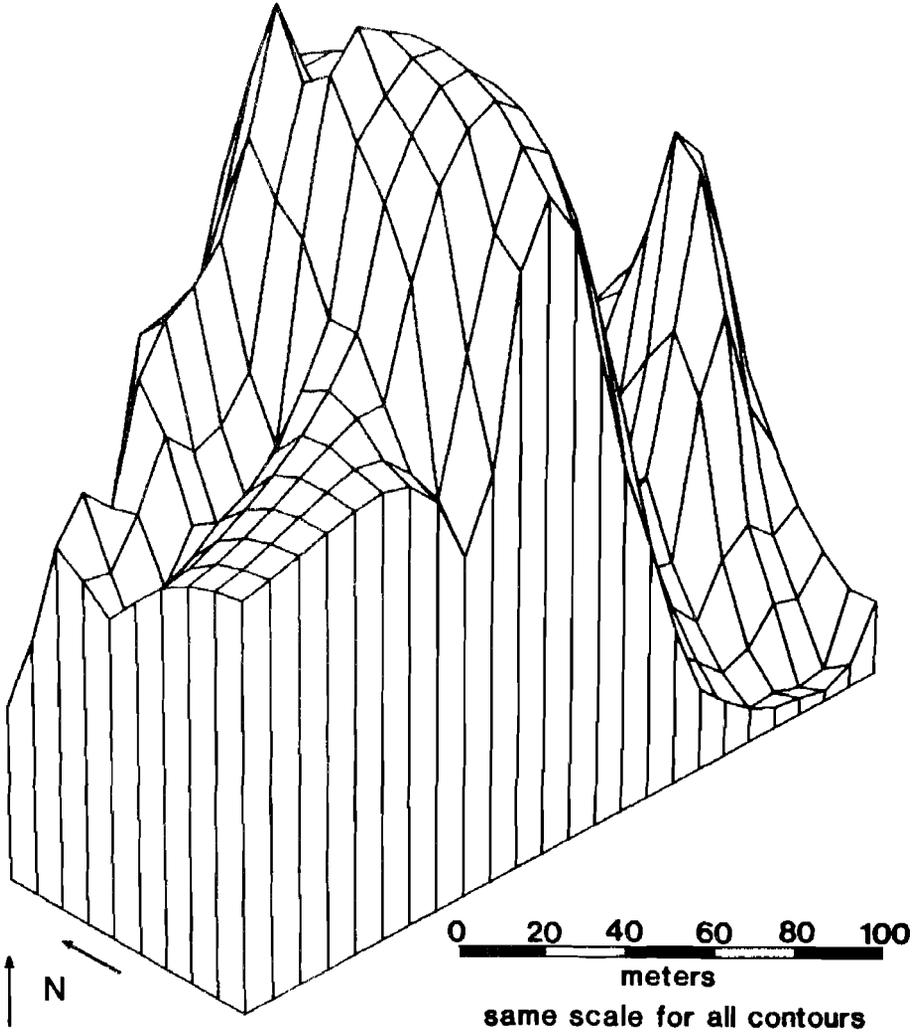


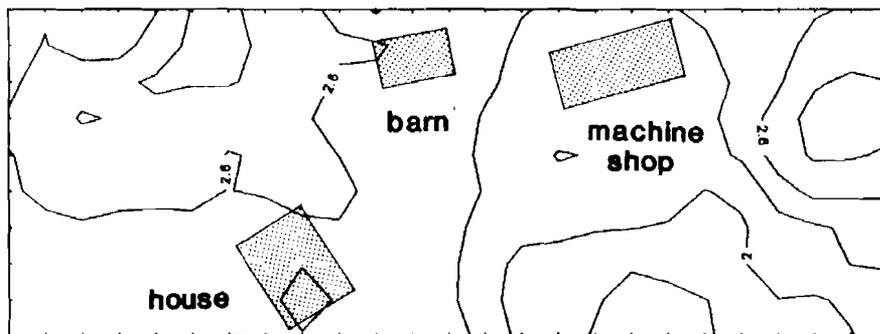
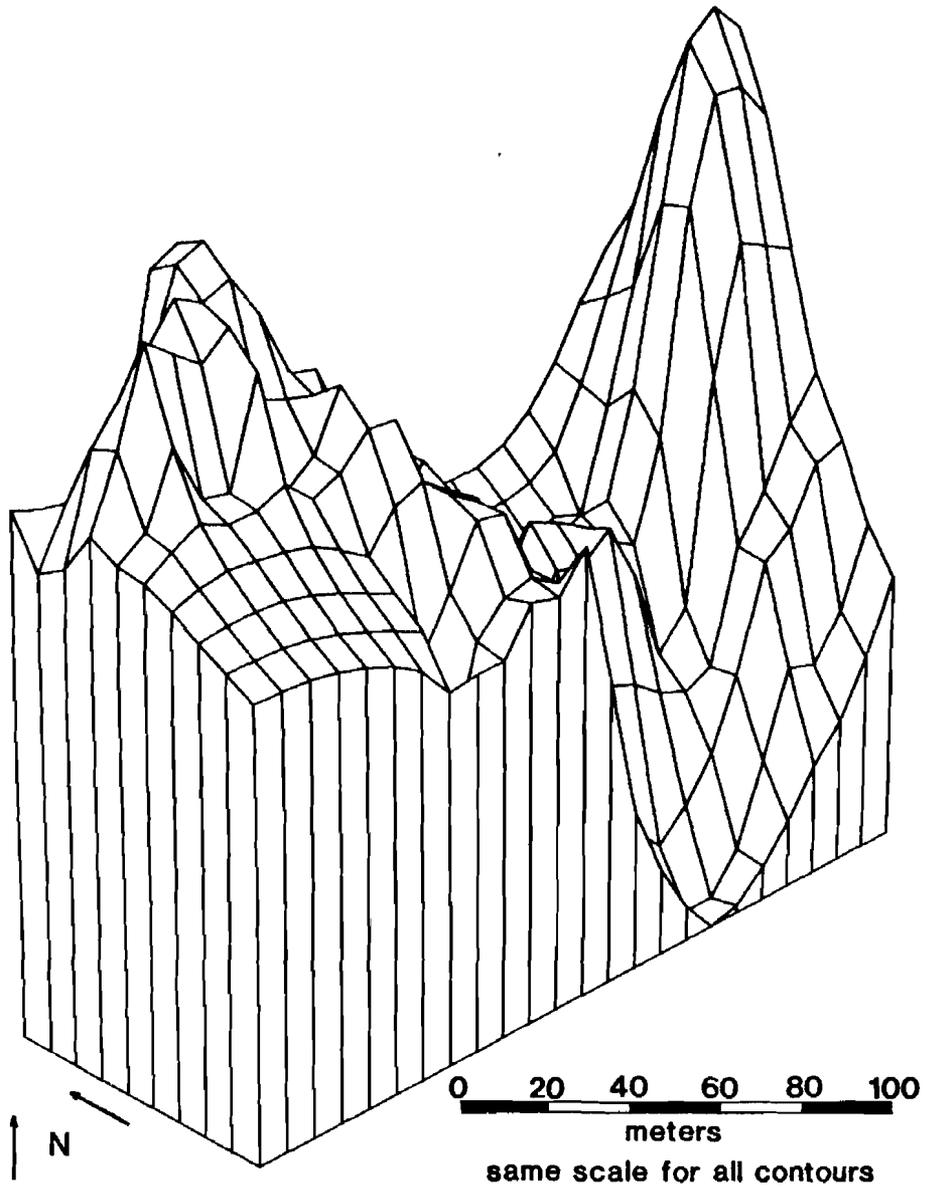
Figure 19: **SOILS PHOSPHORUS DISTRIBUTION**

CONTOUR IS PHOSPHORUS INDEX



# Figure 20: SOILS POTASSIUM DISTRIBUTION

CONTOUR IS POTASSIUM INDEX



Within the north yard area a division of the agricultural area from the domestic area should be present, reflected in a difference in phosphate values. The area of the site that was used for manufacturing and blacksmithing should have an unknown, but characteristic signature. It was expected that this would most likely be reflected in increased potassium levels. The garden area in the east yard area and the agricultural fields surrounding the north yard area should be differentiated by their calcium and/or magnesium levels.

To make further use of the soils data, the patterning of soil chemical concentrations was examined to study the correlation with the observed artifact distribution. It was suggested that the spatial chronological variation identified by diagnostic artifact types might co-vary with one or more of the soils chemical distribution. Discussion of these correlations will be provided in the later discussion of intra-site patterning.

### **Artifact Description and Analysis**

All excavated artifacts were washed and cataloged in accordance with procedures developed by the State of Delaware's Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the staff of the Island Field Museum. The analysis of artifacts during cataloging provided information designed to assist in the determination of the eligibility of the site for listing on the National Register. Both chronological and functional information was recorded for all excavated artifacts. Because of the extensive rather than intensive nature of these excavations, the samples of archaeological material from any area was small. While artifacts representing the entire occupation of the site were located from within the domestic area, the sample from any time period was very limited. Within the industrial area a majority of the artifacts recovered were badly oxidized metal fragments whose functional or temporal identification was impossible. For a large percentage of these artifacts the objective of cataloging was graphical

description. Further research on these metal objects was not undertaken as it was assumed that they were the waste products of manufacturing and would not have been listed in artifact reference sources.

In order to determine the site's limits and contextual integrity, the cataloged artifacts were employed in an intra-site artifact analysis. Their distributional characteristics were analyzed through the use of artifact density distribution maps employing counts from the shovel/postholer tests. This analysis provided information needed to identify the site's boundaries and the main activity areas. The contextual integrity of the site was determined mainly through examination of artifacts obtained from the measured excavation units. Ceramic and glass in particular were chronologically typed and this data was compared to the stratigraphy for the determination of disturbance levels and context.

Only limited inter-site artifact analyses were possible with this data base. The sample was not large enough to make worthwhile the categorization into the classes and groups noted by South (1977) previously employed for comparative purposes. However, subjective comparison with other sites in the Route 4 Corridor was possible. The results of the artifact description and analysis are presented in Appendix VI, which lists the provenience numbers for the excavated units, and in Appendix VII which gives a complete artifact inventory and total artifact counts for the site.

### **Excavation Unit and Feature Description and Interpretation**

For the purpose of discussion of the archaeological findings, the Wilson-Slack site was divided into an industrial and a domestic area based on the arrangement of standing structures. The excavation unit results were summarized and information related to questions of site limits and integrity was included. In addition, the discussion will focus on identifying the function and formation date of all features located and on interpreting their place within the cultural patterning of the site.

The following discussion will thus remain brief through the use of graphic and photographic representations of plan views and profiles of the excavation units. Descriptive emphasis was placed on: 1) determining the integrity of all levels and features, 2) determining the variety of the archaeological material, 3) assessing the variation of the quantity of artifacts recovered from various units, and 4) developing a culturally relevant summary of depositional processes operating at the site through time. To provide a comprehensive study of the site, the preliminary Phase I/II data was combined with that obtained from the final Phase II excavations.

A total of 9 features were exposed during the data recovery excavations at the Wilson-Slack site. Each feature mentioned below in the unit description is listed in Table 12 and Figure 12 shows their location.

Test units 18 through 22, and 27 were placed adjacent to or within previously identified structures at the site. Test units 18 and 19 were located to archaeologically date the construction of the main block and the rear addition of the residence. These units were also located to retrieve the greatest frequency of artifacts, assumed from previous excavations to be adjacent and peripheral to door passages and window openings. The excavation results of Unit 18 identified an area of intensive midden deposition adjacent to the doorway opening into the basement cooking area. At the bottom of the excavation unit were located a cluster of three pipe trenches labeled collectively as Feature 1 (Table 12, Figure 12). The bottom of the deepest trench, #3, was 3.0' below the ground surface. Above the trenches the soils yielded a high density of bone refuse (Appendix VIII) intermixed with artifacts diagnostic of both the 19th and 20th centuries, which confirmed the disturbance. An original ground surface dating to the mid-late 19th century was identified approximately 1.0' below the present surface (Figure 21). The features were found to originate at different levels: #1 at the present ground surface, #2 at

**TABLE 12**  
**FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS**

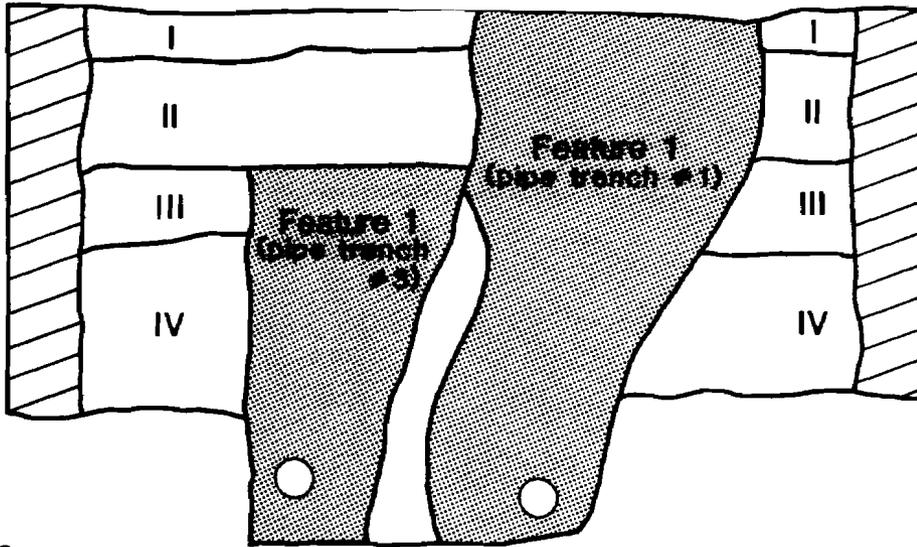
No.	Location	Dimensions	Description	Terminus Post Quem	Interpretation
1	Test Unit 18	Trench #1 - .8' x 3.4' Thickness 2.5' Depth. 0 - 2.5 Trench #2 - 1.2 x 5.0 Thickness 1.5' Depth. 1.1' - 2.6' Trench #3 1.0 x 5.0 Thickness - 2.0' Depth - 8' - 2.8'	Three Trenches Containing Pipes #1. Trending NW-SW #2. Trending N-S #3. Trending E-W	1 CA. 1920 2 CA. 1880	Trench 1 - Crosscuts both 2 & 3 - Most Recent Trench 2 - First emplaced - cut off by digging of #3. Trench 3 - Second in sequence of placement All pipes used for bringing water into the house
2	Test Unit 19	8' x 5.0' Thickness - .6' Depth. 9' - 1.5'	Faint Soil Stain containing mortar, cobbles, redware & glass	CA. 1870	Builder's Trench used in construction of rear addition.
3	Test Unit 20	2.2' x .7' Thickness 2.9 Depth 1.0' - 2.9'	Irregularly shaped dark soil stain adjacent to foundation. Contains large ceramic fragments	Gaudy White- ware CA. 1920	Trench excavated out during renovation of foundation.
4	Test Unit 24	.80' in Diameter Thickness 2.10 Depth 1.30 - 3.40	Approximately circular soil stain in plan view, barrel shape in profile w/flat bottom. Filled with alternating soil and ash layers	1920	Trash Pit

TABLE 12 (con't.)  
FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

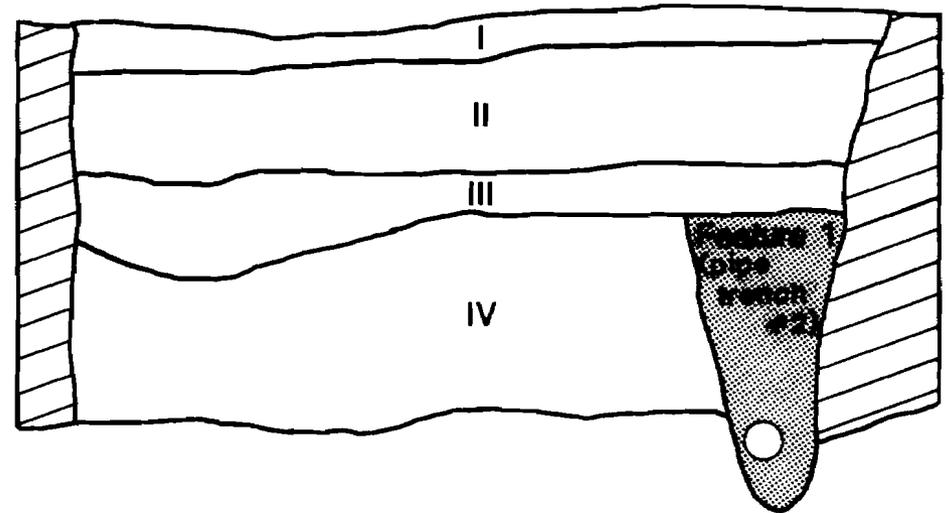
No.	Location	Dimensions	Description	Terminus Post Quem	Interpretation
5	Test Unit 25	#1 Hole-1.3 in Diameter Mold - .5' Square Thickness - .48' Depth - 1.77 - 2.25 #2 Hole 2.6 in Diameter Mold - .7' Triangular Thickness 1.90' Depth 1.80 - 3.70	Two postholes, & molds, both originating at bottom of buried topsoil	CA. 1870	Part of MID - 19th century fence system.
6	Test Unit 29	2.2 E-W 2.1 N-S Thickness 1.4' Depth. 5' - 1.9'	Roughly Circular shaped soil stain containing architectural debris & large artifacts deposit thickens to west	CA. 1930	Previously existing midden deposit buried by Mid-20th century burning of shed structure
7	Test Units 31 & 32	Privy fill - 2.6' E-WX 1.9' N-S Thickness - 1.80' Depth 1.40' - 3.20	Amorphouse - shaped gray soil stain enclosed within rock and brick piers	CA. 1860-1920	Mixed deposition of privy fill.
8	Test 32,33	.7' N-S x 7.5 E-W Thickness - .5' Depth 1.50' - 2.00	East-West Trending trench filled with med. brown topsoil. Well defined at bottom & filled with pebbles	CA. 1840	Mid-late 19th century midden adjacent to privy/granary.
9	Test Unit 33	Hole 1.4' Square Mold .6' in Diameter Thickness- 1.0' Depth - 1.05 - 2.05	Posthole & Postmold		Part of fencing system related to livestock penning.

Figure 21: **UNIT 18 PROFILES**

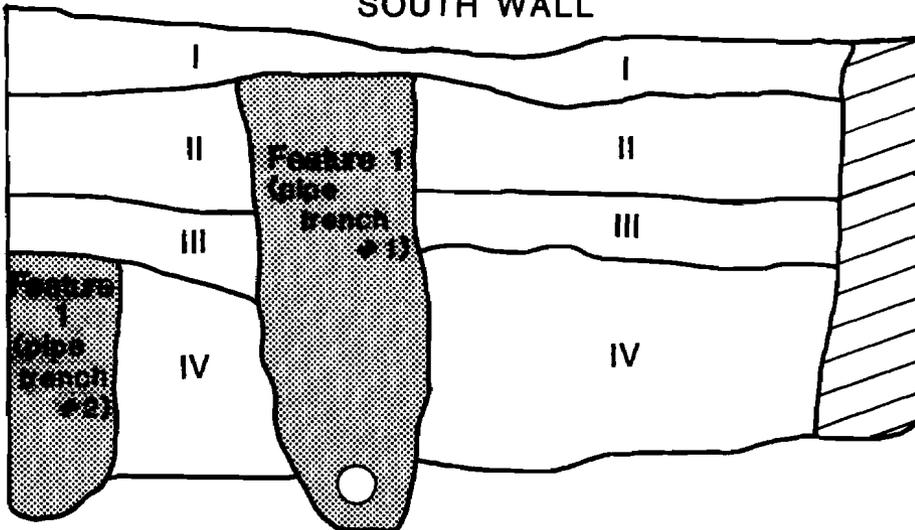
WEST WALL



NORTH WALL



SOUTH WALL



- LEVEL I - gray-brown sandy loam with ash lenses, mortar
- II - medium grained orange sand with abundant pebbles
- III - dark brown sandy loam with abundant brick, mortar and coal fragments
- IV - medium grained orange sand

○ pipe

the bottom of the original ground surface, and #3 at the top of the original ground surface (Figure 21).

Unit 19, placed against the foundation wall of the rear addition, located a narrow builder's trench. This feature, #2, contained an intact embossed advertising bottle dated to circa 1880. Otherwise the artifact assemblage consisted of equal percentages of metal, glass, and ceramic artifacts. An intermixture of orange sand and medium brown sandy loam represented the original, but disturbed ground surface. In the northwest corner was a thin block of mortar and brick.75' below the ground surface. This architectural feature was confirmed to be a part of the former walkway system leading to the granary/privy complex.

Unit 27 was placed within the basement cooking area, in front of the original cooking hearth. Based on the results of Unit 18, it was anticipated that there would be a high density of domestic/kitchen group artifacts. Unfortunately, the density of artifacts in Unit 27 was very low, with charcoal the only artifact in abundance. The reason for the non-deposition of artifacts was probably due to the existence of an original floor of cut stone that excavation located beneath the existing mortar floor. It was assumed that this floor would have been cleaned regularly and the waste thrown outside via the doorway, resulting in the formation of the midden located by Unit 18.

Unit 20 again located the buried topsoil level. This information came from a test unit placed adjacent to the western doorway of the extant red barn structure (Figure 12). The original ground surface had been buried by clay fill after the remodeling and raising of the foundation. Like the fill in previous units, the soil was an orange very sandy clay containing no diagnostic artifacts. Adjacent to the foundation and associated with the rebuilding was Feature #3 (Table 12). This feature was filled with large fragments of whiteware and porcelain dating to the early 20th century. Throughout the unit was a thick ash/coal layer from 1.4' to 1.8'

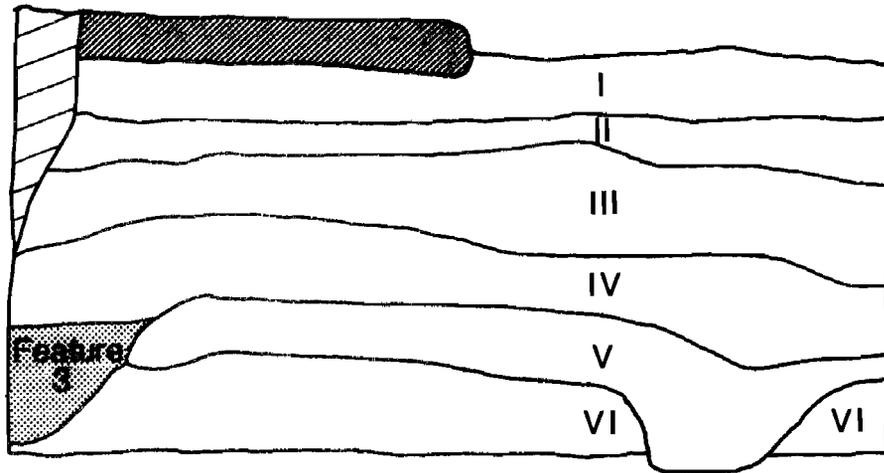
below the ground surface. The unit showed stratigraphic changes across the unit with orange fill present on the north and west wall profiles, but not on the south wall (Figure 22). Prior to the deposition of the ash/coal level a north-south trending depression had existed along the south wall. Parallel and adjacent to the depression was a 3'.4" fence rail that had functioned to retain the ash/coal deposit. Elsewhere, clay fill had been placed in order to level the ground surface to the top of the ash/coal fill. Besides the accumulation of artifacts in the builder's trench (Fea. 3), the upper levels of the unit contained a large percentage of 22cal. shell casings and metal buttons dating to the late 19th and early 20th century. None of the artifacts in any of the levels dated to earlier than ca 1880.

Unit 21 also showed stratigraphic evidence of soil disturbance similar in location to the rebuilding feature located in Unit 20. The disturbance originated at the ground surface, but here contained only architectural debris. Elsewhere within the unit the original topsoil level was present over and underlain by thinly stratified coal/ash lenses (Figure 23). Resting on the underlying sterile soil and against the foundation was a large, cut stone that functioned as a step into the structure. Mrs. Slack who resided on the site for over 90 years had never seen this rock step. Its placement thus probably coincides with the late 19th -early 20th century reconstruction of the barn.

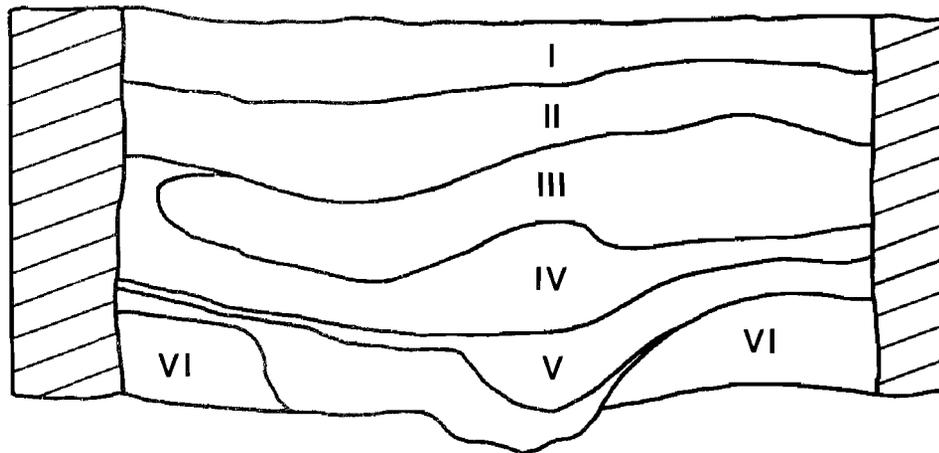
Unit 22 was located abutting an outside brick pier of the non-extant outbuilding (Figure 12). Within the unit a thick brick and mortar slab was present approximately 1.0' below the ground surface (Figure 24). The function of this pavement appears to have been either for flooring for a porch or an outdoor skirting for the structure. The placement of the flooring was dated to the late 19th century based on the artifact content of the soils beneath the slab. Located between the slab and what would have been the foundation or sill line was a deep accumulation of topsoil containing a variety of late 19th century domestic and

# Figure 22: UNIT 20 PROFILES

## SOUTH WALL



## WEST WALL

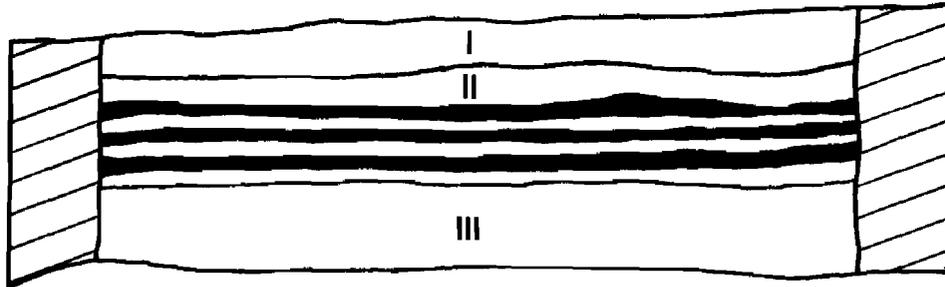


- LEVEL I - medium brown sandy loam
- II - reddish-brown sandy loam with pebbles, coal
- III - medium brown sandy loam with abundant coal, pebbles and brick
- IV - medium brown sandy loam mixed with gray, yellow and orange sandy clay
- V - ash and coal
- VI - light brown silty clay

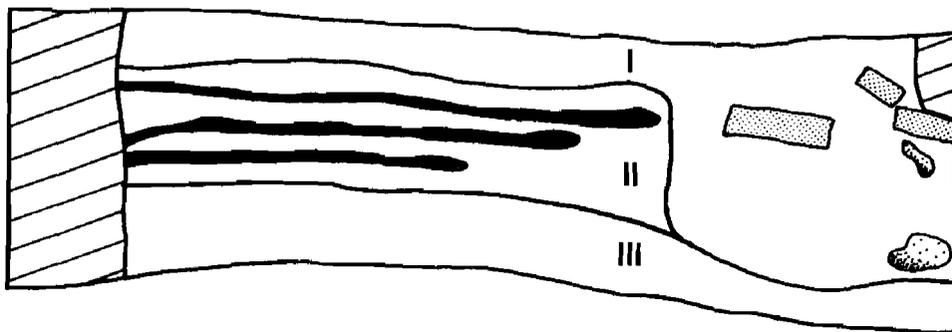
 concrete

Figure 23: **UNIT 21 PROFILES**

**SOUTH WALL**



**WEST WALL**

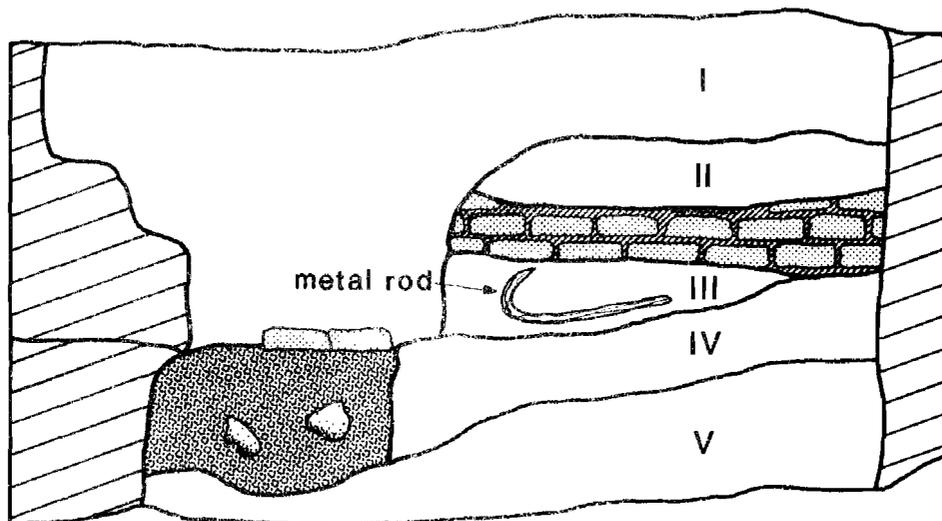


- LEVEL I – medium brown silty loam
- II – medium brown sandy loam with abundant pebbles and coal/ash lenses
- III – light yellow sand with pebbles

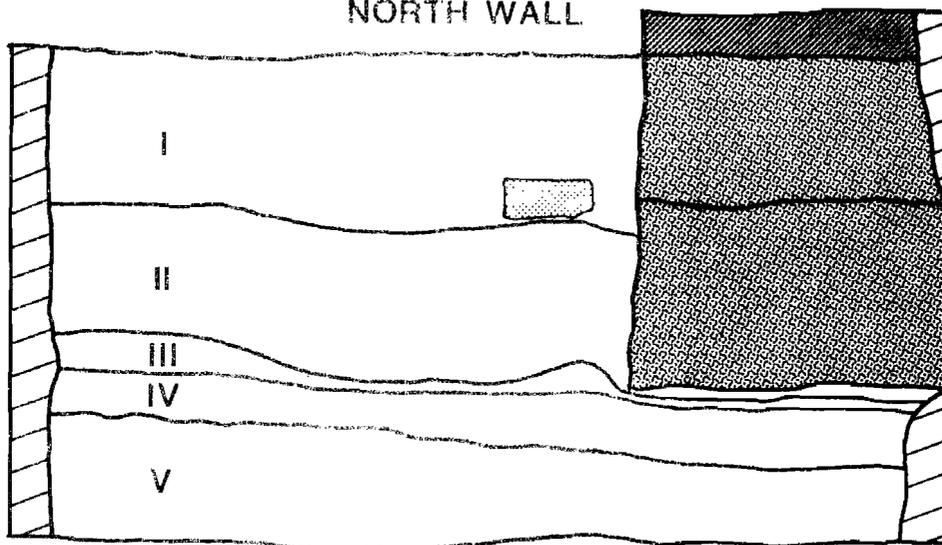
 brick       rock

# Figure 24: UNIT 22 PROFILES

## EAST WALL



## NORTH WALL



- LEVEL I – dark brown sandy loam with orange–yellow clay and coal fragments
- II – orange–yellow sandy clay
- III – dark brown sandy loam with abundant ash, coal and metal
- IV – light brown sandy loam
- V – light brown sandy loam, heavily mottled

 brick

 rock

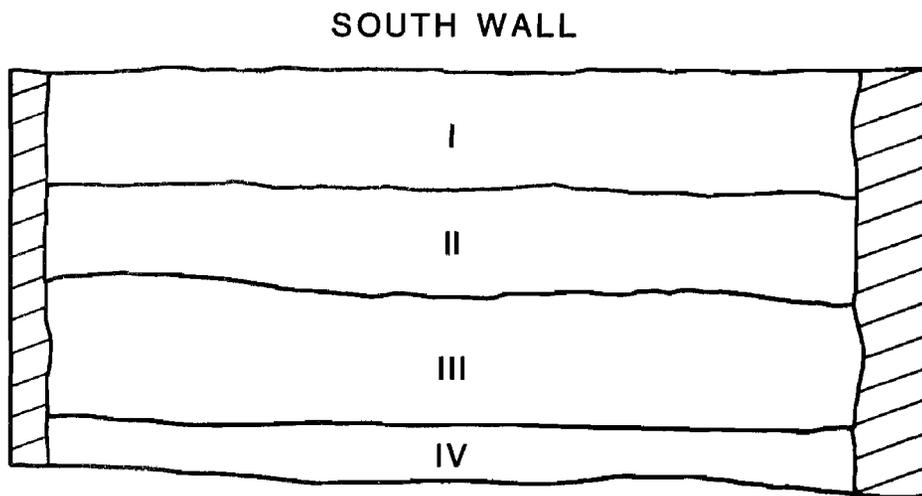
 mortar

 concrete

agricultural artifacts (Figure 24). The lack of any discernible stratigraphy coupled with the broad artifact date range indicated that the artifacts had been deposited in an open depression underneath the structure. Beneath the brick pier was a lens of ash/coal. It is thus very likely that this structure was constructed after the initial occupation of the site.

Units 23, 24, and 25 were located to further investigate artifact concentrations identified by the Phase I and II shovel/postholer testing (see Figure 12). Unit 23 encountered no features and served only to further sample the buried topsoil. The artifacts recovered from the present topsoil (Level I) dated to ca 1940 and from the buried topsoil (Level III) to the mid-late 19th century, placing the deposition of the fill (Level II) to the early- mid 20th century (Figure 25). Unit 24, placed within an artifact concentration adjacent to the modern day back porch (Figure 12), encountered a deeper stratigraphy. At the bottom of the buried topsoil in the northwest corner appeared a circular soil stain containing a large, heavily oxidized metal vessel. This feature, #4, was sectioned and excavated through extension of the 5'x5' into a 9'x9'. The feature fill was composed of an upper deposit of large ceramic, glass, and metal artifacts (Plate 7), underlain by a succession of thinly stratified ash/coal lenses. The feature was assumed to have functioned as a purposefully dug pit for the deposition of trash. Because of the regular size and shape it remains possible that the original function of the feature was as a barrel privy pit, later cleaned out and converted to a trash pit. The artifacts from this feature provided a deposit dating to the 20th century occupation of the site. Unit 25 was the last unit placed within an artifact concentration, in the eastern end of the domestic area. By its location it was thought that this unit might provide information on the distinction of the domestic area from the industrial area. After the removal of the orange sandy clay fill and the buried topsoil (Level III), two soil stains were apparent. Subsequent excavation

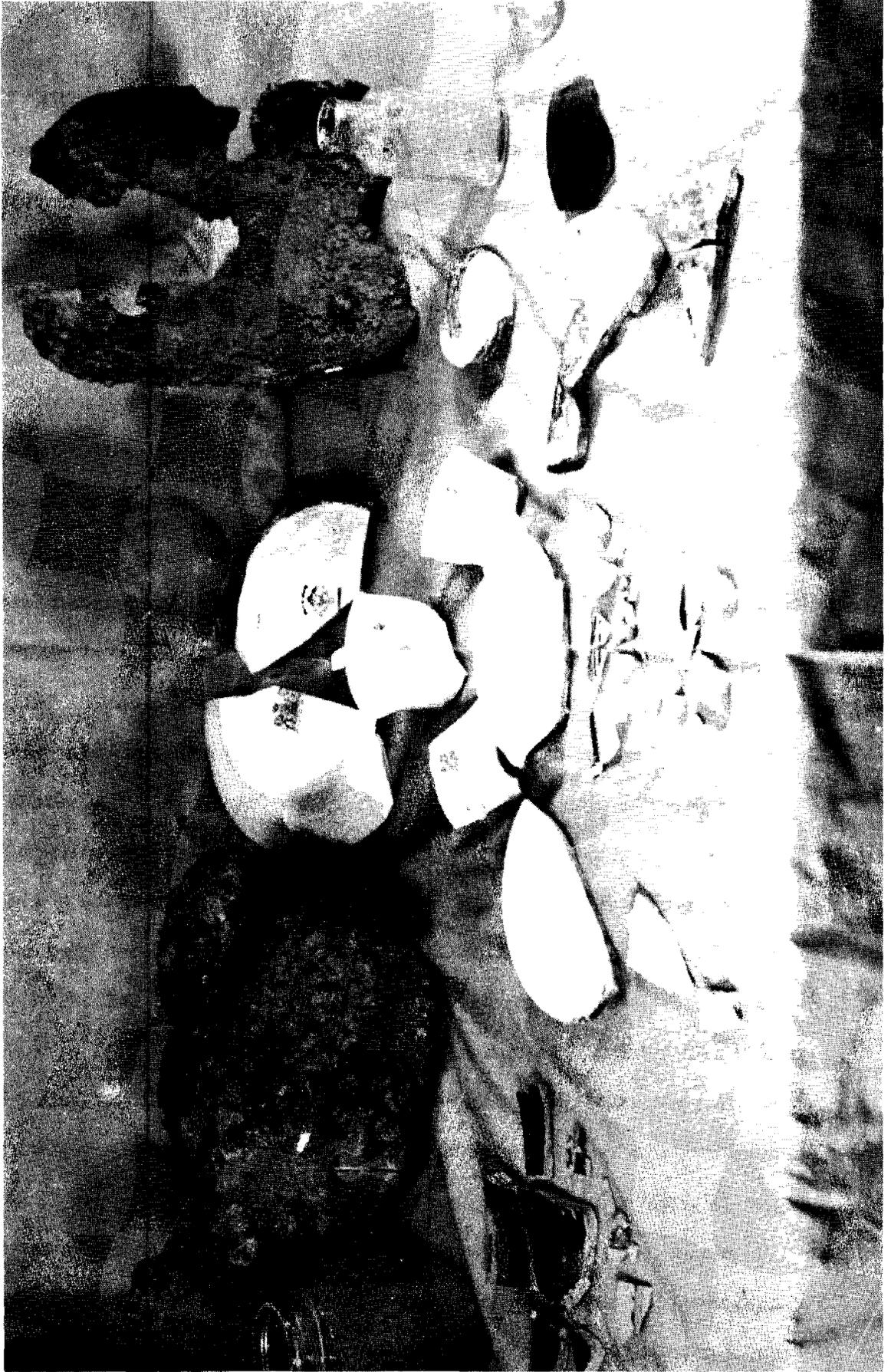
Figure 25: **UNIT 23 PROFILES**



- LEVEL I - medium brown silty loam
- II - yellow and orange intermixed sandy clay
- III - dark brown sandy loam with abundant coal, metal and ash fragments
- IV - reddish-brown sandy loam

PLATE 7

FEATURE 4 ARTIFACTS



identified these as two postmolds and postholes, Feature #5 (Table 12). These are assumed to be part of the fence system shown in the 1884 painting (Plate 6). This fence line served to enclose the domestic area and thus separate it from the industrial area.

Two units, #s26 and 28 were located to further investigate the archaeological deposits associated with the blacksmith shop. Unit #26 was placed inside the structure adjacent to the hearth. It was hoped that information would be provided on details of the forge area, particularly on the type of bellows and the location of implements used in the blacksmithing process such as the anvil, etc. The excavation failed to locate any evidence of postmolds or any other features. From this negative evidence it was assumed that the bellows was not freestanding but was a hanging type (Figure 26). The lack of any archaeological evidence in the hearth area is typical for intensively used activity areas. This lack of archaeological information was informative for the planning of data gathering and future research on manufacturing or industrial sites. Unit 28 was placed adjacent to the west foundation wall of the blacksmith shop to sample artifacts from the builders trench. Beneath a .25' thick layer of orange fill was the original topsoil layer. The artifact content of all levels of the unit consisted predominately of window glass and badly oxidized metal fragments. At the bottom of the buried topsoil a circular soil stain was noted, that excavation revealed to be a straight sided, flat bottomed pit, approximately 1.5' in depth. The fill of this pit contained negligible artifacts with the exception of wood fragments at the bottom and small rocks and pebbles found throughout the pit.

The artifact concentrations in the rear (north) yard were also tested by the excavation of measured units. During the excavation of Trench Transect #1, a foundation just below the surface had been located and associated with it was a dense concentration of 20th century artifacts. The profile created by the trench

Figure 26: FORGE AREA (FROM THE BOY'S BOOK OF TRADES, 1888)



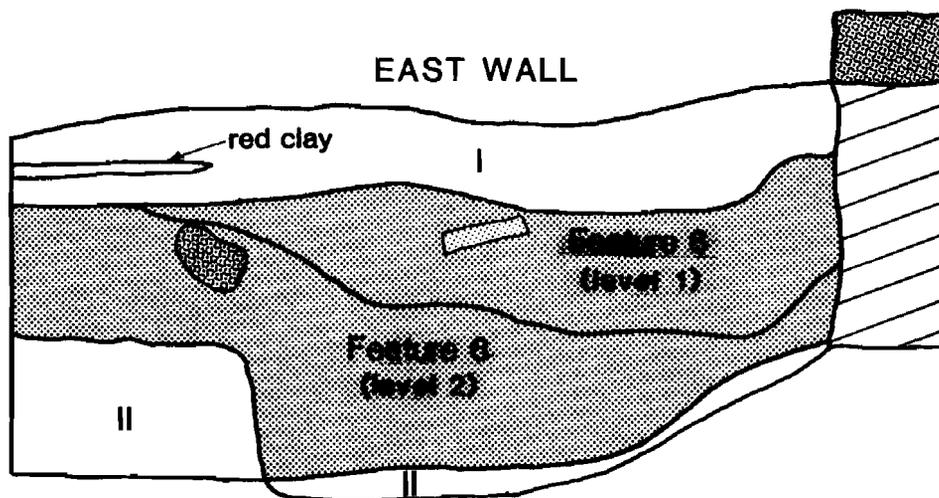
Blacksmith and striker, the latter holding the heavy hammer or sledge. The huge bellows were controlled by the hanging lever. From *The Boy's Book of Trades*, 1888

allowed the complete identification of Feature #6 and the associated artifact deposit (Figure 15). In order to fully define and excavate the feature, Unit #29 was placed adjacent to the trench on the east side (Figure 12). The results of the excavation seemed to indicate that the structure had been burned and collapsed in place on the foundation. The evidence for this was the presence of a thick layer of dark topsoil and ash containing large amounts of plaster, mortar, wire screen, and sheet metal. After the burning a thin layer of orange sandy clay had been placed over the deposit. Included in the feature fill and excavated as feature level 2 was the original ground surface containing a sparse sheet refuse deposit (Figure 27). All of the artifacts in both feature levels dated to the mid-20th century or later. At the bottom of the amorphous shaped feature, was located the burial of a cat. The structure under discussion is most likely that described by both Mrs. Slack and her son as a small frame shed that burned in the 1950's.

Unit 30 was an additional unit excavated to locate another rear yard foundation. Informant information had indicated that the smokehouse was located in this area (Figure 12). During the backhoe excavation of Trench Transects #2 and #3, a concentration of artifacts had been unearthed. Further excavation determined that the concentration existed only as a surficial deposit. A dark soil stain containing mortar and concrete located along the east wall was thought to be the remains of a robbed walkway that had previously led to the privy/granary complex.

In order to investigate the privy previously only partially excavated in the initial Phase I/II research, Unit 31 was placed in the same location as Test Pit #1 (Figure 12). Adjacent to this unit on the west was placed another 5'x5' Unit 32 to provide for an adequate horizontal exposure of the feature. The excavation was carried out so that the soils surrounding the privy foundation were excavated separately from the privy feature fill that was excavated as Feature 7 (Table 12,

Figure 27: **UNIT 29 PROFILES**

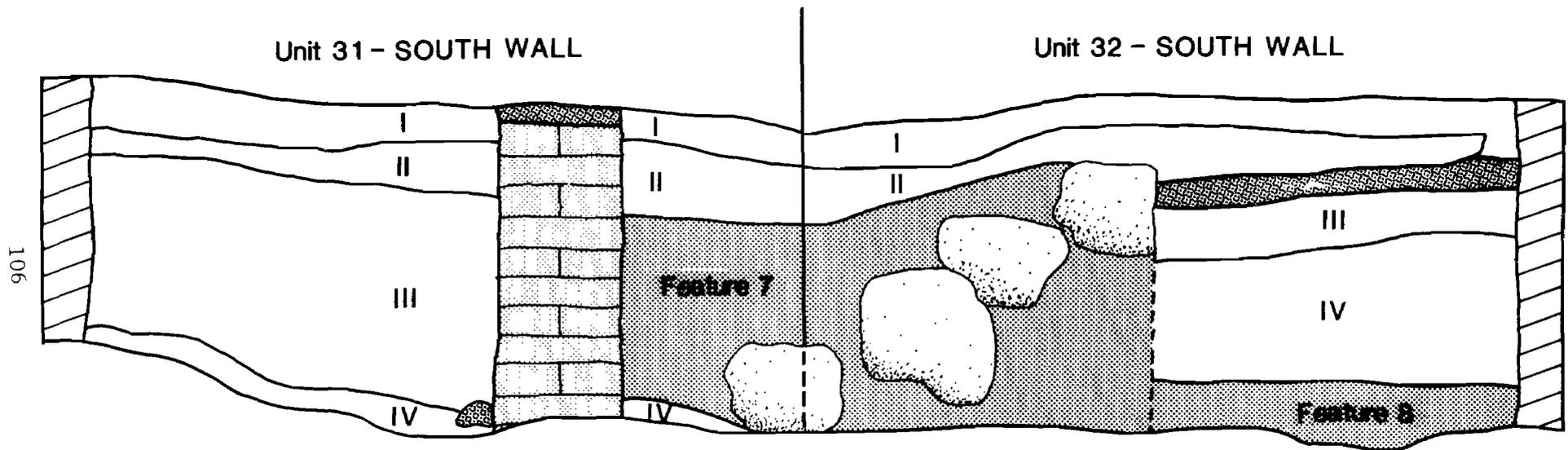


LEVEL I - medium brown silty loam  
II - yellow-orange sand

 brick       mortar

Figure 28). The excavation revealed a three-sided foundation composed of uncut boulders on the west side with brick pier foundations forming the northwestern and southeastern corners (Plate 8). While the eastern side of the foundation had no continuous foundation, this fact did not signify the door location, which was known to have faced to the west. Another interesting finding of the excavation of Unit 31 was the presence of an eastern extension of the feature, formed through the periodic cleaning out of the privy (Plate 9). This cleaning process had been previously reported from other rural archaeological sites in the Route 4 corridor (Coleman et al. 1983). The cleaning feature was identified as an oblong shaped stain containing a mixture of buried topsoils and artifacts different than those found within the privy. Throughout the 1.2' deep deposit were found asbestos tile fragments indicating a poorly stratified deposit. The privy fill itself yielded few artifacts, as had been expected, and was found to consist of a relatively shallow, oblong hole (Plate 9). During the excavation of this feature, an informant interview was conducted with Clifford Slack, a cousin of Mrs. Slack and an employee of the Slacks since 1932. Mr. Slack had rebuilt the privy shortly after the beginning of his employment. It was he who had installed the brick piers, placing them in narrowly dug shafts. At this time Mr. Slack advised that a mortar walkway had been located in an alleyway between the west wall of the privy and the east wall of an adjacent structure which served as a granary. In the furthering of the research goal of locating all non-extant structures, Unit 33 was placed adjacent to Unit 32 (Figure 12). The excavation of the unit revealed the mortar walkway .3' below the surface. This unit abutted on the west a substantial foundation composed of 9"x5"x2" mortared bricks. Further excavation of the unit revealed a deep midden beneath the mortar sidewalk deposited in a southward dipping depression. This stratigraphic situation had been duplicated in the excavation of the western half of Unit 32 where a midden deposit was present

Figure 28: **UNIT 31 & 32 PROFILES**

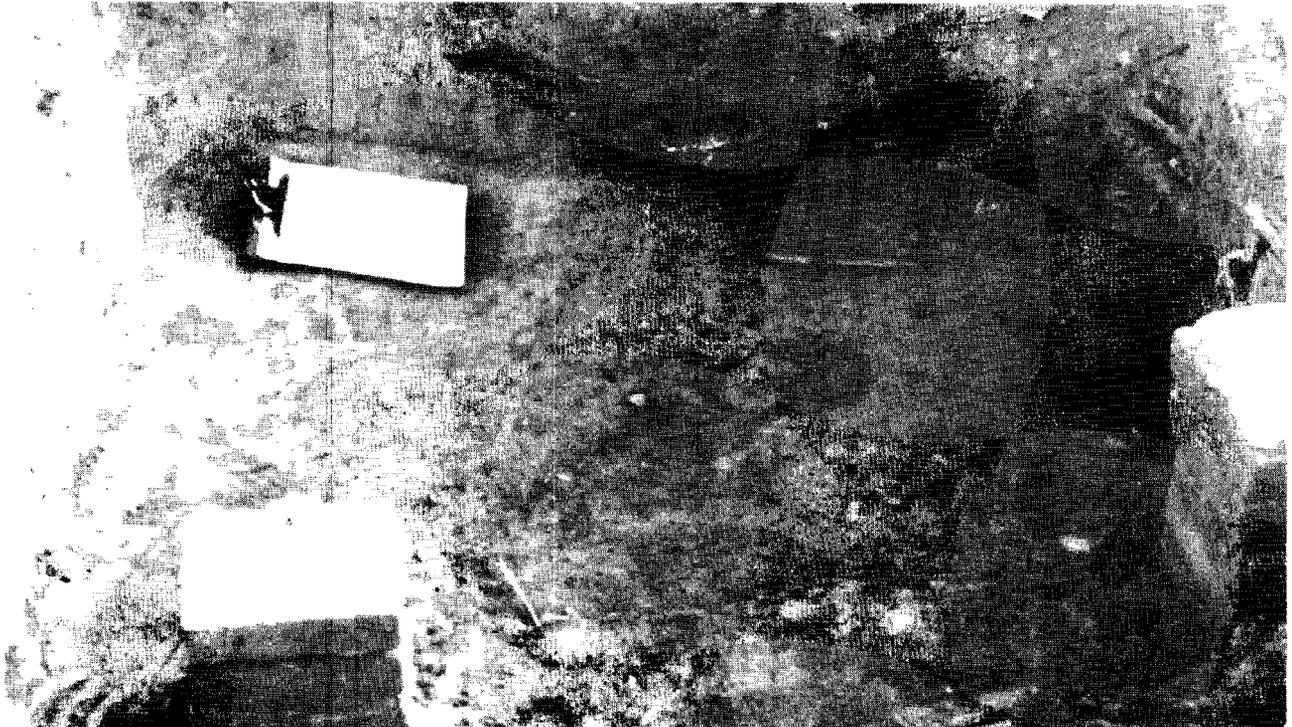


LEVEL I - medium brown silty loam  
 II - multicolored sandy clay  
 III - medium brown sandy loam with abundant mortar, metal and ceramics  
 IV - orange fine grained sand (unit 31)  
 reddish-brown sandy loam (unit 32)

 brick     rock     mortar

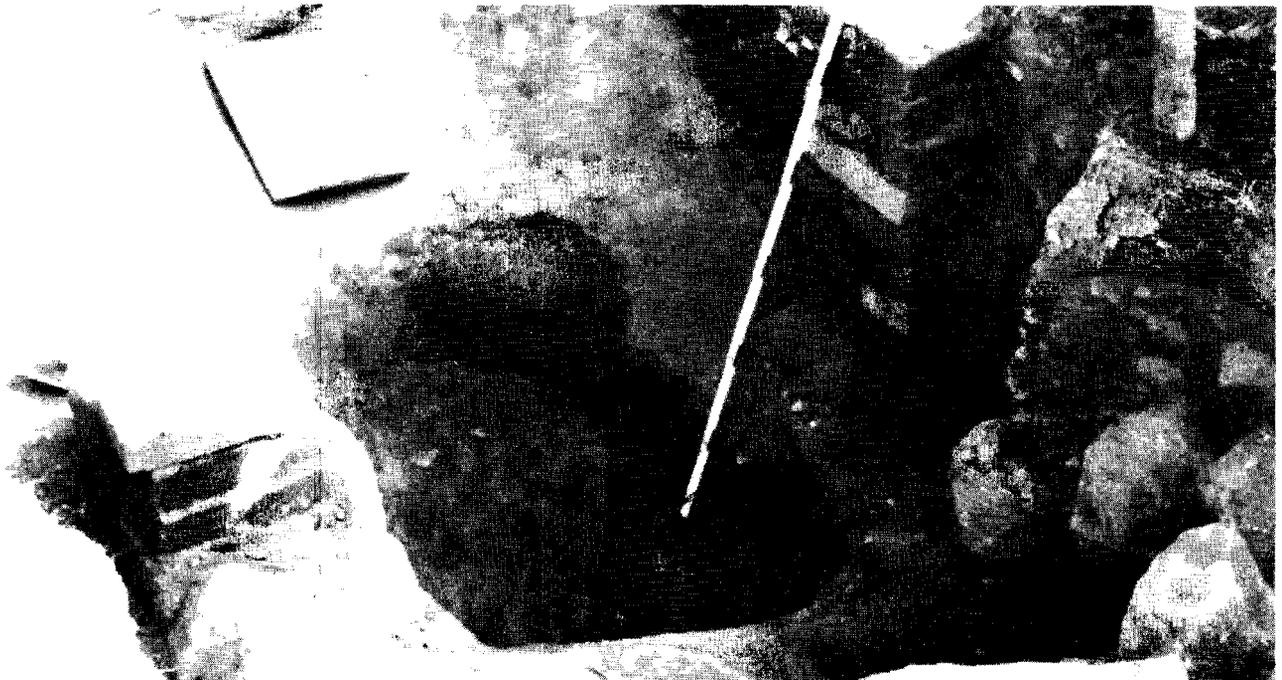
**PLATE 8**

**PLAN VIEW OF FEATURE #7 BEFORE EXCAVATION**



**PLATE 9**

**PLAN VIEW OF FEATURE #7 AFTER EXCAVATION**



sealed by a mortar layer. The artifacts recovered from both areas of the midden deposit provided a very good artifact sample dating to the mid to late 19th century. At the bottom of this midden deposit was Feature 8, an east-west trending trench (Table 12). The exact function of this trench was not determined but it appeared to represent the remains of a robbed foundation wall. The rich artifact deposit in this feature and in the surrounding midden soils allowed the bracketing of these deposits to the mid-19th century (1840-1860) . Another feature, #9, was located in the northern corner and had also been sealed by the mortar sidewalk. Due to time limitations, the foundation wall and interior of the granary were subjected to only an extensive excavation. Shovel scraping was carried out to uncover the entire foundation wall of the structure. This excavation defined a rectangular 18' N-S by 12' E-W structure. In the southwestern corner the backhoe exposed the contents of a trash feature located adjacent to the foundation. A large number of artifacts were collected from this feature including a name plate of A. Wilson (cover photograph). The excavation of Unit 34 did allow for a partial sampling of the interior of the structure. Also located was a westward extension of Feature 8, which based on stratigraphic evidence predates the construction of the granary in the late 19th century.

#### **Summary of Site Limits, Archaeological Context and Integrity**

The limits of the site were completely defined by the final Phase II research. The definition of the western limit of the site, a goal of the final Phase II research, was determined and the site was seen to be completely disturbed in this area. This disturbance was found to be the result of both mid 20th century and 1983 construction activity. The mid-20th century disturbance, in the northwestern corner of the site, resulted from the operation of a borrow pit by Mr. Norman Slack in the 1950's and 1960's. The 1980's disturbance, in the southwestern area of the site was also due to soil mining. The eastern and northern limits had been defined

by the preliminary Phase I and II research (Bachman et al., 1983). Archival research determined that from the initial occupation of the site, Chestnut Hill Road (Route 4) had formed the southern boundary of the site.

The context and integrity of the archaeological remains within the site were also adequately determined by the present research. The integrity of the eastern domestic yard area was found to have been severely disturbed by plowing activity as a result of the use of the area as a vegetable garden. Subsequent to the plowing, the yard had been filled by the deposition of a thick layer of orange sandy clay. The present ground surface, existing since the 1950's, had been used as a formal, landscaped yard area. The context and integrity of the northern domestic yard area was found to be extremely variable. The yard area between Units 20 and 30 had been disturbed by the excavation of a cesspool system in 1932 and a septic system in 1960. The integrity of the yard area west of Trench Transect 1 was excellent but the artifact density was very low. East of Trench Transect 1 and in the area of Units 31 - 34, both architectural and archaeological features were encountered. The archaeological features in these units yielded the only sealed and undisturbed deposits dating to the initial mid-late 19th century occupation of the site. Otherwise, the results of the archaeological testing located early to mid 20th century features, #'s 3, 4 & 6 or features containing very low artifact densities (feature #'s 1, 2, and 9). The excavation in the industrial area produced no indication of the presence of significant archaeological remains. This was especially apparent in light of the extensive archival materials which in combination provide more of a cultural interpretation than could be derived from the archaeological materials. In sum, except for the privy/granary complex area, there was a lack of significant, undisturbed features or levels related to either the domestic or the industrial area. No further excavations were necessary because the absence of significant intact archaeological deposits precluded the site's eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.