

Archeological Investigations Chapter this site had been determined, on the basis of architectural merit, to be potentially eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by Thomas (1980:III-2). In addition, P. Thompson (1986) evaluated the architectural merit of the site in connection with the extended Phase I survey reported here and submitted a Determination of Eligibility form for it. After consultation with personnel from the BAHP and DelDOT, it was decided that the site was unlikely to contain archeological remains because of extensive alterations to the house and the yard. Therefore, no fieldwork was conducted at this site.

#### **Summary and Recommendations, Segment 9**

Preliminary Phase I testing in the Segment 9 area revealed only one location which had the potential to contain significant, intact archeological resources. This was the Smithy site. Archival investigations of this site revealed that a site labeled "Smithy" was shown on the 1849 Rea and Price map but other documentation such as tax records failed to list the shop. Subsequent documentation did not list or record the shop until the early 20th century.

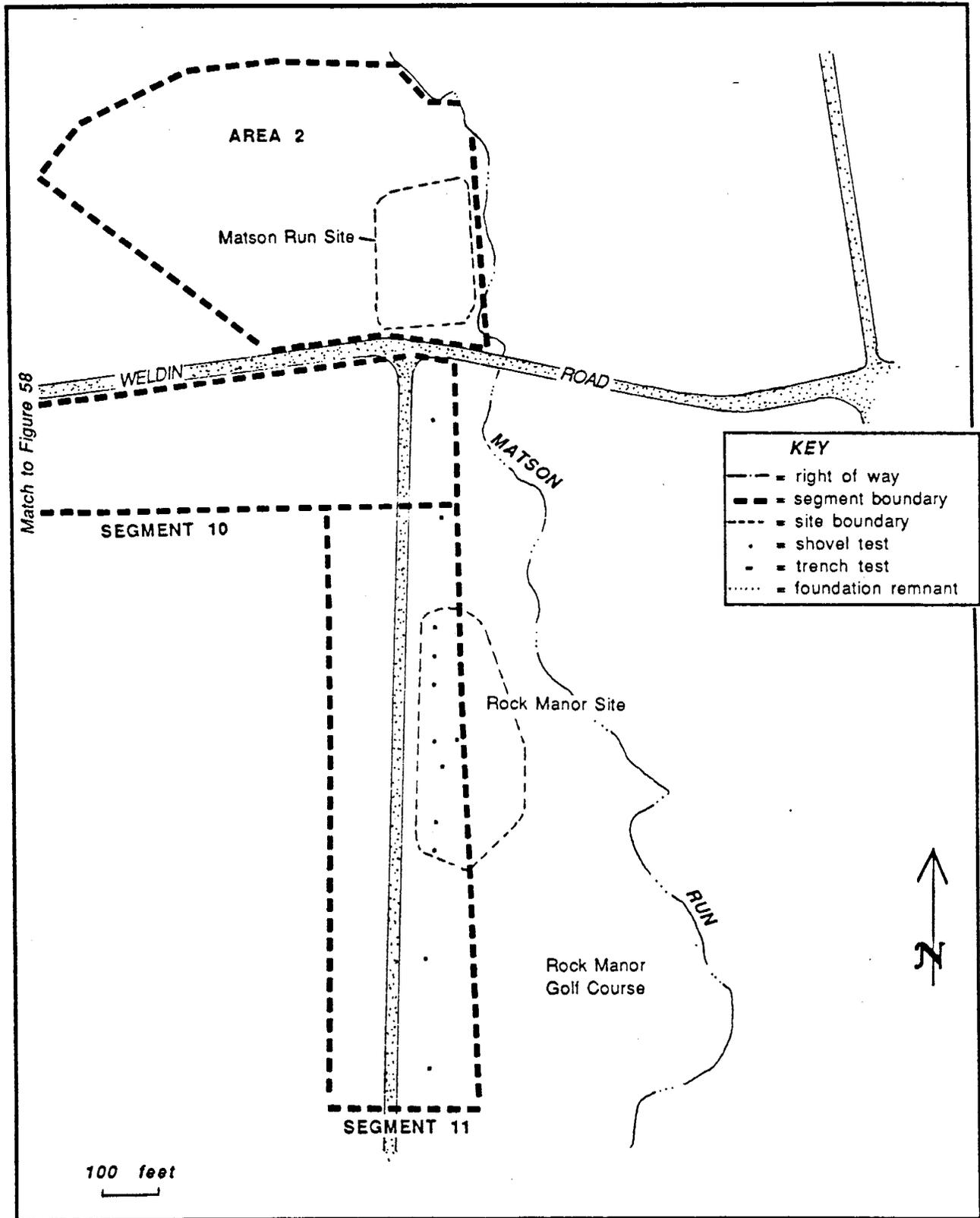
Extended Phase I testing revealed that the location of the site had been extensively disturbed by the construction of a 20th century gas station and no intact archeological remains were present. No additional archeological work is recommended.

The only other potential archeological site location was the P. Husbands house (N-4049) and, after consultation with DelDOT and BAHP personnel, it was decided that extended Phase I archeological fieldwork was unnecessary in this location because of extensive modern disturbances to the site. This site, based on the projected extent of these disturbances, is not recommended for additional archeological work.

#### **SEGMENT 10**

Segment 10 (Figures 2, 58 and 61) follows the south side of Weldin Road, beginning at Faulk Road and extending 1200 feet to the east. It is 200 feet wide from the edge of Weldin Road. Its western section is wooded, while the eastern section was open and in corn at the time of the preliminary Phase I investigations. Surface visibility was very good for the section in corn and surface reconnaissance of that area failed to reveal any significant archeological remains. Based on archival research, the wooded section corresponds to the location of Chestnut Hill, a 19th century plantation site with a history extending back into the 1700's. This is known as the Weldin Plantation site and is covered in the following pages.

FIGURE 61  
SEGMENTS 10 & 11 & AREA 2



## **Weldin Plantation Site, 7NC-B-11**

### **Results of the Preliminary Phase I Investigations**

The wooded and overgrown section of Segment 10 contains the ruins of "Chestnut Hill" a large plantation site which has been abandoned for a considerable period of time (Figure 58). The site is quite extensive and covers an area measuring 300 by 400 feet. The ruins of several structures are present and include a large stone residence (Structure A), a smaller stone building (Structure B), which was originally thought to be a detached kitchen, a barn and adjoining stable/corral area (Barn), an elongated three-sectioned structure (Structure C) which was interpreted as an equipment or machine shed, and finally a stone structure or feature (Structure D) whose function is unknown. None of the structures were standing at the time of the survey, although 80% of the walls of Structure B were still intact. A portion of the site had been used as a modern dump and most of the walls of the structures have fallen or have been robbed for stone. The ruins were readily evident on the surface, although covered with vines and underbrush. After consultation with DelDOT and BAHF personnel, preliminary Phase I fieldwork was determined to be unnecessary as it was felt that sufficient intact contexts would be present to go directly into more extensive work.

### **Results of the Archival Investigations**

The tract of land where the Weldin Plantation site is located was first documented in a 1680 survey by Ephraim Herman for Han (se) Peterson. Table 11 presents the ownership history. The tract, called "Chestnut Hill", included approximately 103 acres "in the woods between Matson and Alapocas Runs" (Deed M2:563, 1680). In 1700, Peterson sold the tract and additional marshland to Cornelius Empson for 550 pounds (Q1:598). Both men in this deed were listed as yeoman from Shellpot Creek. According to Scharf (1888:710-11), Empson was one of the original settlers of Friends living on the east side of the Brandywine River in 1682. He was also a substantial landowner and mill operator (Scharf 1888:950; Thompson 1984:7), and, at the time of his death, owned several plantations totaling over 700 acres of land. One of these plantations was the Chestnut Hill tract which he left to his young son, Charles, in his will dated 1710 (Will B1:224). The will stated that Charles was to receive the "easterly part" of the tract, with the housing and the cleared land, although the specific house location was not indicated. The will also provided the executors of the estate the option to sell the Chestnut Hill plantation tract at their discretion. In 1722, Ebenezer Empson, Charles's older brother and the will's executor, sold the tract to Isreal Peterson for 30 pounds (Deed G1:225,1722). There was no mention of buildings or other improvements made in this transaction.

Isreal Peterson died intestate, leaving eight children as heirs, including his daughter, Regina. Regina was married to

Joseph Mortonson, who was listed as an innkeeper by occupation. Between 1749-1755, Joseph acquired sole interest in the 100+ acre property from Regina's seven siblings for eight pounds apiece (Table 11). The property boundaries for the Chestnut Hill tract during Mortonson's tenure are shown in rough draft copies of a land survey dated 1743-45 and follow the metes and bounds given in the Empson-Peterson deed transaction (Figure 62).

In his will dated 1771, Joseph Mortonson left the property and the "present dwelling house" to his son, Joshua (Will f1:140, 1771). Regina transferred her share of the "plantation" to Joshua in the following year (Deed F2:246, 1772). In 1777, Joshua Mortonson sold a 10+ acre tract to Andrew McKee, Jr. (see Blue Ball Tavern discussion). This small tract was located on the west side of Concord Road and appeared to be a portion of the original 100+ plantation tract cut off by the road. Joshua continued to live in Brandywine Hundred and his property was assessed 25 pounds for the years 1780 to 1785. He then moved to North Liberties, a district of Philadelphia, and there sold the Chestnut Hill plantation to John Dickinson in 1785 for 900 pounds (Deed F2:294, 1785).

During his ownership, John Dickinson held two insurance policies on the Chestnut Hill plantation with the Insurance Company of North America, a Philadelphia firm. Fire blotter records from these policies (1796, 1803) indicated that there was a two-story stone house located east of Concord Road on the property which was occupied by tenants, William Little in 1796 and Daniel Chapman in 1803. The house itself was insured each time for \$1000. Census data from the reconstructed 1790 census records for Delaware show that a "William Little" was living in Brandywine Hundred at that date. By 1800, Little was listed for Mill Creek Hundred and his household included: 3 male children under 10 years of age, 1 male adult 26-45 years old, 3 female children under 10, 1 female child between 10-16, 1 female adult 26-45 years old, and 3 additional free persons (not taxed). Information on Daniel Chapman, the tenant listed for 1803, was not available in the 1790, 1800 or 1810 Delaware population census records.

John Dickinson left the Chestnut Hill property to his daughter, Maria Dickinson (Will Q1:298, 1804-1807) in his 1804 will. The will designated the property "Tract 1" and stated that it contained approximately 100 acres on the east side of Concord Road. Maria received adjoining properties to the north which increased the size of the total farm acreage. Dickinson also left his daughter other tracts located on the west side of Concord Road, where the Blue Ball Tavern was located. Maria Dickinson married Albanus C. Logan, and the 1837 tax assessment for his estate indicated that the property was then assessed as 150 acres with a stone house and a log barn. By 1852, the tax assessment listed a stone house and a frame barn for the property.

Information from the Brandywine Hundred tax assessments (1849, 1852, 1861) and Delaware census records (1850, 1860), indicate that a tenant, John Bradford, lived on and farmed the property from 1849



to 1861. In 1850, Bradford's household included he and his wife, nine children ranging in age from 18 years to 5 months old, a 12 year old boy, a female domestic servant from Ireland and a male farm laborer born in Pennsylvania. By 1860, there were six children remaining at home, including two born since the last census, a female domestic servant, and two farm laborers.

The U.S. Agricultural Census listed the farm production of tenant farmers as well as owners and John Bradford was listed in the 1850 and 1860 census records for Brandywine Hundred (Tables 5 and 6). Bradford grew wheat, corn, oats, irish potatoes and hay both years on the rental property, although twice as much corn and wheat were produced in 1860 than in 1850. Livestock raised on the farm included horses, milk cows, other cows and swine. In 1850, 2000 pounds of butter was produced by 15 milk cows; by 1860, the amount had dropped to 1500 pounds of butter for 16 cows. This last figure, however, is still above the calculated average farm yield of 1186 pounds of butter for Brandywine Hundred in 1860 (Table 6). Also of note is the decline in number of "improved acres" listed in the census during Bradford's tenancy, with 150 acres in 1850 and 103 acres in 1860.

In 1861, Maria D. Logan left the "Chestnut Hill" farm to her son, Dr. John D. Logan of Philadelphia (Will Y1:84, 1860-61). At that time, the property contained 193+ acres and included the original 100+ tract in addition to the adjoining properties bequeathed to Maria in 1804. A year later, Logan sold the "Chestnut Hill Plantation" -- no buildings specified in the deed -- to Jacob R. Weldin, whose land adjoined the plantation to the east (Deed P7:449, 1862).

Jacob R. Weldin was married to Hannah Talley, and, prior to 1862, farmed the Weldin household of 35+ acres left to him by his grandfather as well as supplementing his income by fishing for shad in the Delaware River (Talley 1899:177). According to a genealogy of the Talley family, the Chestnut Hill purchase was somewhat of a gamble for the young farmer, who bought the "impoverished" land for approximately \$75 per acre. "The price seemed small, but the farm looked large and dilapidated" (Talley 1899:178). It is stated that Jacob never regretted his decision, and he gradually established a large dairy operation. Tax assessments for J. R. Weldin in 1866 and 1885 list a stone house and frame barn on 181 acres for the property, valued at \$10,860 and \$15,000, for those respective years; in 1885, the tax value on his stock alone was \$1385. A protest made in 1881 by the Delaware State Grange, an agricultural organization, provides insights into how the tax assessments affected the farmer. According to their complaint, real estate was assessed at a rental value while personal property was assessed at market value. Thus tax on a farmer's livestock was often greater than that for land, and "members of our Order frequently pay on a few hundred dollars of stock, more tax than landlords pay on a \$10,000 farms" (Passmore 1975:29).

J. R. Weldin was listed in the 1870 U.S. Agricultural Census as farming 224 acres of improved land which included the Chestnut Hill tract and the original Weldin homestead to the east (Table 10). The crops grown by Weldin were the same as listed in the previous records -- wheat, corn, oats, potatoes and hay -- with the highest yields in corn (600 bushels) and hay (65 tons). Livestock, however, included 25 milk cows, 10 other cattle, and 20 sheep, among other animals. The milk cows produced 11,250 pounds of butter which was well above the farm average of 8.5 cows and 584 pounds of butter calculated for Brandywine Hundred in 1870 (Table 10). See also Table 12 to compare these figures with the totals for New Castle County. These figures reflect the change in emphasis from field crops to dairy production under Weldin's ownership. The detailed 1880 agricultural census (Table 13) also recorded that J. R. Weldin employed hired laborers for 156 weeks in 1879, or the equivalent of three persons for 52 weeks. The total wages paid during the same period were \$916 (including board), or \$6 a week for three full-time laborers.

By 1881, the Hopkins Map shows "Chestnut Hill" by the Jac. R. Weldin residence, and the 1893 Baist Atlas shows five frame structures for the plantation, two frame buildings and three frame barns/stables (Figure 63). The tax assessment of 1893-1897 also assessed the J.R. Weldin estate \$12,000 for 150 acres with a frame house and barn, among other properties. The designation of frame rather than stone for the house indicates the presence of wood siding on the stone buildings after 1885 (see Results of extended Phase I fieldwork section below).

Jacob R. Weldin died intestate in 1892, and the inventory of his estate provides a description of the machinery and other capital required to operate a large dairy farm in New Castle County at the turn of the century (Table 14). Equipment listed ranged from cultivators, plows, and hay cutters for grain production to milk cans, milk wagons, butter tubs and churns for dairy production. Also listed were the crops grown by Weldin, such as corn, wheat, hay, and potatoes. The potatoes may have been for animal rather than human consumption; Passmore (1975) states that root crops were often fed to livestock by Delaware farmers. The household items listed in the inventory may be considered reflective of a comfortable lifestyle, with feather beds (goose and hen), silver utensils, marble top tables, and numerous quilts. The inventory included several history books and a telescope, providing a glimpse into the personal interests of J. R. Weldin.

Jacob R. Weldin's three children, Eliza, Jacob Atwood and Thomas Talley, inherited the Chestnut Hill farm and other property after his death. The two brothers received Eliza's interest in their father's estate in an 1896 deed from Equitable Guarantee and Trust Company, trustees of their sister (Deed C17:117). In this deed, Eliza was referred to as an "insane person" and "lunatic", and therefore was considered incapable of managing her share of the inheritance. Later records show that she continued to live with J. Atwood in her father's home until her death sometime after 1914.

TABLE 12

PRODUCTION AND SALE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS IN NEW CASTLE CO., 1860-1910  
 (Adapted from Bausman 1941: Table 3)

## Dairy Products

	Milk Produced gal	Milk sold gal	Cream sold lbs	Butter churned lbs	Butter sold lbs
1860	--	--	--	981,380	--
1870	--	752,969	--	765,746	--
1880	--	938,867	--	1,072,350	--
1890	6,316,676	--	--	941,096	--
1900	7,035,155	4,105,742	14,229	675,948	541,256
1910	6,027,101	3,671,442	20,498	550,512	447,018

TABLE 13

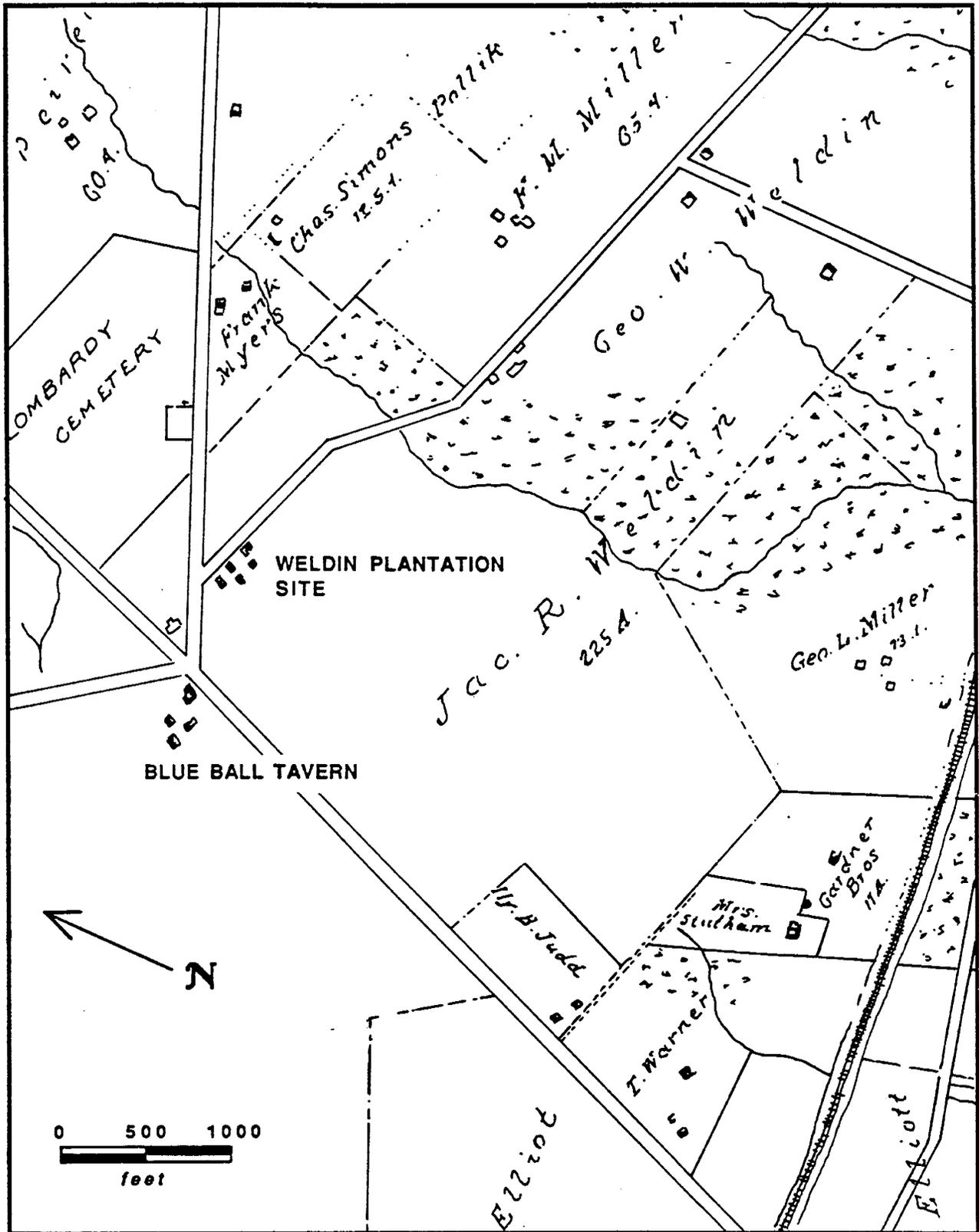
1880 U.S. AGRICULTURAL CENSUS DATA, WELDIN

J. R. Weldin

Acres Tilled Incl. Rotating Pasture - 160  
 Acres woodlot - 21  
 \$ Value Farm - \$13,575  
 \$ Value Implements - \$600  
 \$ Value Livestock - \$1,600  
 1879 Cost Fence Bldg. & Repair - \$75  
 1879 Cost Fertilizers - \$150  
 \$ Value 1879 Wages for Farm Labor Incl. Board - \$936  
 No. Weeks Hired Labor Excl. Household - 156  
 \$ Value for All Farm production - \$2,800  
 Mowed Acres - 40  
 Not Mowed Acres - 70  
 Tons of Hay - 60  
 Horses - 6  
 Mules - 2  
 Milk Cows - 16  
 Other Cows - 14  
 Cows Dropped - 8  
 Cows Bought - 2  
 Cows Sold Living - 17  
 Milk Sold or Sent to Butter Cheese Factories in 1879 - 7300 Gal.  
 Butter Made on Farm - 300 lbs.  
 Swine - 6  
 Poultry 6/1/88 Excl. Spring Hatching - 60  
 Poultry Other - 14  
 Eggs Produced in 1879 - 260 doz.  
 Corn acres - 25  
     bushels - 1200  
 Oats acres - 8  
     bushels - 300  
 Wheat acres - 15  
     bushels - 300  
 Irish potatoes acres - 1/8  
     bushels - 30  
 Orchards acres - 1/2  
     trees - 25  
     bushels - 50  
 \$ Value of Orchard Products Sold/Consumed - \$25  
 No. of Wood Cut (cords) - 10  
 \$ Value of Wood Sold/Consumed - \$50

Schedule 2 - Production of agriculture in Brandywine Hd. in the County of New Castle, State of Delaware enumerated by me on the first day of June, 1880 Joseph W. L. Casey

FIGURE 63  
1893 BAIST ATLAS



Redrawn from original

TABLE 14

## ESTATE OF JACOB R. WELDIN, DECEASED, 1893

Inventory and Appraisement of the Goods and Chattels of Jacob R. Weldin deceased:

50 pairs chickens	\$ 37.50
7 Turkeys	7.00
4 Geese	4.00
6 Ducks	2.40
Wood saw & axe	.25
3 Shovels	.75
1 Scoop Shovel	.25
9 hay forks	1.50
Corn marker	2.00
Pick & hoe	.30
Maul & wedges	.20
7 Sks. feed	5.00
Broad axe	.20
50 bus. oats (damaged)	10.00
4 Sks. screenings	2.00
4 Sets plow harness (single)	2.00
2 Log chains	1.00
2 Sets single & double trees	1.00
1 Boreing machine & augur	1.00
3 Cultivators	5.00
1 Mowing machine	10.00
2 Harrows	3.00
1 Wagon (no top)	10.00
1 Hay wagon	20.00
1 Hay wagon (iron axle)	20.00
1 Manure wagon	25.00
1 Cart (old)	5.00
1 Set carriage harness	15.00
1 Germantown carriage	25.00
1 Carriage	20.00
1 Hay tedder	15.00
1 Grain draill (old)	15.00
1 Horse rake (old)	1.00
600 bus. corn	240.00
1 Platform scales	5.00
1 Cider mill	5.00
1 Grain fan (very old)	2.00
275 bus. wheat	220.00
25 Grain bags	2.50
5 tons Straw	35.00
10 tons marsh hay	60.00
1 Roller (old)	1.00
1 Grind stone	1.00
1 Reaking machine	25.00
1 Hay cutter	1.00
10 tons bran	<u>150.00</u>
	1,014.85

TABLE 14 CONTINUED

2 Blocks & falls & ropes	2.00
35 tons hay	350.00
25 cows	625.00
4 Steers	100.00
1 Bull	20.00
1 Calf	10.00
3 Horses	300.00
1 Black mare	15.00
1 set Double Harness	10.00
1 set Double Harness	5.00
1 set Double Harness	2.00
1 Set cart harness	1.00
1 Set wagon (light)	6.00
Lot of old harness	1.00
1 Milk wagon	25.00
1 Market Dearborn	10.00
2 Sleds	1.00
2 Plows	10.00
3 Old Plows	1.00
1 Old Germantown carriage	1.00
8 hogs	60.00
1 Stack fodder	10.00
2 Churns	1.00
2 Butter tubs	1.50
2 Old tables	1.00
1 Washing machine & wringer	6.00
3 Wash tubs	1.00
Lot milk cans	3.00
4 Milk buckets	1.50
3 Doz. milk pans	1.25
1 Old stove	1.00
1 Bench	.25
75 Bushel potatoes	30.00
5 hives of Bees	2.00
25 yds carpet	7.50
1 Stove pipe and fixtures	5.00
6 Cane seated chairs	3.00
1 Camp chair	.25
1 Lounge	2.00
1 Table	2.00
1 Table (one leaf)	2.50
1 Looking glass	.75
1 Secretary	3.00
2 Parlor lamps	1.00
1 Telescope	9.00
1 Chair cover	1.00
History of Del. (2 Vols.)	10.00
1 Book Army & Navy	1.00
1 History of Civil War	1.00
1 History of U. States	1.00
1 History of Methodism	.75
2 Table covers	.50
	<hr/>
	1,665.75

TABLE 14 CONTINUED

20 yds ingrain carpet	8.00
1 Set of parlor furniture	30.00
1 parlor Rocker	6.00
1 Marble top table italian	3.00
1 " " " Tennessee	3.00
Hall oil cloth	2.00
1 Buffalo Robe	4.00
1 Horse Blanket	2.00
Stair carpet	.50
9 Yds Rag carpet	2.25
20 " " "	4.00
1 Bureau	2.00
1/2 Doz chairs	1.80
1/2 " "	1.80
1 Wood stove	1.00
1 Rocking chair	.20
1 Wash stand bowl & pitcher	3.00
1 coverlet	1.50
1 Counterpane	1.00
4 Quilts	2.00
1 High Bead stead	1.00
2 Cane seated chairs	2.00
1 Steel iron stove and pipe	2.00
Book & Map	1.00
1 Bureau	2.00
12 yds rag carpet	2.40
1 Table	1.00
3 Quilts	1.50
Silver spoons & knives	1.00
3 Quilts	.75
1 Blanket	1.00
1 Bead stead	1.00
1 Goose feather Bed	10.00
1 Chest	.50
1 Wash stand	.50
1 Trunk	2.00
1 Mattress	3.50
2 Quilts	.40
1 Commode	.50
1 Bead stead	1.00
1 Hen feather Bed	3.00
3 Quilts	.75
4 quilts	2.00
1 Rocking chair	.25 (?)
1 Chest	.50
1 Bureau	2.00
1 Case of Drawers	.50
1 Chest	.50
1 Clock	1.00
5 silver spoon & knife	1.50
1/2 Doz. silver spoons	1.50
1 poultry Basket	<u>1.00</u>
	128.60

TABLE 14 CONTINUED

1 stove	.50	
2 bushel Baskets	1.00	
1 Dining Table	5.00	
1 Settee & cushion	1.00	
Kitchen carpet	1.00	
1 cook stove & fixtures	5.00	
1 Bench table	.50	
1 Desk	.50	
1 Rocking chair	.50	
1 Double barrelled Gun	2.00	
25 acres wheat	100.00	
1 Clock	.50	
6 Lamps	<u>1.00</u>	
	118.50	
Amount of money in bank (now)		2832.48
* (crossed-out line) *		
4 Shares of Philadelphia Turnpike Stock		16.00
* (crossed-out line) *		
Cash on hand		75.00
	Total	5851.18

After acquiring joint interest in the estate, J. Atwood and Thomas T. Weldin divided the entire family farm of 200+ acres roughly half, with J. Atwood receiving "the fine, old commodius mansion with the surrounding barn and outbuildings" (Talley 1899:207-208), as well as the original homestead to the east (Deed C17:109, 1896). The part of the estate received by Thomas Talley Weldin and its associated history after 1896 has been documented by P. Thompson (1985) and is not included in the present discussion.

J. Atwood Weldin continued to operate the farm, and, in a biographical sketch of the day, was described as "one of the most extensive dairy farmers in the Hundred" (Runk 1899:501). He was also active in the local Talleyville Grange (Scharf 1888:910), and a general description of Grange members would probably apply to J. Atwood as well: "Grangers ...seemed to be a well-educated group, 'agriculturalists' who lived on, owned, and supervised their farms, but were not subject to the dawn-to-dusk toil just to stay alive" (Passmore 1975:16). J. A. Weldin's tax assessment for 1905 included a frame house and barn plus blacksmith and wheelwright shops, two frame tenant houses and stables. These latter structures, the shops, tenant houses and stables, were located "on the Concord Road at the Blue Ball corner" according to J. Atwood's will (Will I1:233, 1914:1919).

J. Atwood died in 1919 and, in his will, left all real estate to his son, Jacob R. Weldin, with the stipulation that it be sold ten years after his death. The inventory of his estate (Table 15) provides an idea of the rooms in the house, including: a front room, parlor, hall, "Mrs. Weldin's room", three rooms on the second floor, dining room, kitchen, cook's bedroom, an attic and the cellar. The inventory also documents the modernization of the dairy farm operation under J. Atwood in comparison to his father's inventory of 1892.

The St. Johns River Development Company, a Florida corporation, acquired the property in 1934 (Deed B39:104), and since that date it has been transferred between Florida corporations up to the present ownership.

In summary, the Weldin Plantation site, Chestnut Hill, has a long agricultural history, with the possibility of its occupation dating to 1710 under the ownership of Cornelius Empson. From 1722 to sometime before 1785, the owners, Isreal Peterson and later the family of his son-in-law, Joseph Mortonson, lived on the property, although documentary information from this time period is sketchy. During its ownership by the Dickinson-Logan family, from 1785 to 1861, the property was occupied and worked by tenants which may account for the "dilapidated" condition of the farm at its sale to Jacob R. Weldin. The Weldin family owned and occupied the property from 1862 to 1934, when it operated as a successful dairy farm in Brandywine Hundred.

TABLE 15

**INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT 1919**  
**(will of J. Atwood Weldin)**

700 Bu. Corn at \$1.80	\$1,260.00
Engines, scales, mill & truck	60.00
Farm wagon No. 1	15.00
"    "    No. 2	20.00
Implements in barn, shed & fan	42.00
10 tons of hay at \$20	200.00
Drill, fodder cutter, corn planter & hay fork	85.00
3 tons of bran	97.50
Hupmobile	800.00
Ford car	75.00
Milk wagon, separator, cans & bottles	20.00
Lot of chickens & ducks	125.00
One seated carriage	10.00
Farm & carriage harness	25.00
Hay tedder, 2 carts & hay rake	50.00
Rick of straw & corn fodder	100.00
12 cows	800.00
9 cows at \$40	360.00
1 bull	90.00
1 bull	50.00
2 heifers	40.00
2 year colt	75.00
Old bay mare	10.00
Gray mare	100.00
Gray colt	100.00
Gray horse Sam	50.00
Black mare Star	200.00
Old bay horse & old black mare	30.00
1 hog	25.00
6 pigs	36.00
Lot of lumber	20.00
Gasoline engine & pump	100.00
Wagon scales	50.00
Front room and contents	100.00
Parlor	75.00
Hall rack & table	11.00
Contents of Mrs. Weldin's room, bureau, chest, chairs, bed, sewing machine, desk, lounge & c.	50.00
Front spare room, 2d floor	60.00
2d floor suite	25.00
2d story room N.E. Corner	25.00
Dining room contents	50.00
Kitchen contents	20.00
Cook's bed room	15.00
Contents of attic	10.00
Contents of cellar	20.00
	<u>20.00</u>
	\$5,571.50

TABLE 15 CONTINUED

ESTATE OF Jacob Atwood Weldin

General description of real estate together with names and relationships of parties entitled to the same.

Farm of about 95 acres at Blue Ball on both sides of Miller Road, Brandywine Hd., Delaware	\$30,000.
Farm of about 35 acres near Blue Ball adjoining other farm	5,000.
Two two-story brick houses 1809 & 1811, Jessup St., Wil. Del.	3,200.
18 1/2 acres of marsh in Cherry Island, Wilmington, Delaware	4,000.

Names and relationships of parties entitled to the same.

Ida J. Weldin	widow
Jacob R. Weldin	son
Hannah Elizabeth Pierce	daughter
Howard L. Weldin	son
Paul Weldin	son
Willis Weldin	son

STATE OF DELAWARE  
NEW CASTLE COUNTY

On this 24th day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and nineteen personally came before me Isaac R. Brown, Register of Wills for the County and State aforesaid, George A. Elliot and Jacob R. Weldin who being by me first severally duly sworn according to law, deposes and says: that the facts contained in the above statement are true according to his best information and belief.

George A. Elliot  
Jacob R. Weldin

Witness my hand and seal of office

Isaac R. Brown  
Register of Wills

## **Results of Extended Phase I Field Investigations**

A detailed plan map (Figure 64) of the site was made by the DelDOT surveying team prior to extended Phase I testing, and was used to plan this fieldwork. Each foundation wall or feature was placed on this map, providing the general layout of the buildings. Additional maps and drawings were made during the fieldwork for some of the structures and these are discussed in the appropriate sections below.

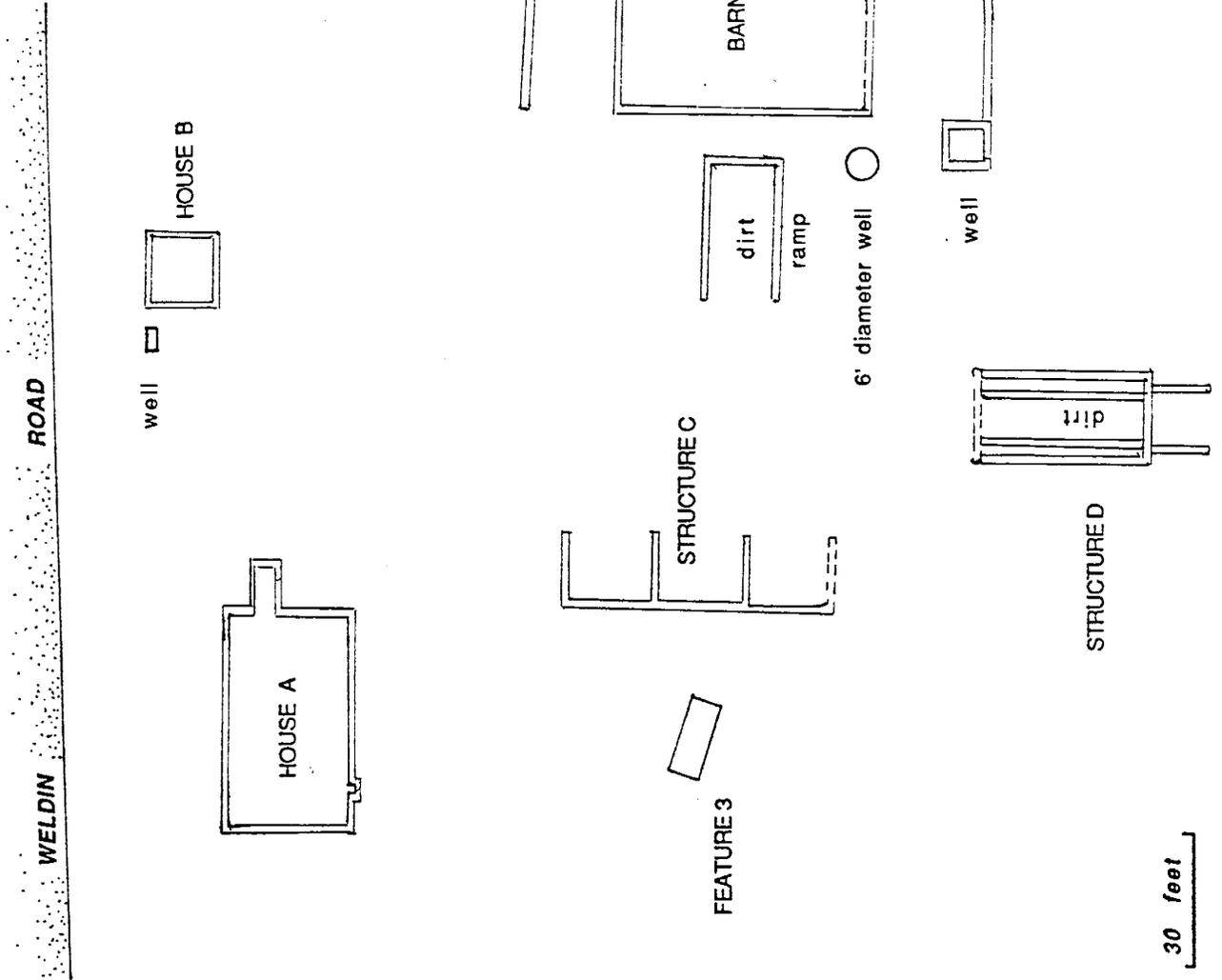
Extended Phase I field testing was begun by first establishing a site grid. The north/south base line established by the DelDOT surveyors was utilized for this purpose. The nail placed in Weldin Road by the survey team was arbitrarily designated as N500E200. Wooden stakes were placed at every fifty foot grid point and excavation units were plotted in from these stakes. Each unit was designated by the coordinates of the southwest corner. The excavation units that were placed in the structures and that did not align with the grid system were assigned consecutive unit numbers for each of the structures, i.e. Building A, Unit 1; Building B, Unit 1, etc. Shovel tests (1 ft. by 1 ft.) were employed in some cases to identify artifact concentrations and these were assigned either grid coordinates when possible or unit numbers. Test pits (3 ft. by 3 ft.) were used over most of the site to improve the chances of locating features and to provide stratigraphic control. In two instances, trenches were excavated (at Structure D and Feature 5, discussed below) to follow feature boundaries or for greater exposure. Figure 65 shows the excavation units and the shovel tests.

The north/south base line (which corresponds to the E200 line) runs down an old road bed which was the plantation drive. This road bed continues south of the site and is bordered on either side by Osage orange trees. It eventually runs into the City Reservoir, at which point it has been obliterated. Today this road bed serves as a fence line between two cultivated fields, and is no longer in use as a road. The entrance way to the site is located where this road meets the modern Weldin Road and is marked by two stone and concrete gate posts in Figures 64 and 65.

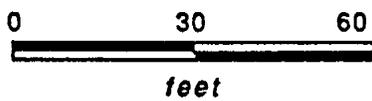
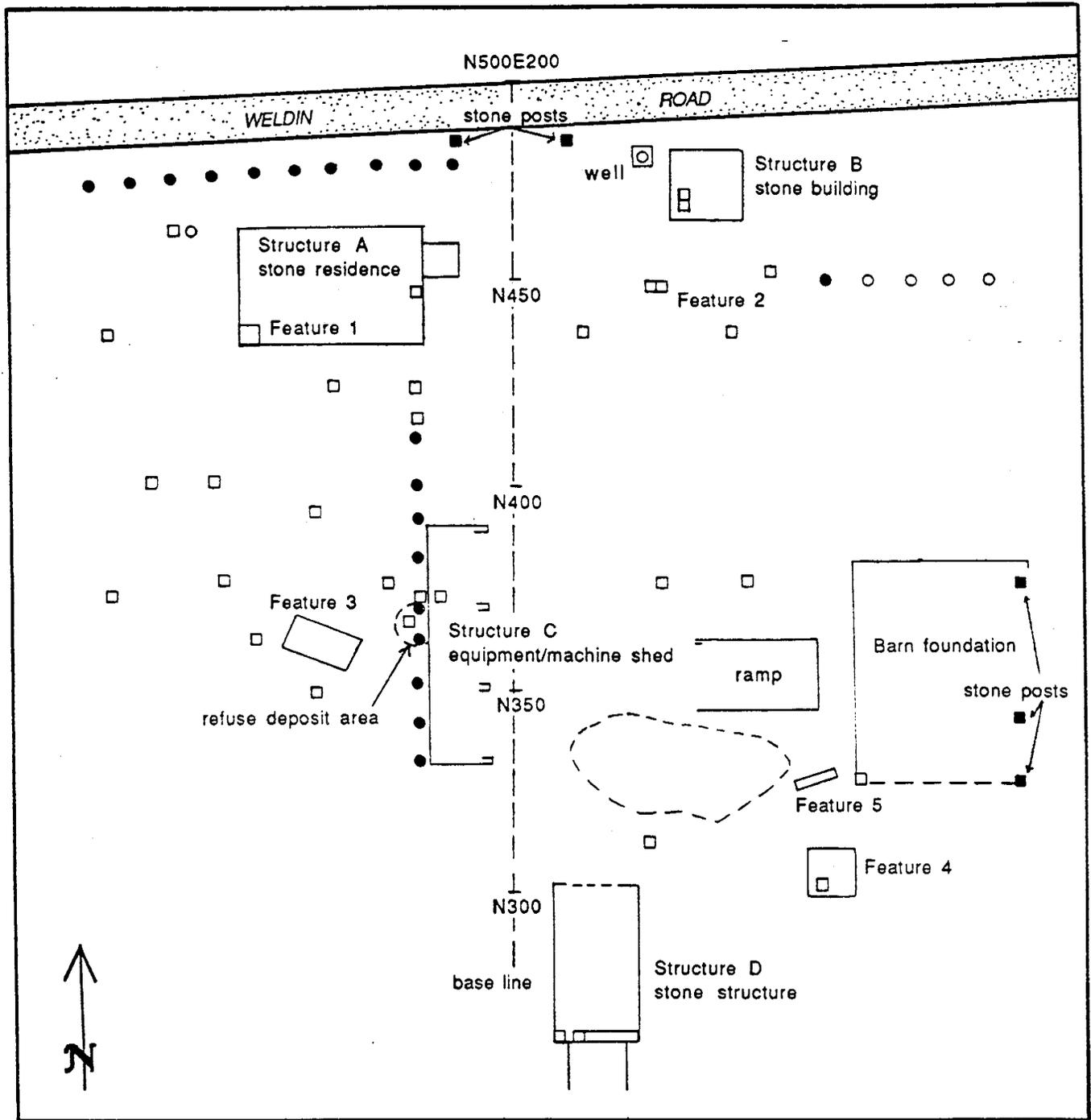
### **Excavations within the Structures**

The main structure, Building A (Plate 29), is located within 25 feet of Weldin Road, at the northeast corner of the site. It was at least a two (+?) story structure and measured 44 by 30 feet. At ground level, the structure was divided into two sections, each with a below-ground, full cellar. Figure 66 shows the floor plan at ground level, based on the measurements of the foundation walls. The east section is slightly smaller than the west and appears to be the original portion of the house onto which the west wing was added at a later date. This interpretation is based only on the method of joining the two sections and additional evidence will be necessary to confirm this. The walls of the western section were

**FIGURE 64**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Plan Map**



**FIGURE 65**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Location of Test Units**



- = 3'x3' test unit
- = 1'x1' shovel test with artifacts
- = 1'x1' shovel test without artifacts
- (dashed) = modern dump area

**PLATE 29**  
**Weldin Plantation Site, Foundation Remains**



Northeast view

simply butted against the corners of the east section, as shown on Figure 66.

The northern two corners of the building are all that are still standing above ground level. They extend up to a second story but have collapsed below what would have been the roof line. The plan of the upper story is shown in Figure 67, with the missing walls shown using dashed lines. Curiously, the vertical edge of the interior portion of the north wall was finished on a curve. This detail is also shown on Figure 66. It is perhaps part of a door or window frame which was built into the stone wall, although this could not be confirmed.

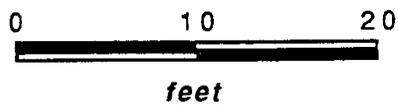
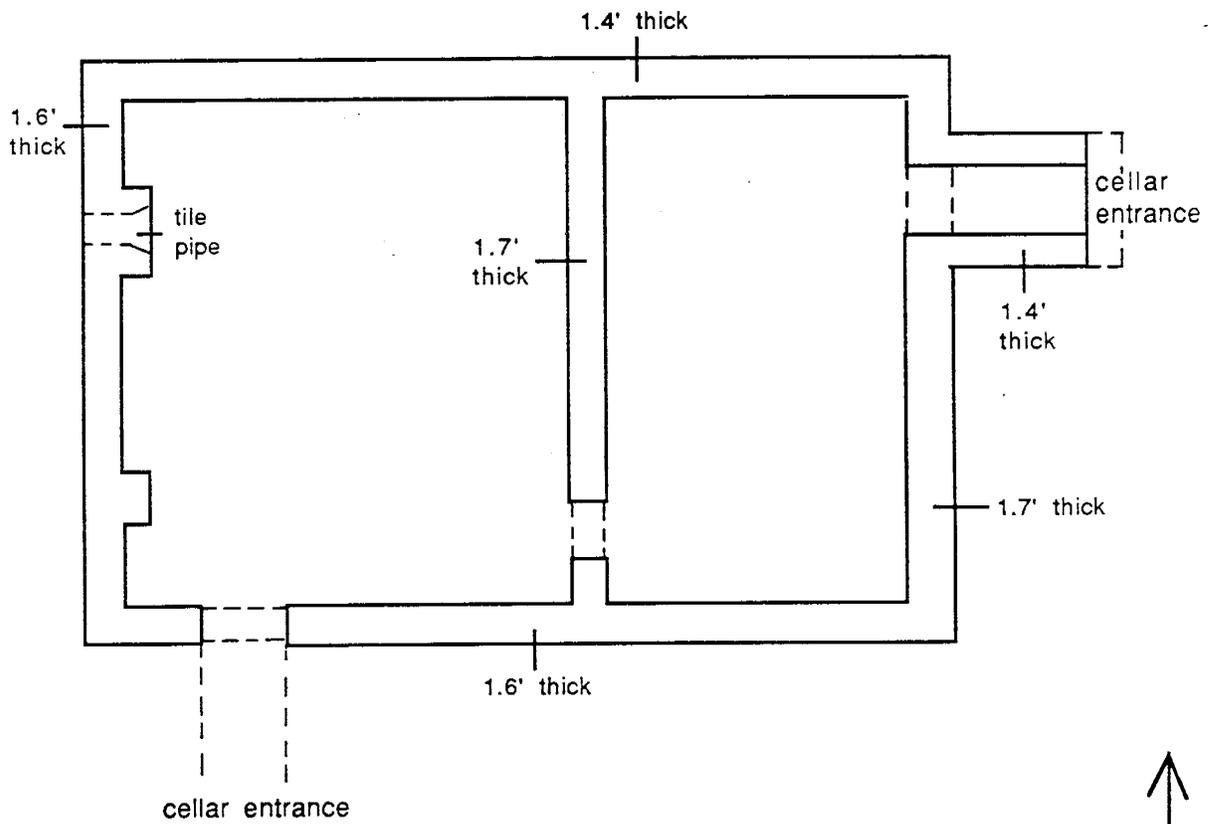
The interior walls above the ground level had lathing strips still attached to the stone, while the exterior side of the same wall revealed a mortar facing, with diagonally oriented imprints of lathing strips which suggest that the exterior surface of the structure was finished with some type of covering as well (Plate 30). It is likely, based both on this and the archival evidence, that the stone dwelling was later covered with wood siding as a two story stone house is listed in 1803, and the 1881 records list a frame house.

Each section of the house had its own cellar entrance. The west section cellar entrance was located on the south wall near the southwest corner of the building. The other was located on the east wall near the northeast corner of the building. Both entrances are stone lined bulkheads, extending approximately 6 to 8 feet out from the foundation walls. They may prove to be helpful in dating each of the two sections of the house as structures with cellars usually lack a builder's trench, unless they have cellar entrance bulkhead (Noel-Hume 1985:119). The builder's trenches of the bulkheads may provide datable material which would give a date of construction for each wing of the house.

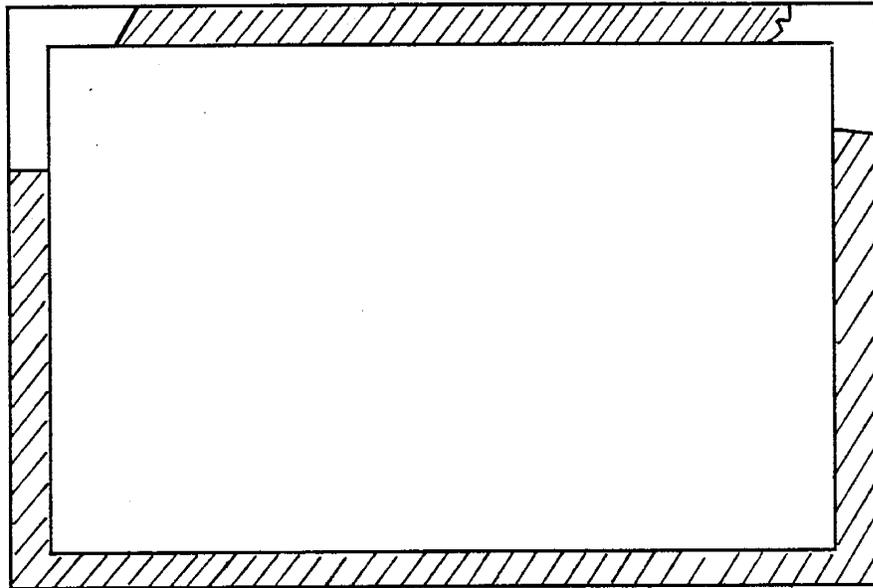
A doorway is located at the southern end of the interior wall separating the two cellar rooms. Since this wall was presumably the exterior wall of the earlier wing, it may have been the cellar entrance prior to the addition of the west wing.

The elevation of the cellar floor was found to be six to seven feet below the present ground level. The majority of the cellar space was filled with demolition material. The floor of the west section was paved with brick, a portion of which is shown in plan view in Figure 68. In addition, a brick lined well or sump (Feature 1) was discovered at the southwest corner of the cellar in Units 1 and 2 (Plate 31). This feature was circular and measured 2.3 feet in diameter. A brick cap was found inside the feature at .3 feet below the floor level. This is shown in profile view in Figure 69. The brick cap was removed during the extended Phase I excavations and revealed an underlying sand and pebble fill. This suggests that the feature was either a sump or well which had been filled and sealed. The sand and pebble layer was

**FIGURE 66**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Floor Plan of Structure A, Ground Level**



**FIGURE 67**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Floor Plan of Structure A**  
**Second Story Showing Remaining Walls**



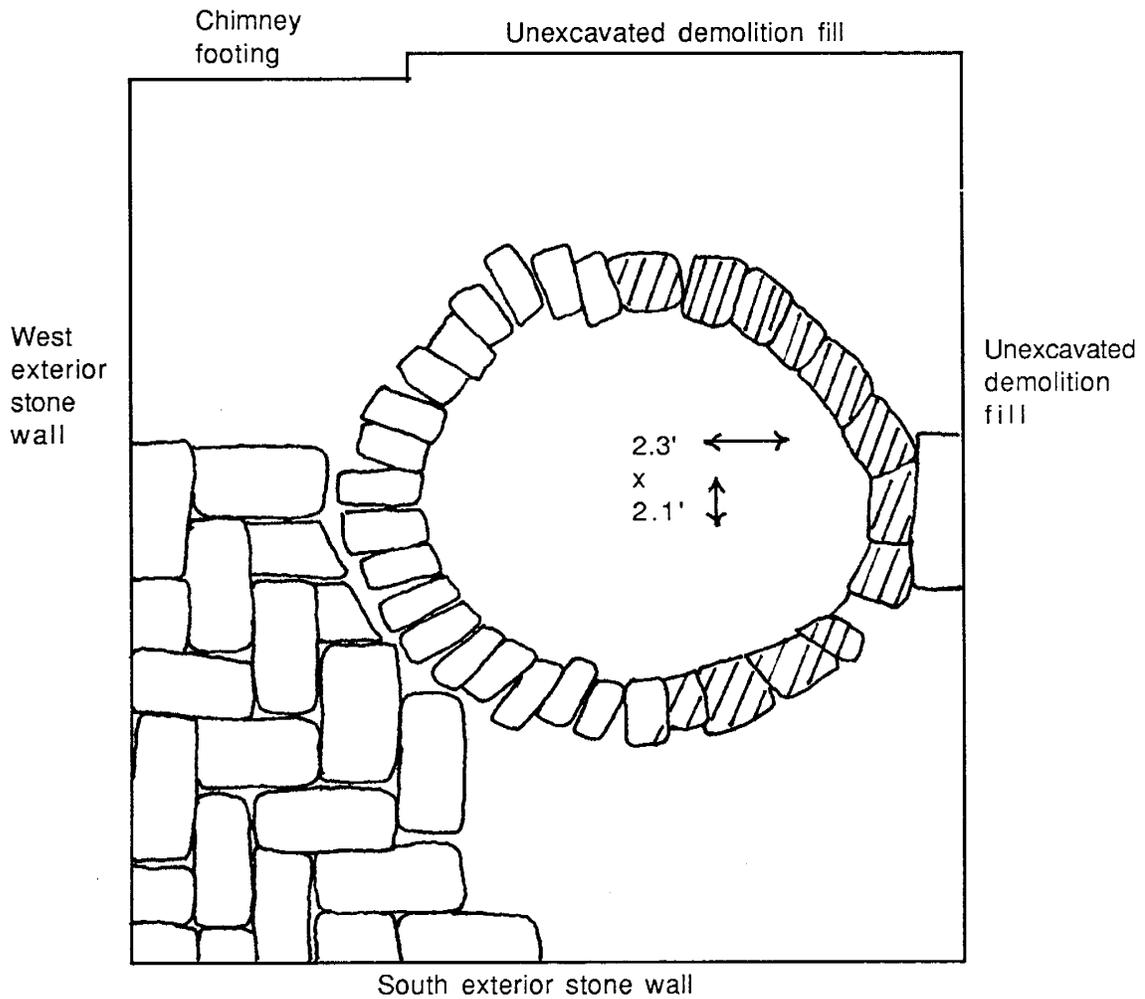
-  = remaining walls
-  = hypothesized walls

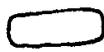


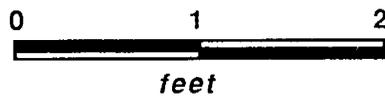
**PLATE 30**  
**Weldin Plantation Site, Structure A, Interior Detail**



**FIGURE 68**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Feature 1, Planview**



-  = brick
-  = top bricks missing

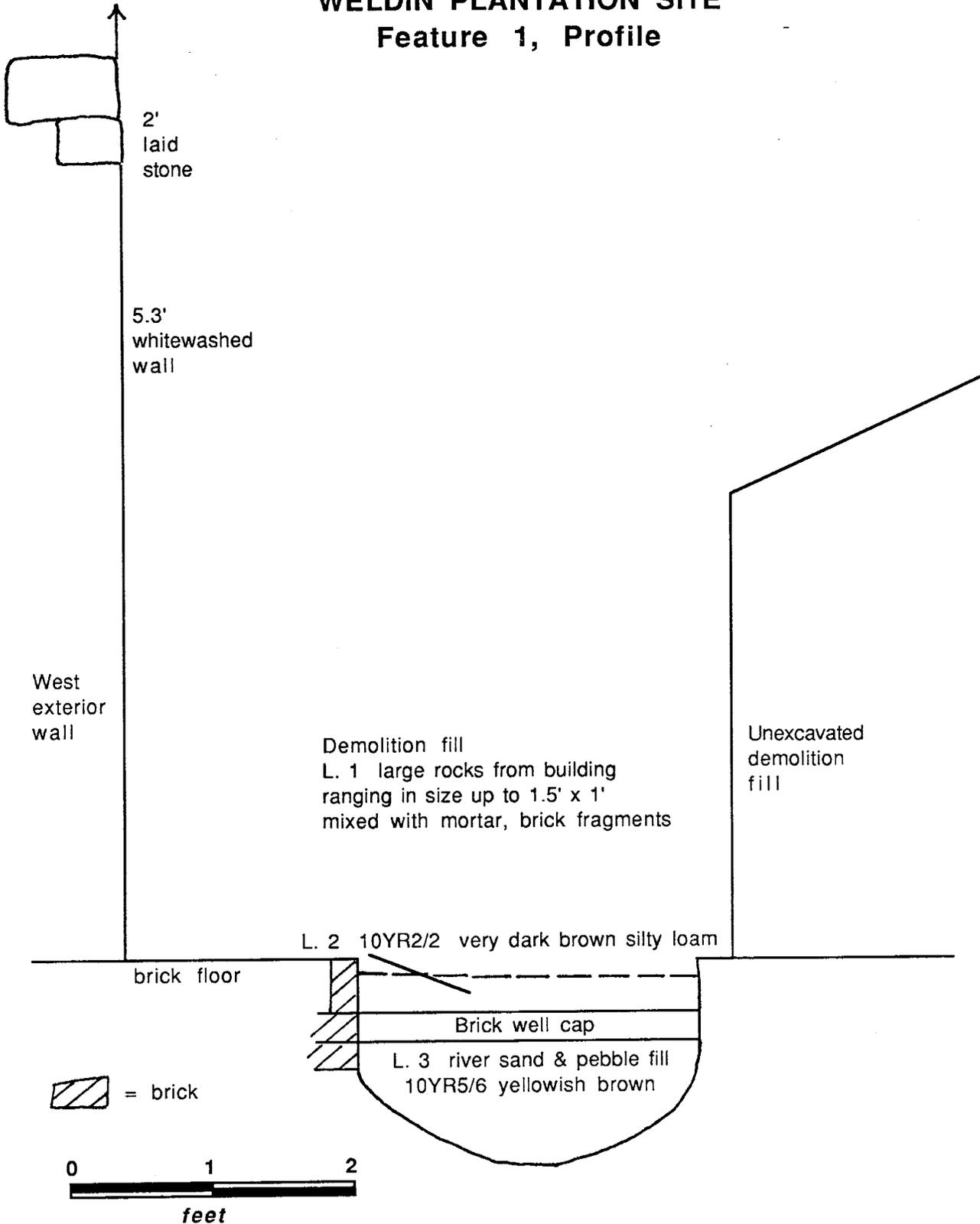


**PLATE 31**  
**Weldin Plataation Site, Structure A, Well/Sump**



North view

**FIGURE 69**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Feature 1, Profile**



excavated to a depth of 1.4 feet below the cellar floor, at which point the excavation was terminated.

The artifacts from Level 1 (demolition fill) above Feature 1 included an unglazed coarse red earthenware sherd, a bottle glass fragment, 3 window glass fragments, three lamp chimney fragments, 11 can fragments and two nails. The bottle glass was from a machine made bottle and dates from 1903 to the present. Level 2 was from the feature fill and included 1 can fragment, 1 nail fragment, a brick fragment and a cut nail. Level 3 in Feature 1 contained 3 unglazed coarse red earthenware sherds, 1 plain whiteware sherd and a window glass fragment.

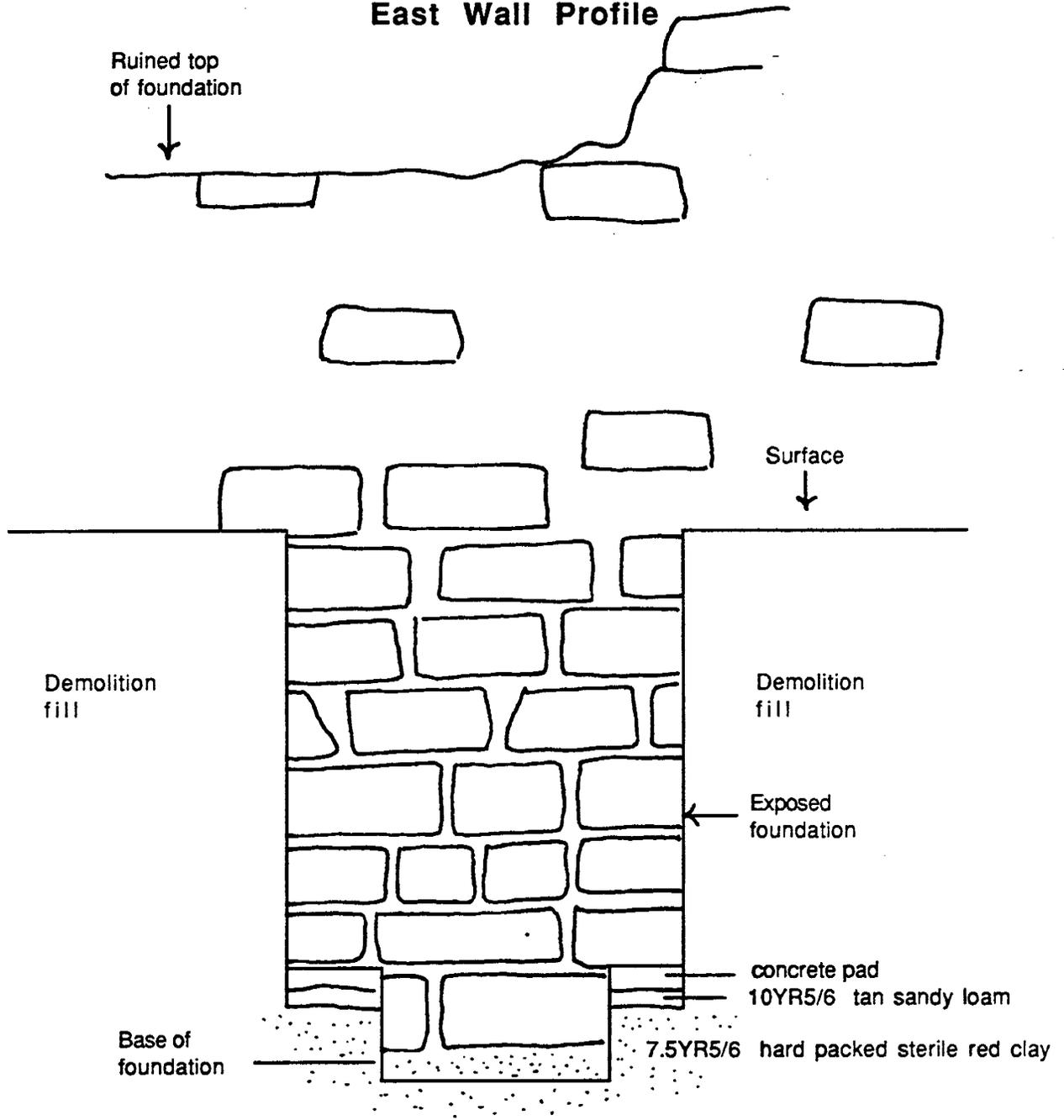
Unit 1, Level 1 contained 15 fragments of bottle glass, a glass container fragment, 8 fragments of window glass and 11 cut nails. This level was contained within the demolition fill.

Unit 4 was placed on the east wall interior of the east wing (Figure 65). Here the cellar floor was found to have been covered with a three inch layer of concrete which appears to be a later improvement. Figure 70 provides a profile view of the east wall showing the interior of the east wall of the house. All of the material excavated from this unit was demolition fill which rested on the concrete floor. The fill below the concrete floor contained two porcelain sherds. One of these was Underglaze Blue Chinese Porcelain and dates from 1660-1800 (South 1977).

The three units excavated on the interior of Structure A revealed that the interior cellar walls of the west wing were coated with whitewash, while the corresponding walls of the east wing had no finishing.

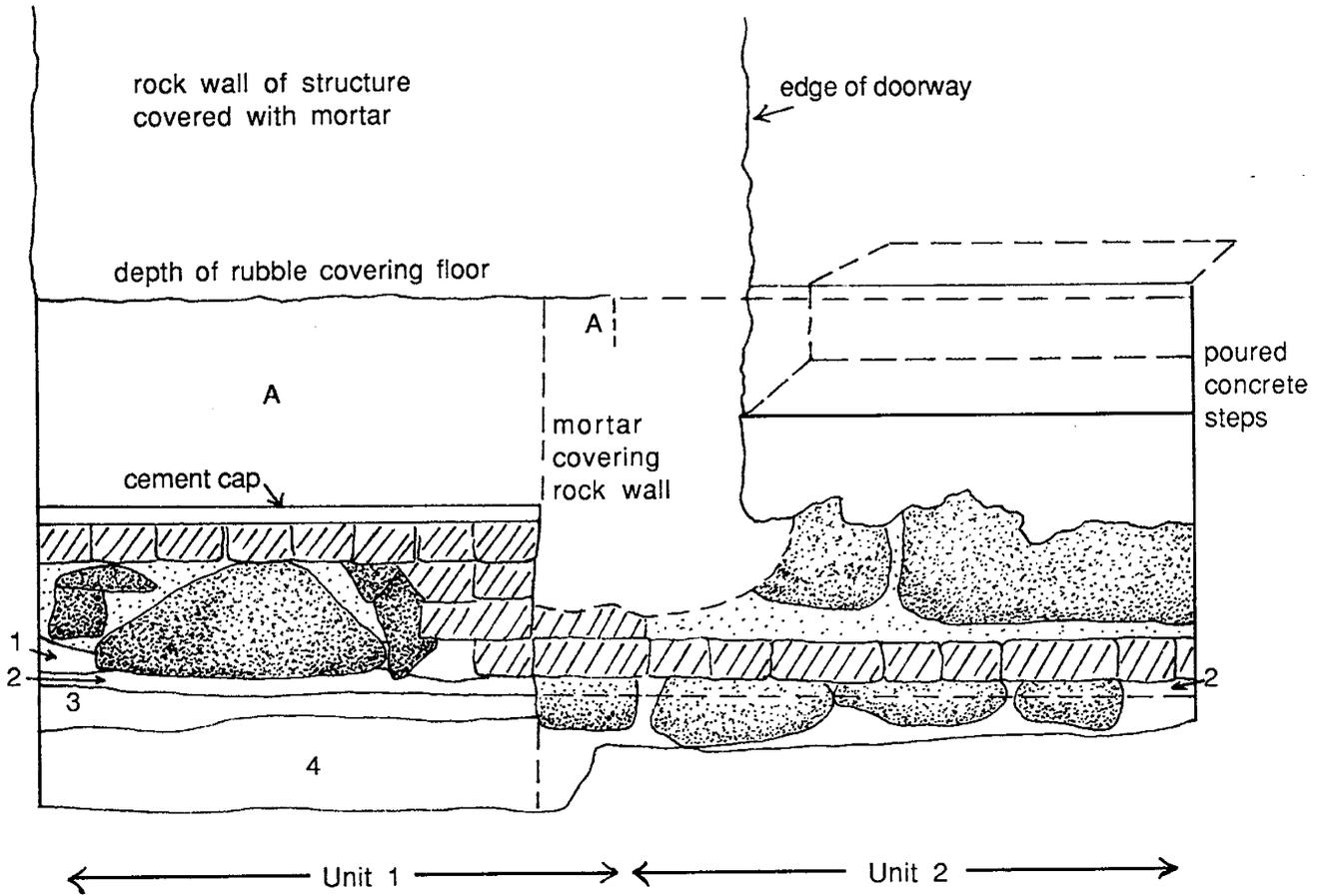
Structure B is located 60 feet to the east of Structure A (Figures 64 and 65). It is constructed of stone as well and is considerably smaller than the main residence, measuring 18 feet on a side. Unlike the main residence, there was no cellar. Eighty percent of the four walls are still standing and are intact to the roof line. Because of its small size, Structure B is thought to have functioned as a detached kitchen or some other type of dependency at some point in the site's history. The entrance faces west towards the main house and a stone lined well is located just outside the doorway, at the northwest corner of the building. Two adjacent 3 ft. by 3 ft. test pits were excavated on the interior of the structure (Units 1 and 2). These were located along the west wall and revealed nearly 2 feet of rubble and demolition fill covering a brick floor. The floor was stepped along the south wall, forming a platform which was .7 feet high and 2.5 feet deep. This step is shown in profile in Figure 71. The step at the doorway to the exterior is also partially shown in this figure and on Plate 32. The rubble on the interior of the structure included a considerable amount of modern bottle glass, including liquor bottles, and it appears to have been used as a shelter in recent times, well after the site was abandoned.

**FIGURE 70**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Structure A, Unit 4**  
**East Wall Profile**



**FIGURE 71**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Structure B, Units 1 and 2**  
**West Wall Profile**

southwest  
corner  
of  
structure



- A - sandy rubble fill 10YR5/2
- 1 - sandy coarse fill 10YR4/2
- 2 - sandy coarse fill w/ pebbles 10YR6/6
- 3 - coarse sandy fill 7.5YR5/6
- 4 - very dry and compact sandy clay subsoil 10YR6/6

-  = rock
-  = brick
-  = mortar & rubble surrounding rocks

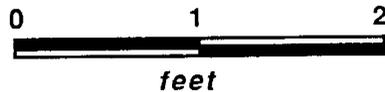


PLATE 32  
Weldin Plantation Site, Structure B, Floor Detail



West view

Level 1 of Unit 1 contained an undecorated porcelain sherd, 11 bottle glass fragments, 14 glass container fragments, 2 cut nails, a wire nail, 3 can fragments, 24 floor tile fragments, a cable clamp, a carriage bolt, and the wheel and shaft of a toy(?). Level 2 of Unit 1 contained 9 whiteware fragments, 1 bottle glass fragment, 8 glass tableware fragments, a glass container fragment and a piece of plastic. Level 3 of Unit 1 contained 3 bottle glass fragments, 2 window glass fragments, 4 unidentified metal fragments and a mortar fragment.

Level 1 of Unit 2 contained an unglazed coarse red earthenware sherd, 2 whiteware sherds, 3 tableware fragments and a can fragment. Level 3 contained 1 cut nail, 20 can fragments, 1 unidentifiable nail fragment, a metal button, and 3 fragments of slate. Level 2 contained no artifacts.

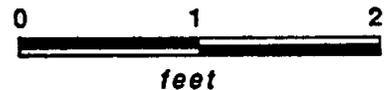
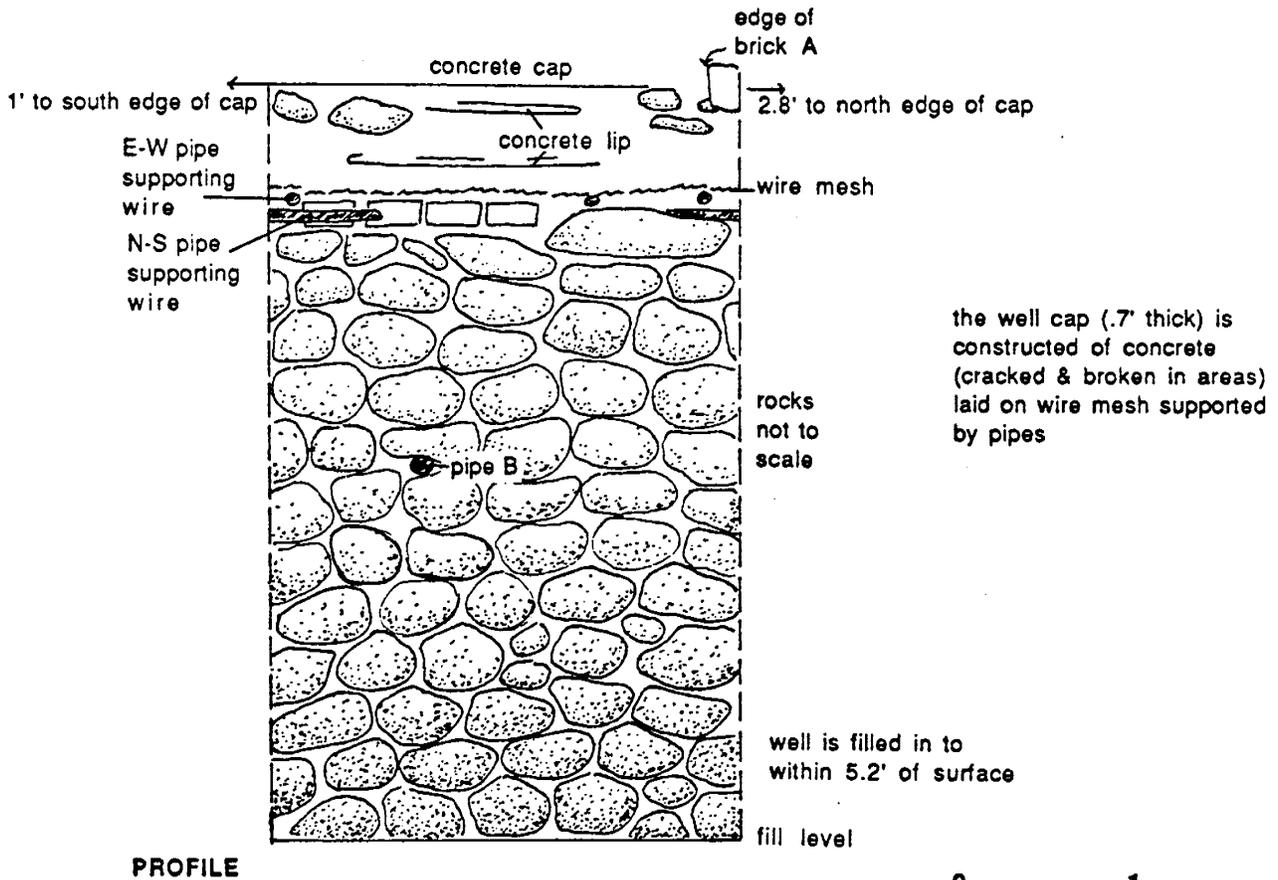
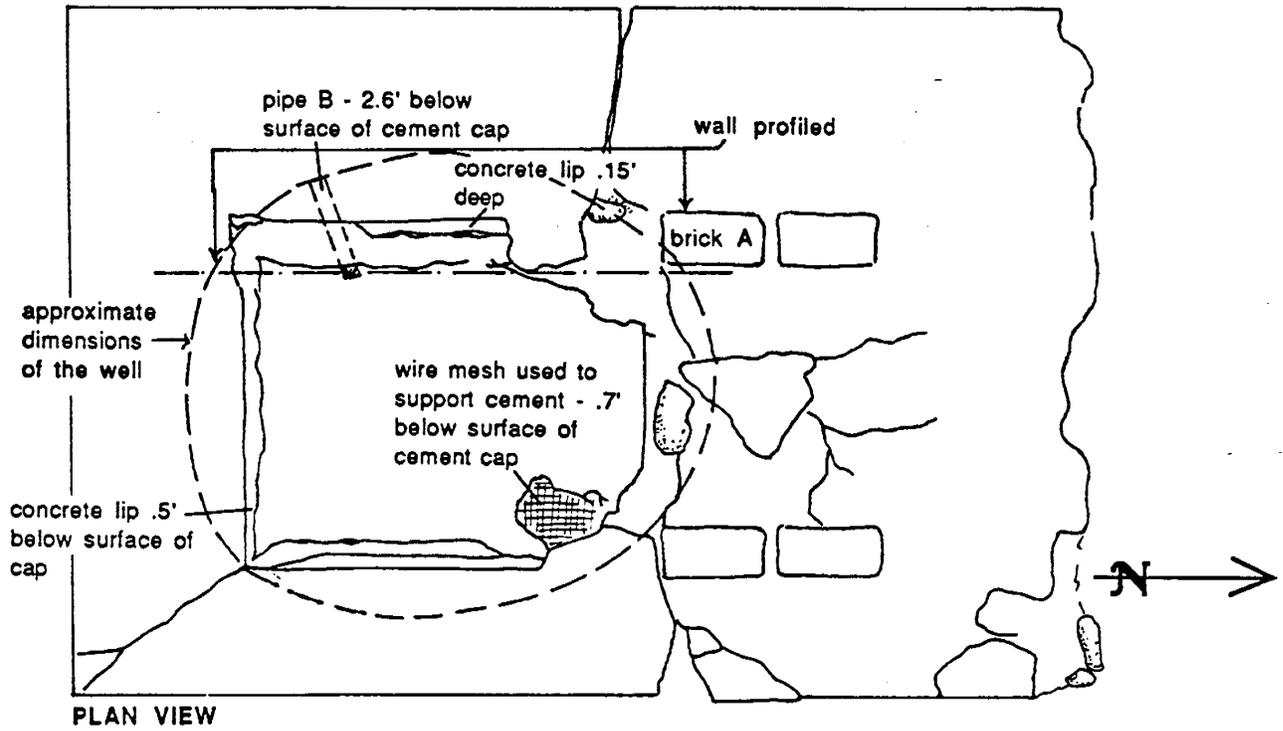
The well just outside the building was capped with a cement platform which was lipped to accommodate a removable cover. Figure 72 shows a plan and profile of the well and it is apparent that the cement cap was a later improvement, as voids between the cap and the original stone lining were filled below the present ground surface. No attempt was made to excavate the well during the extended Phase I testing.

Structure C is interpreted as an equipment or machine shed which was open on the side facing the plantation drive (Figures 64 and 65). It consists of three joining bays which are separated by stone footings. The back (west) wall was dug into the bank slightly and the difference in elevation between the front and rear of this wall varies between 1 and 3 feet. There were no stone footings on the east side of the structure, suggesting that this side was open to allow access for equipment or machinery storage. Not all three bays were constructed at the same time and it appears that the northern bay was built first, with the remaining two added at a later date. This is based on the fact that the rear wall where the first bay division occurs does not meet squarely with the rear wall of the adjoining bay. This detail is shown in Figure 73.

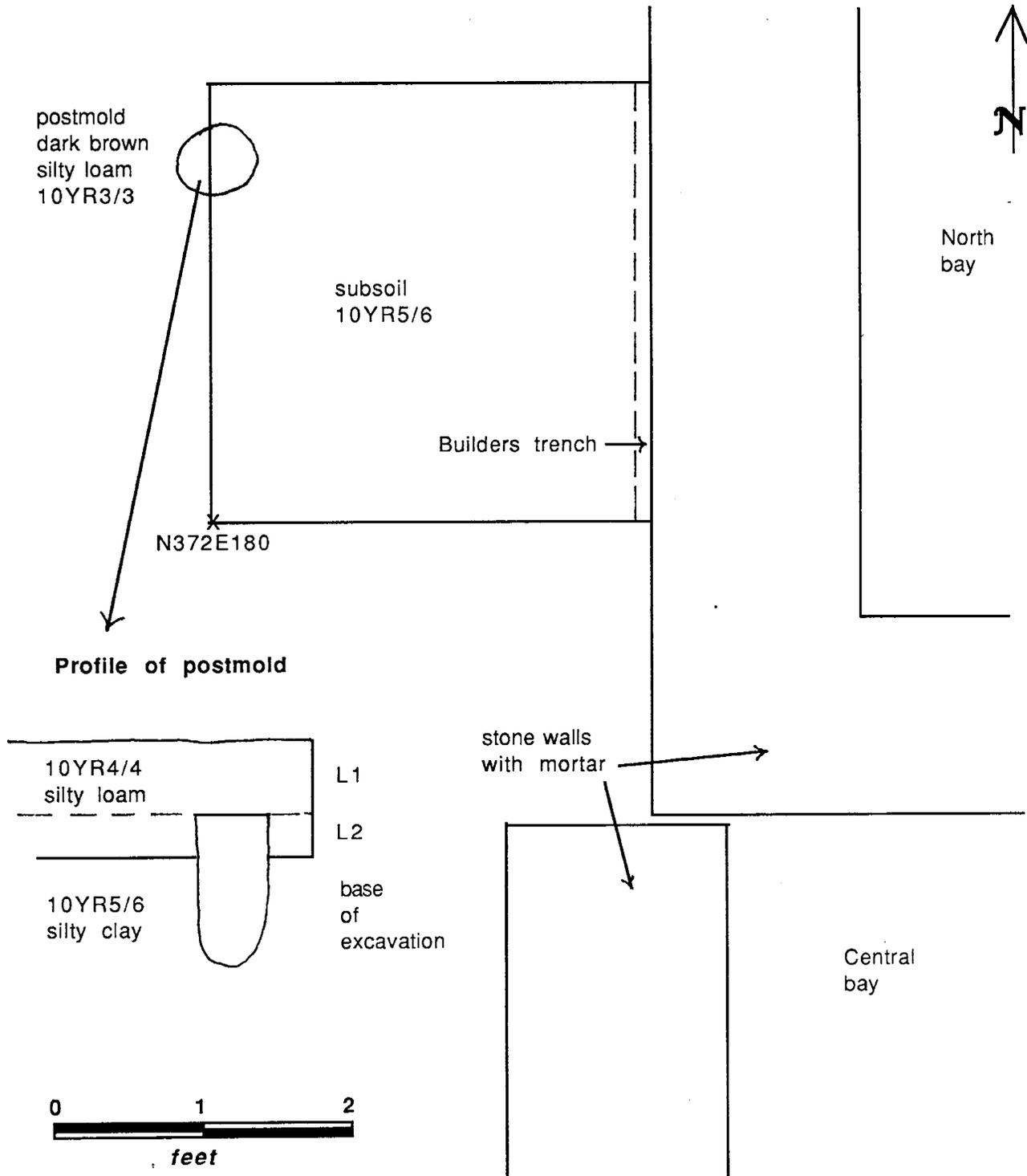
N372E180 was placed on the interior of Structure C. Level 1 in this unit contained a whiteware sherd, 80 bottle glass fragments, 56 cut nails, 4 wire nails, 3 can fragments, 3 door parts, a plaster fragment and 13 unidentified nails. Level 2 contained 7 bottle glass fragments, 29 cut nails, a wire nail, and a hardware fragment. Both these levels were in the demolition fill.

The nature and function of Structure D is unclear at this point. The foundation is divided into two joining parts, each consisting of stone and mortar footings (Plate 33). A detail drawing is shown in Figure 74. The northern portion is 46 feet long and includes two double rows of stone footings. Each row is approximately six feet wide and the space between the two rows is nine feet. Each row is made up of two linear stone walls separated by a .5 foot wide empty space. The walls are each 1.5 feet wide

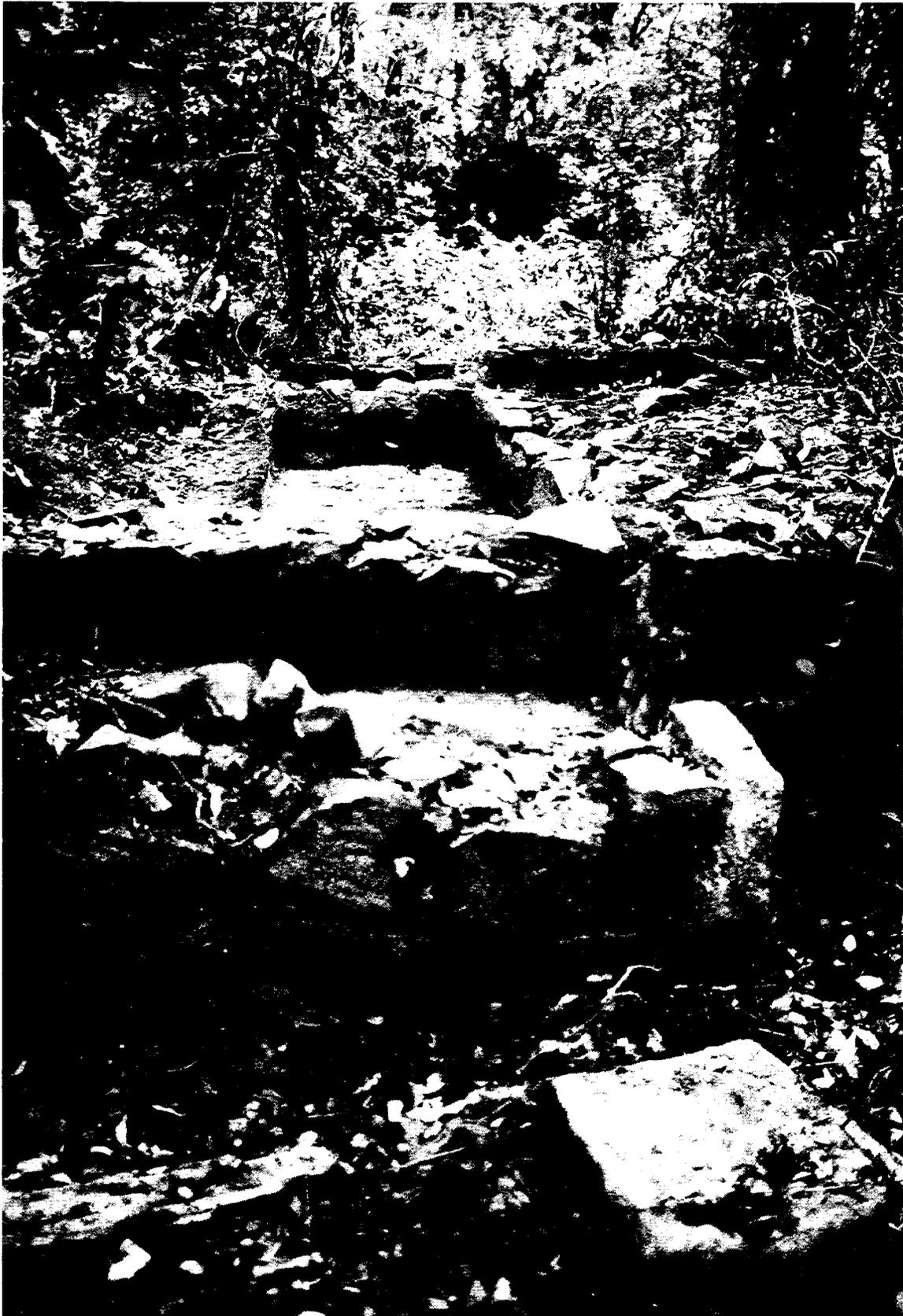
**FIGURE 72**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Structure B, Plan and Profile of Well**



**FIGURE 73**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Structure C**  
**Plan View, Base of Level 2**

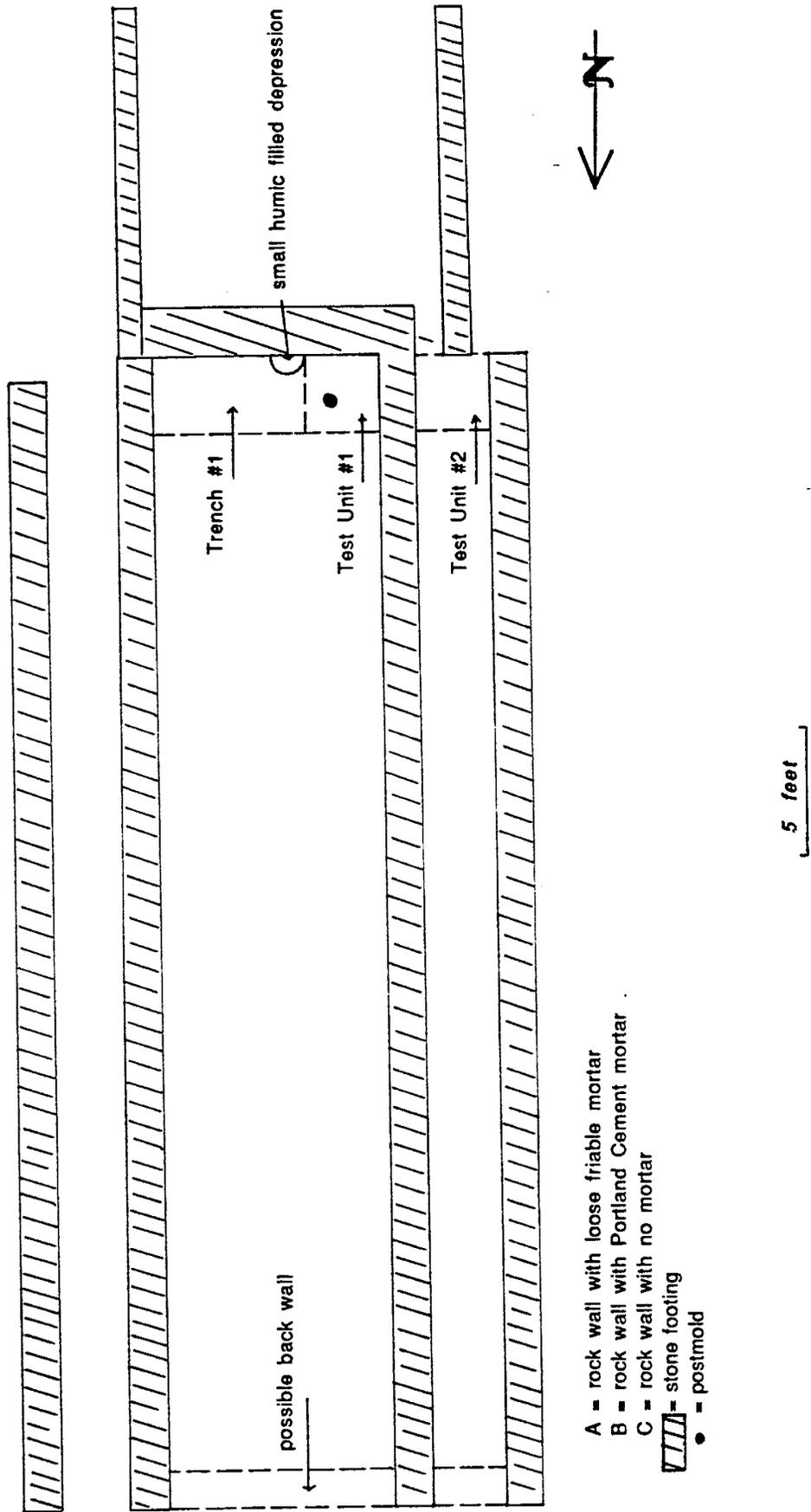


**PLATE 33**  
**Weldin Plantation Site, Structure D**



East view

**FIGURE 74**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Structure D, Detail**



and are constructed of stone and mortar. The tops of the footings are finished and are only a foot or so higher than the surrounding ground surface. It is possible that a wooden structure rested on top of the footings, although there was no direct evidence for this.

The southern part of Structure D has the appearance of a more conventional structure footing. It was apparently open at the south end as there is no stone footing across this end. The tops of the stone were also finished in a similar manner as the north section, although the method of construction and a difference in the composition of the mortar suggest that it was not built at the same time.

Level 1 in Unit 1 in Structure D contained a whiteware sherd, 53 bottle glass fragments, 11 window glass fragments, 2 staples, 50 cut nails, 8 wire nails, 60 can fragments and a number of hardware fragments including what looked to be machine parts and an electrical connection box. Level 2 contained 2 window glass fragments and 7 cut nails. Both these levels were in the demolition fill.

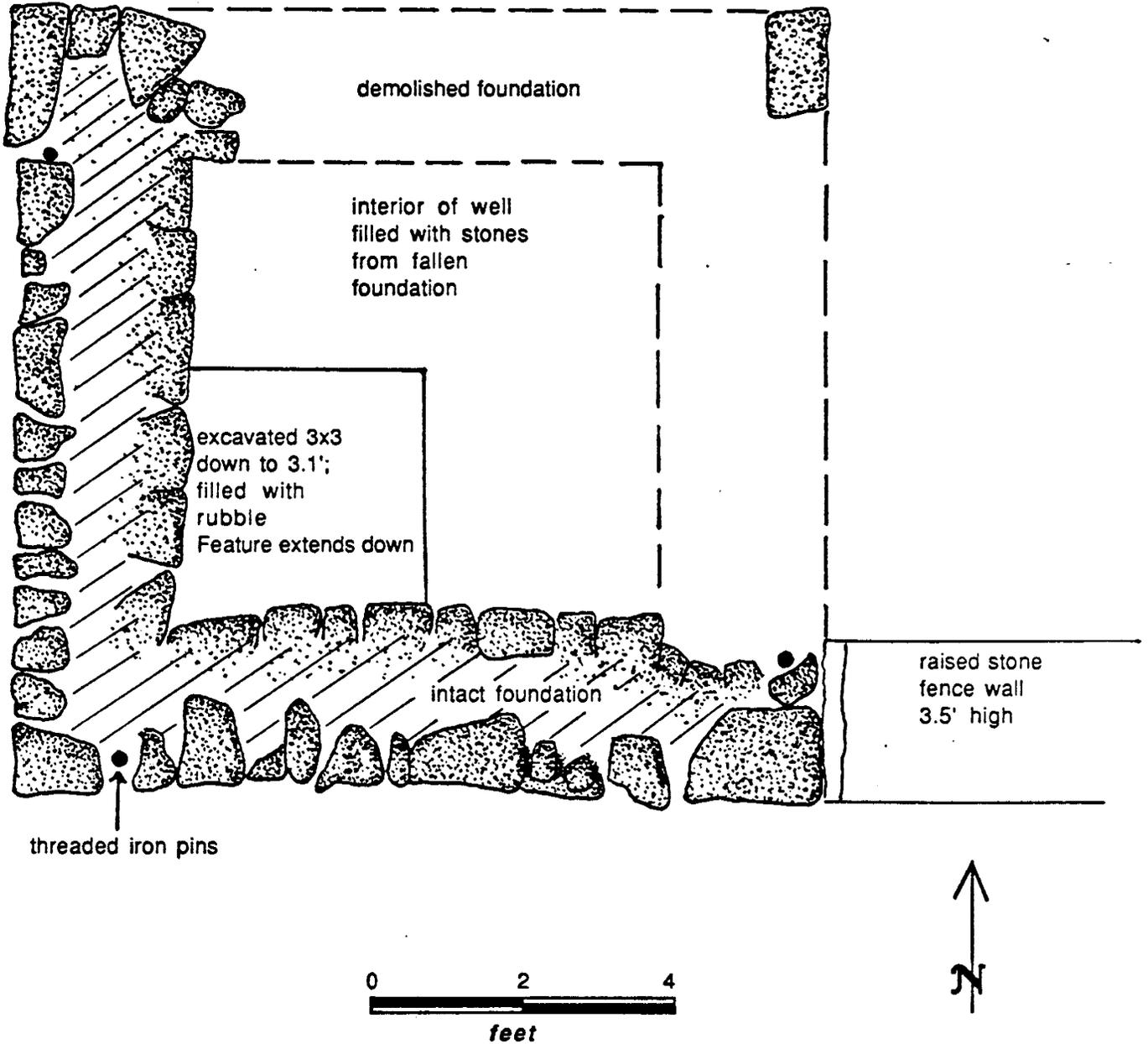
Level 1 in Unit 2 in Structure D contained 8 bottle glass fragments, 3 window glass fragments, a cut nail, 4 can fragments, and miscellaneous hardware fragments. Level 2 contained 53 cut nails, 5 wire nails, a wood screw, 9 bottle glass fragments and 4 window glass fragments. These levels were in the demolition fill as well.

Figure 64 provides a view of the general layout of the barn complex. Included are a nearly square barn which measured 42 by 48 feet, a covered stable area along the north side of the complex, and an open corral which was surrounded by a stone fence. An earthen ramp provided wagon and equipment access to the loft and was located on the west side facing the drive. The barn was supported on three sides with stone walls, while the side facing the corral was open and supported by piers. Two of the foundation walls have partially fallen and the southern wall is almost completely deteriorated.

Level 1 in Unit 1 in the Barn contained 3 whiteware fragments, 31 bottle glass fragments, 3 cut nails, a wire nail, and 10 can fragments. Level 2 in Unit 1 contained 1 yellowware fragment, 2 bottle glass fragments, a cut nail and a .22 caliber nickel plated shell. Level 3 contained 48 bottle glass fragments, a cut nail, a wire nail and 11 can fragments.

A square stone pit feature (Feature 4, Figure 75) is located on the south side of the barn, at the end of the corral fence. The feature is six feet square and the walls are slightly more than two feet thick. Most of the north and east walls have crumbled; however, the other two walls are complete and have finished tops. Iron threaded pins are located at the three intact corners and appear to have been used to bolt a structure or apparatus to the

**FIGURE 75**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE BARN**  
**Feature 4, Plan**



top. A test pit was excavated on the interior southwest corner; it was terminated at three feet below the surface when it became too dangerous to continue without bracing the walls. The interior was filled with loose stone and some soil and its total depth is still undetermined. Its function is unclear although it may have been a well providing water for the stock in the adjacent corral.

A six foot wide roughly circular depression is located between Feature 4 and the barn ramp. It was thought to have been a well and was designated as Feature 5. A test trench was excavated through the center of the depression; it was found to contain a clay soil matrix with modern artifacts such as plastic, etc. The area to the southwest of the depression had been used as a modern dump and the materials were probably derived from this dumping activity. The profile of the test trench is shown on Figure 76. This indicates that a 1.5 foot deep pit which measured approximately five feet had been dug into the subsoil. There were no indications as to the origin of the pit, however, and the fill contained modern artifacts. The fill was not screened for this reason. One possible interpretation is that the pit was a borrow area for the construction of the Barn ramp located immediately to the north.

Feature 5 contained 2 whiteware sherds, 2 ironstone sherds, a glass fragment, 2 cut nails, 2 wire nails, a nail fragment, a bolt and a washer.

#### **Testing Outside the Structures**

Extended Phase I testing at the Weldin site included thirty 1' by 1' shovel tests, thirty-one 3' by 3' test pits and two linear trenches. In addition, detailed plan maps of portions of the various structures were drawn as needed. The excavation unit locations are shown on Figure 65. The units directly associated with the individual structures have already been discussed. The remaining units were excavated in the areas between the structures and behind Structures A and B in an effort to identify features and artifact concentrations. The majority of the units were purposely excavated around Structures A and B because it was felt that these areas would provide the highest yield of material associated with refuse from the occupants in addition to being the most likely location for privies. The remaining structures were tested as necessary to ascertain function, to record construction details and identify artifact concentrations, etc. The barn complex was the least intensively tested as its layout and function were obvious. The results of the test pits are presented below in groups according to the associated structure or area. Individual units are discussed only where this is necessary to present unit specific details or to make generalizations about a particular area.

**FIGURE 76**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Feature 5, Profile of North Wall**



**SOIL KEY**

- 1 - soil mixed with coal debris
- 2 - 10YR5/8 - hard packed tan loam
- 3 - 10YR4/2 - greyish ash lens
- 4 - 10YR5/8 - mottled orange & tan sandy loam
- 5 - 10YR8/1 - light grey material
- 6 - 10YR5/6 - tan silty loam
- 7 - 7.5YR5/6 - hard packed clay subsoil



Excavations around the exterior of Structure A included ten 1 ft. by 1 ft. shovel test (S.T. 1-10) and five 3 ft. by 3 ft. test pits (N460E115, N372E100, N415E175, N422E175 and N422E155). The shovel tests were spaced every ten feet and were placed between the house and the hedgerow which is growing along the edge of Weldin Road. The test pits were placed on the west and south sides of the house as shown in Figure 65.

The shovel tests were excavated to sterile subsoil which averaged about 1.3 feet in depth. All ten shovel tests contained artifacts, although the greatest concentration was toward the east where the plantation entrance gate is located. The artifacts from these units included both modern and earlier materials. The recent material is interpreted as road debris from Weldin Road. The earlier materials included a high percentage of architectural debris including cut nails and window glass.

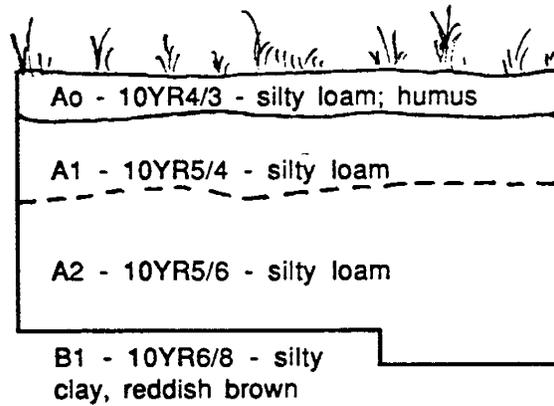
Two 3 ft. by 3 ft. test pits (N372E100 and N460E115) were excavated on the west side of the house. The profiles in these units were similar, both exhibiting an A horizon sequence (A0, A1, A2; Figure 77) which was just over a foot deep. A silty clay subsoil was found below the solum layer. All artifacts recovered from these units were within the A horizons.

The A horizons from all of the shovel tests and test pits combined had a Mean Ceramic Date of 1850.71. The ware types break down as follows: coarse red earthenware - 77 (31.17%), refined redware - 2 (.81%), refined stoneware - 1 (.40%), yellowware - 15 (6.07%), creamware - 3 (1.21%), pearlware - 16 (6.48%), whiteware - 65 (26.32%), ironstone - 53 (21.46%), porcelain - 8 (3.24%) and other coarse earthenwares - 7 (2.83%). Both mold blown and machine made bottle glass was found in this horizon in the shovel tests and test pits, dating from 1903 to the present.

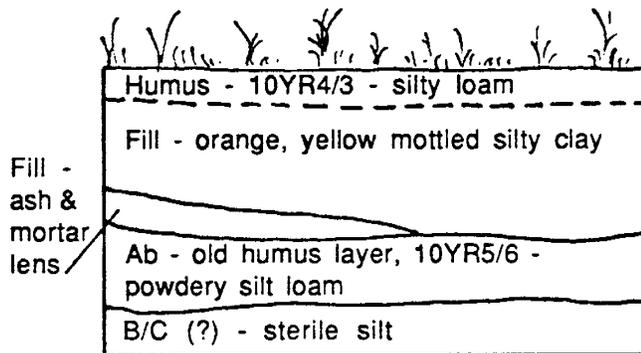
The test pits excavated on the south side of the house revealed varying degrees of disturbance as indicated from the soil profiles. In N422E155 (Figure 78), a fill layer was found resting on a remnant Ab horizon. This fill is interpreted as demolition fill which postdates the abandonment of the house. An ash and mortar lens was found between the fill and the Ab, suggesting the possibility that a fire may have contributed to the destruction of the house. The Ab layer in this unit was very thin and contained very few artifacts.

Level 1 of N422E155 contained 56 cut nails, 2 can fragments and a piece of plastic. Level 2 contained 11 coarse red earthenware sherds, 20 whiteware sherds, a stoneware sherd, 3 porcelain sherds, 30 bottle glass fragments, 45 window glass fragments, 46 cut nails, a roofing nail, 4 can fragments, 17 unidentified metal fragments, 14 unidentified nail fragments and 3 brick fragments. Machine made glass dating from 1903 to the present was found in both levels.

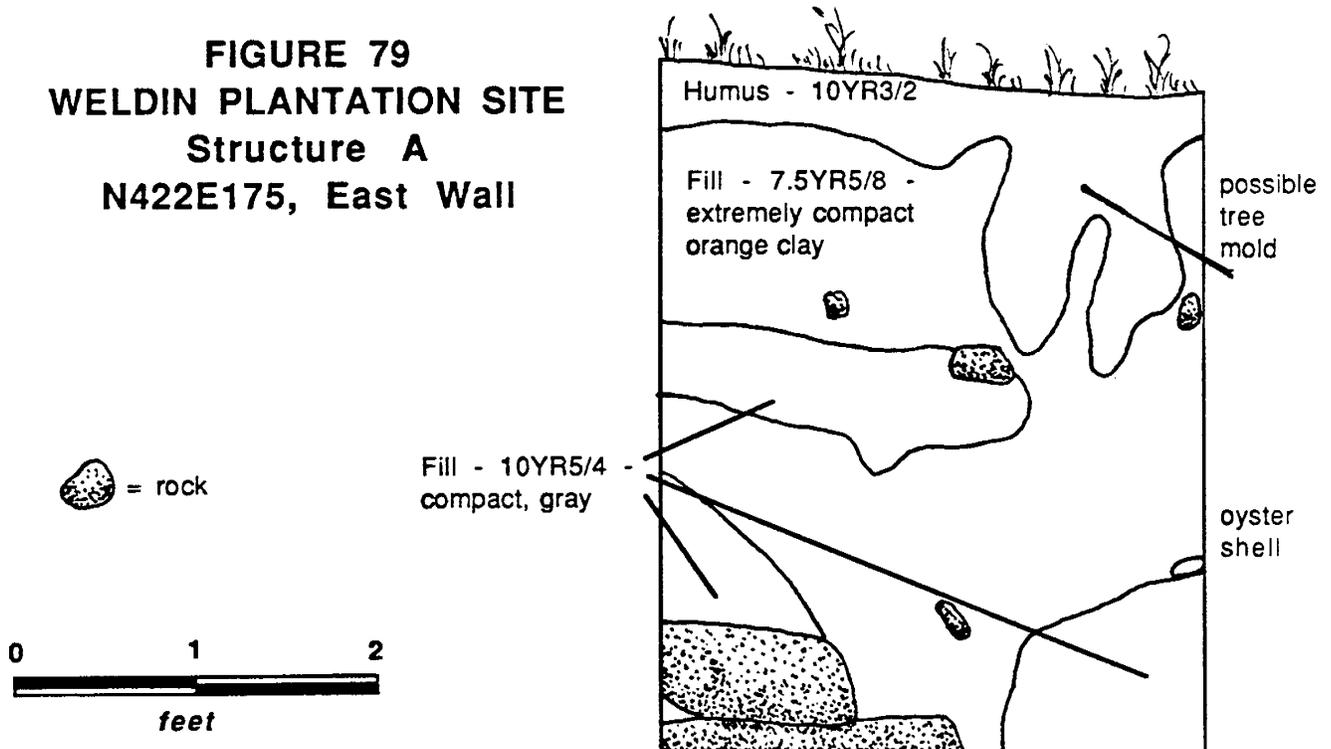
**FIGURE 77**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Structure A**  
**N460E115, East Wall**



**FIGURE 78**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Structure A**  
**N422E155, North Wall**



**FIGURE 79**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Structure A**  
**N422E175, East Wall**



N422E175 revealed variegated fill lenses which extended to a depth of 3.5 feet. Artifacts were recovered to the base of excavation, where the unit was terminated because of large stones at the base. The profile is shown in Figure 79. The origin of the fill in this unit is unclear; the artifacts in the fill are earlier than in comparable units. In addition, the fill is deeper in this unit. It may be spoil from cellar excavation at the time the east section of the house was built.

Level 1 of N422E175 was in the A horizon and contained 2 coarse red earthenware sherds, 15 whiteware sherds, 1 porcelain sherd, 4 bottle glass fragments, 2 tableware fragments, 20 window glass fragments, a staple, 20 cut nails, a wire nail, 2 can fragments and 12 unidentifiable metal fragments. Levels 2 through 9 were in the fill zones noted above. Level 2 in this unit contained 8 whiteware sherds, a yellowware sherd, a pearlware sherd, 4 bottle glass fragments, a tableware fragment, 5 window glass fragments, 5 cut nails, 2 can fragments, and 2 fragments of copper sheet. The tableware fragment was pressed and dates from 1827 to the present. Level 3 contained a coarse red earthenware fragment, a whiteware fragment, a bottle glass fragment, a tableware fragment, and 1 cut nail. The tableware fragment was pressed. Level 4 contained 6 coarse red earthenware sherds, a stoneware sherd, 5 pearlware sherds, a bottle glass fragment, 32 window glass fragments, a cut nail and 3 bricks. Level 4 contained a sherd of white salt glazed stoneware which dates from 1740-1775 (South 1977). None of the glass from Level 4 was diagnostic. Level 5 contained 17 coarse red earthenware sherds, a porcelain sherd, 5 creamware sherds, 14 pearlware sherds, a bottle glass fragment, 31 window glass fragments, a brick and a metal hook. None of the glass from Level 5 was diagnostic. Level 6 contained 21 coarse red earthenware sherds, a creamware sherd, 2 pearlware sherds, 11 window glass fragments and a brass buckle. Level 7 contained 20 coarse red earthenware sherds, a porcelain sherd, 5 creamware sherds, 2 pearlware sherds, 11 window glass fragments, 3 cut nails and 8 bricks. Level 8 contained 15 coarse red earthenware sherds, 3 porcelain sherds, a yellowware sherd, 7 pearlware sherds, 3 cut nails and 2 can fragments. Level 8 also contained a single sherd of undecorated delft which dates from 1640-1800 (South 1977). None of the glass from Level 8 was diagnostic. Level 9 contained 16 coarse red earthenware fragments, 1 pearlware fragment and 9 window glass fragments.

The results of excavations on the interior of the house (Units 1, 2 and 4) were presented above in the discussion of the house details.

Five 3 ft. by 3 ft. test pits were excavated on the exterior of Structure B (Figure 65). These include N447E232, N432E215, N435E250 and N450E260. Unit N435E250 revealed a modern ceramic drain pipe below the humus layer. The artifacts within the humus included plastic and machine made glass. No attempt was made to follow the pipe which, based on its orientation, appeared to come from Weldin Road between Structures A and B. N450E260 revealed a

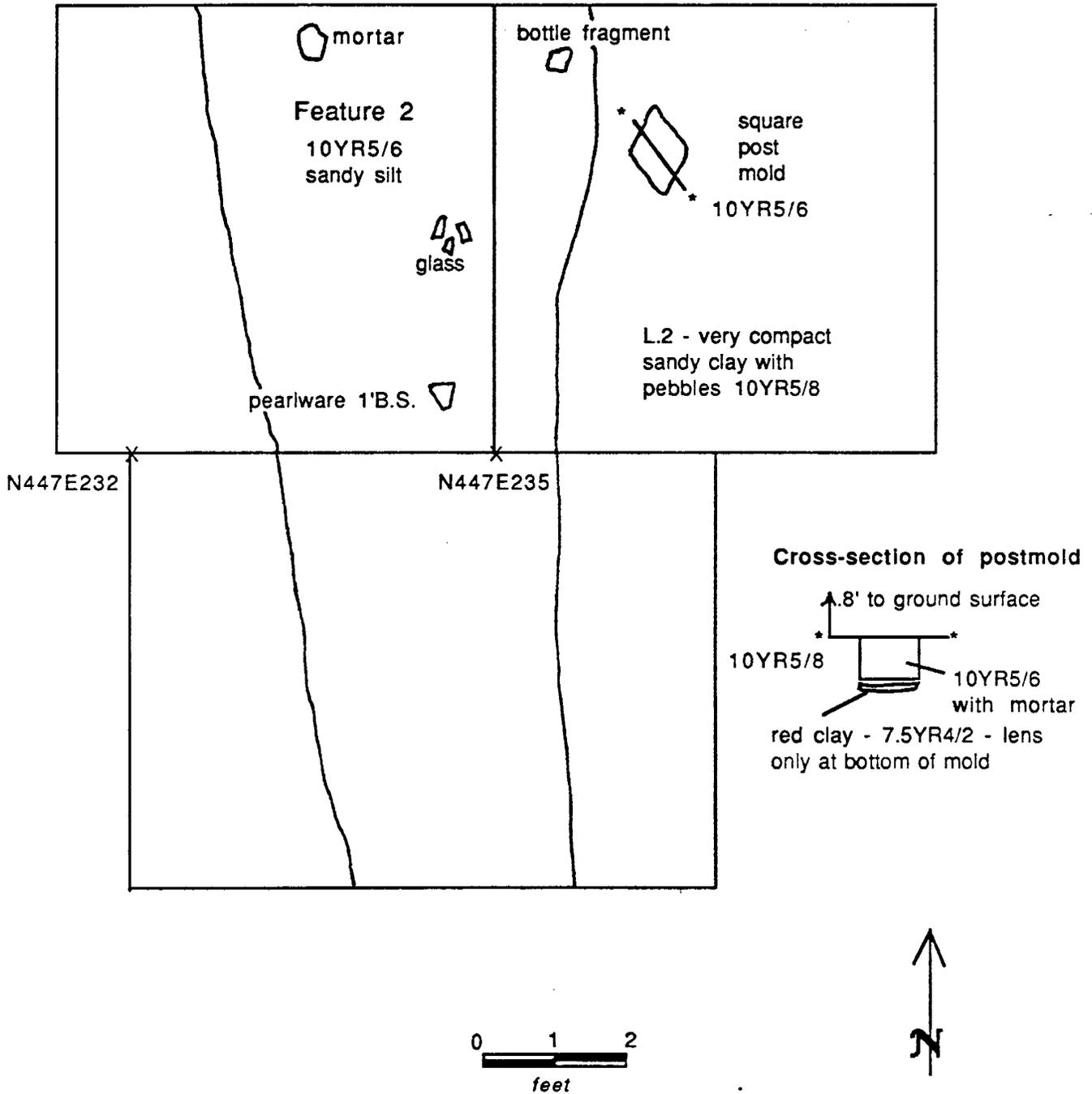
profile consisting of an A0, A1, A3, B1 sequence similar to the undisturbed area west of Structure A noted above. The artifacts recovered from the solum included ceramics, shell, nails and glass.

N447E232 revealed a lens of oyster shell within a dark grayish sandy loam soil. This lens was just below the humus and was approximately .4 feet thick. Artifacts recovered from within the shell lens included bottle glass, a coarse red earthenware sherd, 1 window glass fragment, 10 cut nails, 1 can fragment, a wire towel rack and a boring bit. Some of the glass had been manufactured after the Pure Food and Drug Act and dates from 1932 to the present. Below this lens, a linear stain was found running across the units in a north-south direction. This stain was designated as Feature 2. A one foot section of the feature was excavated to provide a cross-sectional profile which is shown in Figure 81. This profile shows the relationship of the oyster layer and the feature. The profile view reveals that the feature is a linear trench which contains several layers of fill. The plan view of the feature is shown on Figure 80. A diamond shaped stain appears to the east of the feature. This stain is interpreted as a postmold. It was cross-sectioned and the profile view of the postmold is also shown on Figure 80. An adjacent 3 ft. by 3 ft. excavation unit was opened to the east and a three foot extension was excavated to the south of N447E232, in an attempt to define the limits of the feature. The feature extends both to the north and south of the area exposed.

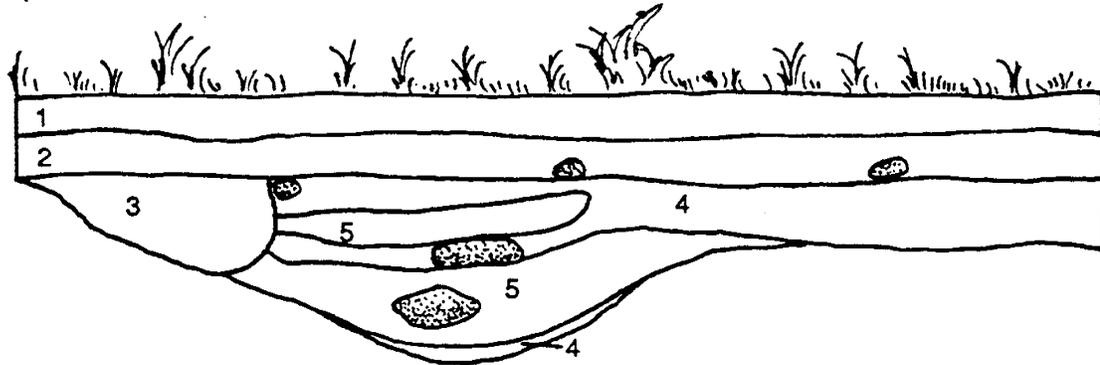
The surface of Feature 2 contained a coarse red earthenware sherd, a pearlware sherd, a brass tack and a chain toggle. The fill from Feature 2 contained 165 coarse red earthenware sherds, 5 stoneware sherds, 6 pearlware sherds, 2 bottle glass fragments, 2 window glass fragments, 24 cut nails, 18 can fragments, a kaolin pipe fragment, an unidentified metal fragment, a brick fragment and a metal button. The glass that was diagnostic was mold blown and dates from 1810-1903.

N432E215 is situated to the southwest of Structure B and is just within the plantation drive (Figure 65). A plan view of the base of Level 1 is shown in Figure 82 and the profile of the north wall is shown in Figure 83. Excavation of this unit revealed a thin humus resting on a series of fill lenses that contained large amounts of coal, slag and gravels. Below these lenses was a compact clay subsoil. A linear scar that rested on the humus and intruded into the upper fill layer was noted in the eastern portion of the unit. This scar followed the orientation of the plantation drive and is interpreted as a wagon wheel rut. It was .3 feet wide and .2 feet deep (below the surface of the subsoil). A similar feature was found at the Hawthorn site (Coleman et al 1984). The fill lenses were very compact and difficult to excavate. These lenses are interpreted as an old road bed which has been filled. It is possible, although measurements are not given, that this road is the one shown on the 1745 plat of this location (Figure 62). However, it is equally possible that the road shown on the plat is the location of Concord Pike. Artifacts were recovered from each

**FIGURE 80**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Structure B**  
**N447E235, Plan View, Base of Level 2 with Feature 2**



**FIGURE 81**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Feature 2 Profile**  
**N447E232 - 235, North Wall**

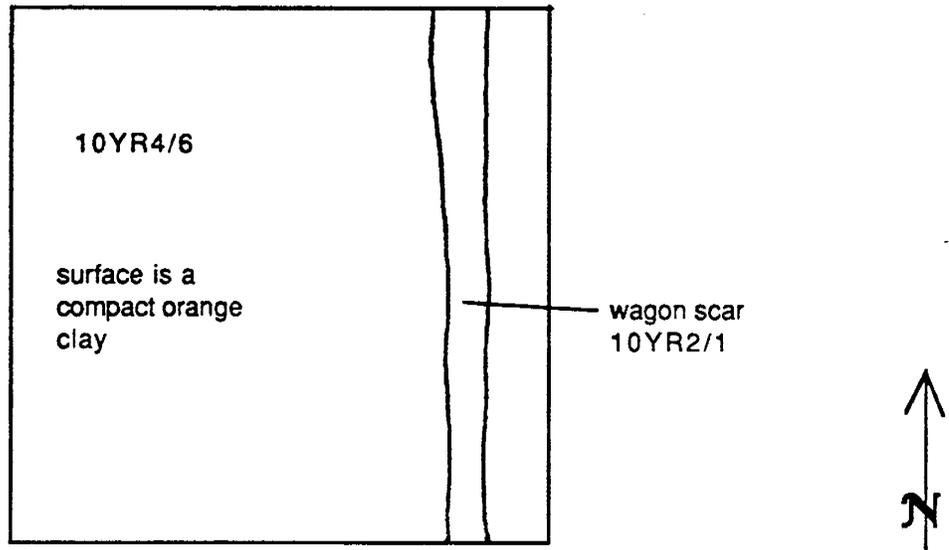


- 1 - sandy loam humic zone - 10YR3/2
- 2 - sandy loam mixed - 10YR3/2 -with a heavy concentration of oyster shell
- 3 - sandy clay - 10YR5/4 - mixed with a heavy concentration of charcoal
- 4 - very dry compact clay/loam subsoil - 10YR5/6
- 5 - fine sandy loam feature fill - 10YR5/4

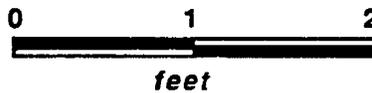
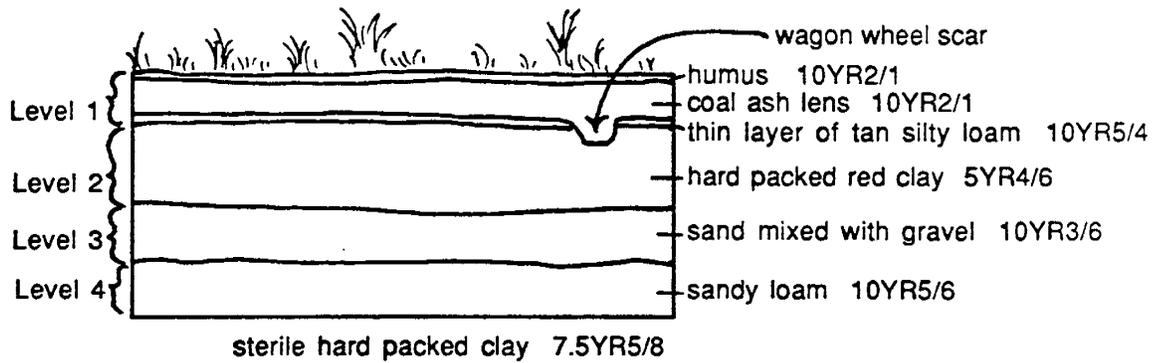
 = rock



**FIGURE 82**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**Structure B**  
**N432E215, Plan View at Base of Level 2**



**FIGURE 83**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**N432E215, Profile of North Wall**



of the fill lenses, but not from the underlying subsoil. It is possible that these artifacts represent the dumping of refuse from the Weldin site into the road when the road was in use.

Level 1 of N432E215 contained 2 whiteware sherds, a porcelain sherd, a yellowware sherd, 2 bottle glass fragments, a window glass fragment, 4 cut nails, a can fragment, 3 brick fragments, a button, a handle wedge and a bolt. None of the glass was diagnostic. Level 2 contained a coarse red earthenware sherd, 7 cut nails and 1 nail fragment and 4 brick fragments. Level 3 contained 40 coarse red earthenware sherds, 5 whiteware sherds, 3 creamware sherds, 1 yellowware sherd, 15 pearlware sherds, a bottle glass fragment, 7 window glass fragments, 7 cut nails, 4 unidentified metal fragments, 3 brick fragments, a brass door knob, a bone button and a button of an unidentified material. Level 4 contained 7 coarse red earthenware sherds, 1 creamware sherd, 1 yellowware sherd, a bottle glass fragment, 3 cut nails, 3 brick fragments, a brass furniture pull and 2 brass buttons. Level 4 also contained a white salt glazed stoneware sherd which dates from 1720-1805 (South 1977).

A row of four shovel tests was placed on the east side of Structure B. These started at N450E275 and were placed every five feet (Figure 65). One small piece of coarse red earthenware was recovered from the first unit and the remaining units contained no artifacts.

A second row of 7 shovel tests was placed east of the eastern edge of the barn corral (Figure 65). These were spaced every fifty feet. No artifacts were recovered from these units.

Nine 3 ft. by 3 ft. test pits were excavated in the area west of Structure C and south of the main house (Figure 65). These include units N400E110, N400E125, N387E150, N375E176, N372E100, N365E173, N360E135, and N347E150. The results of all but one of these units revealed similar profiles consisting of an A0, A2, A3 solum overlying a silty clay subsoil. Artifacts were recovered from the solum but not the B horizon. The quantities of artifacts were moderate and, with the exception of N365E173, the amount of cultural material recovered was too low to be considered a midden area. N365E173 was the exception. It is located behind Structure C and contained a relatively large quantity of artifacts. It is interpreted as a refuse area. Artifacts included large pieces of ceramics, glass, nails, etc. A series of 1 ft. by 1 ft. shovel tests were excavated behind Structure C in an effort to define the limits of this refuse deposit. These units were placed along the E178 grid line and were spaced every 10 feet, beginning at N412E178, extending south from that point (Figure 65). The highest concentration of artifacts from these units fell between N362E178 and N342E178, suggesting that most of the area immediately behind Structure C was used for refuse disposal.

Level 1 in N365E173 contained 6 coarse red earthenware sherds, 33 whiteware sherds, 11 stoneware sherds, 2 porcelain sherds, 19

yellowware sherds, 4 ironstone sherds, 73 bottle glass fragments, 3 tableware fragments, 4 glass container fragments, 21 cut nails, a can fragment and a brick fragment. Some of the glass in this level was machine made and post dates 1903. Level 2 contained 9 coarse red earthenware fragments, 42 whiteware fragments, 13 stoneware fragments, 28 yellowware fragments, 3 pearlware fragments, 40 ironstone fragments, 203 bottle glass fragments, a tableware fragment, 2 lamp chimney fragments, 42 window glass fragments, 3 cut nails, a wire nail, and 10 can fragments. Machine made glass was found in this horizon as well.

In addition, a concrete pad was located to the south of Structure A and west of Structure C (Figure 65). This pad was designated as Feature 3 and was located west of the refuse area described above. This pad measured 17 ft. by 8 ft. and consisted of 2-3" thick concrete poured directly onto the ground surface. No underlying supports such as wooden forms were noted, although the feature was not excavated. Impressions of wood were noted at two locations within the concrete which may indicate that a wooden structure was located on top of this concrete pad. One section of the concrete included what appeared to be a milk can and several sets of initials which were formed in the concrete when it was wet (Plate 34). These initials were "PW, JRW and WW". These initials conform to those listed in the 1910 census for the children living at the Weldin site at this time. Therefore, it seems likely that Feature 3 was constructed sometime around 1910. Feature 3 represents the remains of an outbuilding of unknown function.

Two 3 ft. by 3 ft. test pits were excavated north of the barn ramp (N375E235 and N375E255, Figure 65). These two units contained layers of fill which are thought to be demolition material from the barn. Each unit contained nearly 2 feet of fill that included mortar, stone and brick fragments. The profile of N375E235 is shown on Figure 84.

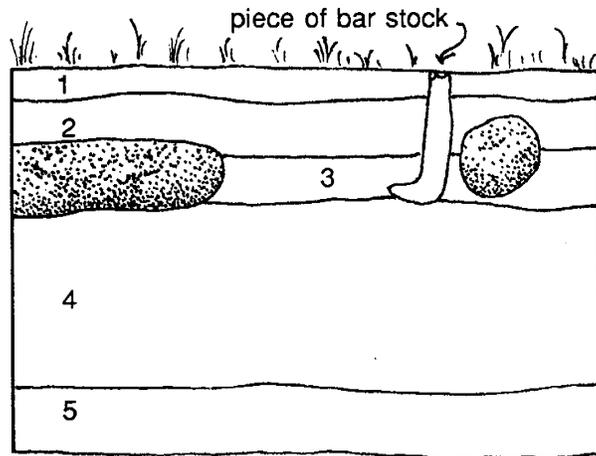
Level 1 of N375E235 contained a whiteware sherd, 11 bottle glass fragments, 7 window glass fragments, 4 cut nails, a wire nail, 3 can fragments, 2 plastic fragments and miscellaneous metal artifacts. Machine made glass was present in this level, dating post-1903. Level 2 contained 1 whiteware sherds, 9 bottle glass fragments, a window glass fragment, 7 cut nails, 5 can fragments and a rubber garter belt hook fragment. Level 3 contained 9 coarse red earthenware sherds, 1 whiteware sherd, 1 pearlware sherd, 1 bottle glass fragment, 13 cut nails, 7 can fragments and a brick fragment. Level 4 contained 5 coarse red earthenware sherds, 3 creamware sherds, 1 bottle glass fragment, 5 cut nails, a can fragment, and 3 brick fragments.

Level 1 of N375E255 contained 1 coarse red earthenware sherd, 1 pearlware sherd, 8 bottle glass fragments, 1 milk glass fragment, 13 cut nails, 12 unidentified metal fragments and a carriage bolt. Some of the glass was machine made. Level 2 contained 1 coarse red earthenware sherd, 2 pearlware fragments, 13 cut nails, a wire nail

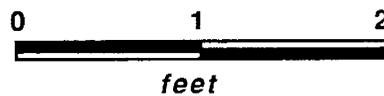
PLATE 34  
Weldin Plantation Site, Feature 3, Detail



**FIGURE 84**  
**WELDIN PLANTATION SITE**  
**N375E235, East Wall Profile**



- 1 = 10YR3/1; very dark gray silty humus
- 2 = 10YR8/1; white mortar layer
- 3 = 10YR6/6; brownish yellow compact clayey silt w/ gravels at bottom of soil horizon
- 4 = 10YR6/8; brownish yellow compacted silt
- 5 = 10YR6/8; brownish yellow compacted silt (sterile)



and 2 plaster fragments. Level 3 contained 13 coarse red earthenware fragments, 2 window glass fragments, and 1 cut nail.

### **Intrasite Analysis**

In addition to the groupings discussed above, the artifacts from the Weldin site were also examined on a structure by structure basis to determine what, if any, differences in artifact function or type existed between the structures, and in the hopes of determining the function of some of the structures themselves. The results of this analysis are presented below.

Structure A was thought to be the main house on the property. A Mean Ceramic Date of 1836.38 was obtained for Structure A. Coarse red earthenware comprised the major ceramic type from Structure A, consisting of 202 sherds (44.20%). The remaining ware types represented, in descending order, are as follows: whiteware - 83 (18.16%), ironstone - 53 (11.60%), pearlware - 51 (11.16%), creamware - 27 (5.91%), yellowware - 15 (3.28%), terra cotta - 6 (1.31%), refined redware - 2 (.44%), refined stoneware - 2 (.44%), coarse buff bodied earthenware - 1 (.22%), and other colored coarse earthenware - 1 (.22%).

The artifacts were then classed into South's function groups. The results show Groups 1 (kitchen) and 2 (architectural) in roughly equal percentages, with 720 (52.10%) and 636 (46.02%), respectively. Group 3 (furniture) contained 4 items (.29%), Group 5 (clothing) contained 5 (.36%), Group 6 (personal) contained 1 (.07%), Group 7 (tobacco pipes) contained 2 (.14%) and Group 8 (activities) contained 14 (1.01%). The arms group (Group 4) was not represented at Structure A.

Structure B was hypothesized as a detached kitchen or some other subsidiary structure. A Mean Ceramic Date could not be calculated for Structure B because of the small number of sherds. The ware type breakdowns are similar to Structure A, with some differences. Again, as with Structure A, coarse red earthenware sherds made up the majority of the ceramics with 94 (54.97%). This was followed by pearlware - 38 (22.22%), whiteware - 20 (11.70%), refined redware - 7 (4.09%), creamware - 4 (2.34%), porcelain - 3 (1.75%), yellowware - 2 (1.17%), and refined stoneware - 1 (.58%). Two sherds were so severely burned that the ware type could not be determined.

South's function groups were also similar to Structure A as the following breakdown indicates. Group 1 was represented by 357 items (58.72%), Group 2 by 221 (36.35%), Group 3 by 6 (.99%), Group 4 by 2 (.22%), Group 5 by 8 (1.32%), Group 6 by 1 (.16%), Group 7 by 1 (.16%) and Group 8 by 12 (1.97%).

Structure C was hypothesized to be a small outbuilding, perhaps a machine shed. A Mean Ceramic Date could not be calculated for this structure because of the small sample size. The ware type breakdowns from Structure C are markedly different from

PLATE 35  
Weldin Plantation Site Artifacts



Two mold blown bottle fragments with tooled lips

PLATE 36  
Weldin Plantation Site Artifacts



Yellowware sherds with blue dendritic decoration

Buff bodied earthenware lid with molded decoration

Buff bodied earthenware handle with molded decoration

Pearlware plate fragment with green shell edge decoration

the other two buildings, as the following percentages indicate. Although coarse red earthenware was again the most prevalent type of ceramic recovered, it occurred in significantly higher percentages than at the two previous buildings. One hundred ninety eight sherds were found, comprising 88.00% of the total. The other ceramic types were only represented by a few sherds each: pearlware - 10 (4.44%), whiteware - 8 (3.56%), stoneware - 4 (1.78%), porcelain - 2 (.89%), yellowware - 2 (.89%), and refined stoneware - 1 (.44%).

Although the ware type distributions found at Structure C were different, South's function groups are roughly the same as the other two buildings: Group 1 - 351 (63.70%), Group 2 - 192 (34.85%), Group 5 - 2 (.36%), Group 7 - 1 (.18%) and Group 8 - 5 (.91%).

Structure D consisted of a rather odd shaped set of foundations, and based on the amount and kinds of equipment located on the surface around this structure, this was hypothesized to be some sort of farm related building, perhaps a shop. A Mean Ceramic Date could not be calculated for this building because of small sample size. Building D contained almost no ceramics, only a single sherd of whiteware and a single sherd of stoneware were recovered from this location.

The amount of kitchen items (Group 1) was also reduced at Structure D, comprising only 43.21% (156) of the total; architectural items occurred in approximately equal quantities, with 167 items (46.26%). Groups 4 and 6 each were represented by a single item (.28%), but Group 8 was significantly increased over the previous buildings. Group 8 contained 36 items, or 9.97%.

The next analysis group is composed of the Barn artifacts. A Mean Ceramic Date could not be calculated for this group because of the small number of sherds. Like Building D, the artifacts from the Barn contained very few ceramics. Fifteen sherds of coarse red earthenware (71.43%), three sherds of pearlware (14.28%) and three sherds of whiteware (14.28%) were recovered.

Again, like Structure D, kitchen items (Group 1) made up a significantly higher percentage of the artifacts from the Barn than in the previous buildings, comprising 67.81% (158) of the total. Architectural items were represented by 61 (26.28%), arms group (Group 4) by 1 (.43%), clothing group (Group 5) also by 1 (.43%), personal (Group 6) by 3 (1.29%) and activities (Group 8) by 9 (3.86%).

Feature 3 consisted of a concrete pad. This is located west of the refuse deposit, south of Building A and west of Structure C noted above. A Mean Ceramic Date of 1847.31 was obtained for the excavation units near Feature 3.

In contrast to the other buildings, coarse red earthenware comprised a smaller percentage of the ceramics in the area of

Feature 3, with 205 (18.16%). The remaining ware types are: whiteware - 262 (23.21%), yellowware - 144 (12.75%), ironstone - 142 (12.58%), pearlware - 92 (8.15%), stoneware - 73 (6.47%), refined stoneware - 23 (2.04%), refined redware - 11 (.97%), creamware - 7 (.62%), and porcelain - 6 (.63%). A single sherd was too badly burned to determine the ware type.

Regarding the percentages of South's function groups, Feature 3 was more like the barn with regard to Groups 1 and 2, with 1,976 (67.14%) and 875 (29.73%), respectively. Group 3 items were higher than any of the previous structures with 62 (2.11%). Group 5 was less, with 8 (.27%), as was Group 6 - 1 (.03%) and Group 8-21 (.71%).

In the following discussion, different ware types were grouped together to determine the relative percentages of coarse vs. refined wares, on the assumption that most of the coarse wares will be utilitarian and most of the refined wares will be tablewares. The coarse wares included all coarse red earthenware and other colored coarse earthenwares, coarse stoneware and yellowware. The refined wares include all refined white earthenwares, i.e. ironstone, pearlware, whiteware and creamware, as well as refined stoneware and refined redware. Percentages for porcelain were calculated separately. It is recognized that there are some functional crossovers between ware types, particularly in later contexts when the refined white earthenwares could be serving vessels, chamber pots, etc. With regard to the ware type distribution across the site, all of the buildings examined had high percentages (90%+) of the coarser wares, with the units around Feature 3 having the highest percentage (95.13%) and the Barn having the lowest percentage (71.43%). One would expect to find a high percentage of coarse/utilitarian wares at a Barn, particularly coarse red earthenwares and stonewares, because of the usage of these ceramics for milk pans and crocks. It is surprising, however, that the figure is not higher than it is. The Barn, the area least tested, had fewer ceramics in general, and this probably accounts for the lower percentage value. The high percentage of coarse wares at Feature 3 is somewhat surprising. In fact, Feature 3 had the highest number of ceramics in general. The function of Feature 3 is unknown, but it appears to have been a wooden outbuilding which was erected on a concrete pad. It is possible that the artifacts which were found in the units designated as Feature 3 are not associated with Feature 3. They may, instead, be associated with a generalized midden or refuse deposit which originated from Structure A. With the exception of the Barn (28.57%), Structure C which was hypothesized to have served as a small outbuilding, perhaps a machine shed, had the highest percentage of refined wares (8.44%). The percentage from the Barn, as with the coarse earthenwares, is probably a reflection of the small sample size. One would not expect such a high percentage of refined wares from a machine shed; either the functional attribution of the structure may be wrong or the high percentage may be fortuitous. It also may be that the building dates to a later time period and the refined wares present are from

more utilitarian vessels. Structure A, the hypothesized main house, had 6.80% of refined wares. One would expect this percentage to be even greater if the building was a principal residence; however, with the limited testing conducted here, it may be a sampling error. Structure A did have the highest percentage of porcelain (2.85%), in keeping with the hypothesis of the structure as the main house. Structure C had the lowest percentage (1%) which is also in keeping with the hypothesis that this is a machine shed.

The percentages obtained for South's functional groups at Structure A are generally in keeping with the attribution of a main house function to this structure, although some of the percentages are somewhat low. This, however, is probably a reflection of the limited testing conducted in this area. More intensive excavations would probably resolve this. Structure B was hypothesized as a detached kitchen. In general, the percentages are in keeping with expectations, although the percentages obtained for the clothing group appear a bit high. Structure C had percentages which were roughly comparable with the first two buildings. This is not in keeping with the hypothesized function of the building as a machine shed. The kitchen group seems too high for this functional attribution and one would expect to find a higher percentage of the activities group which would include tools, machine parts, etc. Again, however, this may either be sampling error resulting from the more limited testing or an incorrect functional attribution for the building. Structure D was hypothesized to be a farm related building, perhaps a shop. Although the kitchen group was reduced somewhat compared to Structures A-C, it still seems somewhat high. However, the kitchen group includes cans and bottle glass as well as ceramics, and not all cans or bottles are from food or kitchen related items. A good portion of the can fragments could have come from oil cans, etc. Only two ceramic sherds were found at Structure D. The fact that the activities group was high supports the attribution of a machine shed. Like Structure D, the Barn initially appears to have a high percentage of kitchen items; however, the total number of ceramics in the kitchen group is actually quite small (21) relative to the total number of kitchen items (158). Again, a good portion of these may be can fragments which did not necessarily contain food. Feature 3 was rather puzzling. Feature 3 appears to be some sort of outbuilding yet the artifacts from the units are more in keeping with a main structure. Since Feature 3 is too small to be a principal residence, either it was an outbuilding with a rather specialized function or the artifacts from this grouping originated from Structure A and represent a generalized refuse deposit to the rear of this structure.

The Weldin site as a whole had a Mean Ceramic Date of 1842.60. If the occupation began in the first quarter of the 18th century as the archival evidence suggests, this seems somewhat late. In addition, few ceramics were found which would date to the early part of the occupation. Exceptions to this are in Unit 4,

Structure A, Levels 4 and 8 of N422E175 and Level 4 of N432E215. Plates 35 and 36 show artifacts from the Weldin site.

The ware type distribution for the Weldin site as a whole breaks down as follows: coarse red earthenware - 695 (38.68%), stoneware - 83 (4.62%), yellowware and other coarse earthenwares - 353 (19.64%), creamware - 38 (2.11%), ironstone - 106 (5.90%), pearlware - 192 (10.68%), whiteware - 305 (16.97%) and porcelain - 25 (1.39%). When taken as a whole, the percentages of refined wares to coarse wares at the Weldin site seem more in keeping with expectations.

South's function groups for the Weldin site as a whole are: Group 1 (kitchen) - 3,947 (62.06%), Group 2 (architectural) - 2,190 (34.43%), Group 3 (furniture) - 79 (1.24%), Group 4 (arms) - 4 (.06%), Group 5 (clothing) - 26 (.41%), Group 6 (personal) - 7 (tobacco pipes) - 5 (.08%) and Group 8 (activities) - 102 (1.60%). These percentages are in keeping with expectations.

#### **Summary and Recommendations, Weldin Plantation Site**

The archival research at the Weldin site revealed a long history of usage of the property from the first quarter of the 18th century, almost to the middle of the 20th century. During a good portion of this time it was utilized as a farm, either by tenants or by the owners. The property appears to be owner occupied from the initial occupation during the first quarter of the 18th century to 1785, and from 1862 to 1934. Tenants occupied the farm from 1785-1861.

The remains of four structures and a barn were found during the excavations reported here. Structure A is believed to be the main house on the property, Structure B is believed to be a dependency such as a detached kitchen, Structure C is believed to be an equipment or a machine shed, and the function of Structure D is unclear.

Intact contexts are present at the Weldin site, c.f. possible builders trenches by the bulkheads in Structure A, the brick lined well or sump in Structure A, possibly the fill beneath the floor in Unit 4 in Structure A, the well outside Structure B, Feature 4, the fill horizons represented in N422E175 and the road bed fill evident in N432E215. It is possible that other intact contexts are present as well.

Additional archeological work is recommended at the Weldin site as it contains intact contexts and features which would provide valuable information on tenancies from the late 18th century through the last quarter of the 19th century. These tenancies are poorly known archeologically. It provides a unique opportunity to study temporal change in such tenancies because of its long occupation period. In addition, the site provides a valuable opportunity to study owner occupied sites in the last part of the 19th century and contrast this to the tenant occupation.