

Appendix A.1

THE EXCAVATIONS AT THE SPRINGER/LITTLE FARM

Appendix A.1

THE EXCAVATIONS AT THE SPRINGER/LITTLE FARM (7NC-D-203)

A. EXCAVATION METHODS

Figure A1.1 shows the plan of the site and the location of the excavations. Excavation Units 97 through 114 were placed across the site as a west-east trench in order to interpret the relationship between the bank barn, the outbuilding, and the landscaping changes. This trench started within the bank barn near the western wall [903], continuing across the bank barn, through the outbuilding, and ending to the east of the outbuilding. Excavation Units 97 through 100 revealed internal bank barn walls which led to the excavation of Units 85 through 96 to further explore the interior structures. Excavation Units 106 and 107, located on the west and east side of the north-south outbuilding wall [913], revealed a burnt pit feature which extended under the outbuilding wall. Four more units were excavated in search of the pit feature limits (EU#s 81 to 84). To further investigate the outbuilding and explore the structure of the well, Excavation Unit 119 (7 feet by 5 feet) was placed partially on the well [918] and abutted the outbuilding wall [913E]. The well [918] was partially dismantled in order to reveal its construction and recover artifacts. Excavation Unit 120 was placed abutting the west wall [905] of the bank barn to give additional information on the bank barn structure. Most of the units were excavated in five foot squares with the exception of six units which were of varying size because of the placement of other units or the location of surrounding structures. The strata were excavated by visible stratigraphy and where appropriate were assigned the same context number. All the 'positive' features such as walls and piers that were visible before excavation were given separate context numbers starting with context 901. The 'negative' contexts such as post holes, and the 'positive' contexts such as interior walls

and piers, were given separate context numbers beginning with context 20. Wall faces are described by the direction in which they face (e.g. 913E is the side of the wall facing east).

Excavation Units 200 through 204 were placed on a north-south axis starting at the retaining wall [928] heading south towards the Ward/Little House Site in an attempt to locate artifacts relating to the farm and possibly the house. Two more units (EU#s 205 and 206) were placed between the outbuilding and Excavation Unit 200 in search of the possible continuation of the retaining wall. Identical contexts within these seven units were given the same context numbers where appropriate and in a separate sequence from the bank barn/outbuilding site context numbers.

Context concordance sheets were kept in addition to context summary and incidence forms giving a description of each context. Detailed plans and profiles were drawn for all structural contexts and significant depositional contexts. A total station theodolite was employed for the mapping of all 'positive' contexts and the units. All units were excavated by hand with shovels and trowels and then screened through 1/4-inch hardware mesh.

B. FIELD RESULTS

1. The Spring House (Figures A1.1-A1.3)

The stone foundation of the Ward/Little Spring House is set into the slope at the eastern side of the site, approximately 90 feet east of the Ward/Little House (Figure A1.3). Excavations during Phase II assessment revealed bedrock on which the spring house was

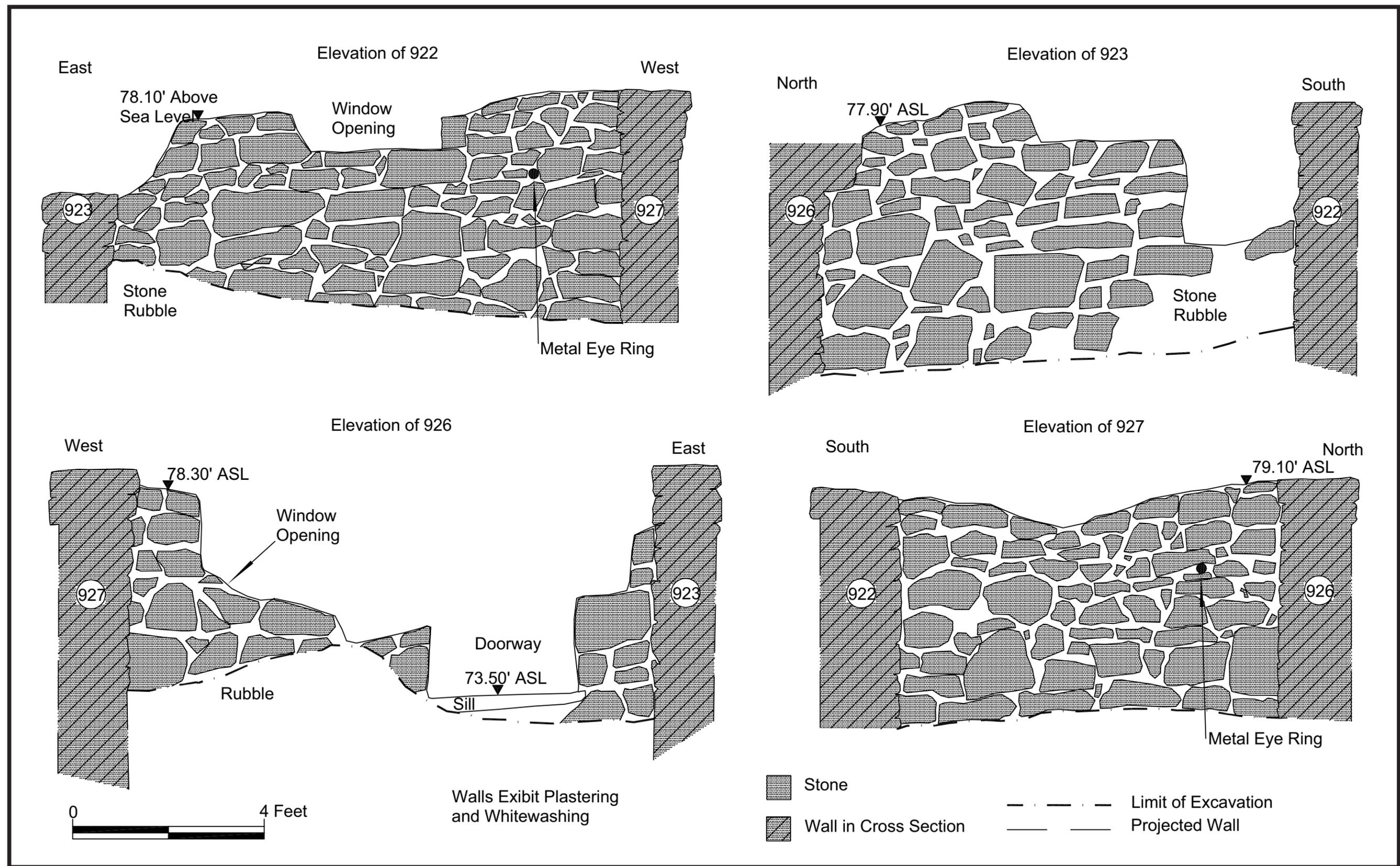


Figure A1.3. Profiles of Spring House Walls; Contexts 922N, 923W, 926S, and 927E.

set, and showed the high water table which enabled the house to function. An active spring was uncovered in the interior and a possible mortar floor laid over brick. All interior walls exhibit plastering and white-washing. Window openings can be seen on the south wall [922] and the north wall [926]. The doorway to the spring house is located in Context 926 (Figure A1.2). Wrought iron eye rings can be seen on the north face of Context 922 and the east face of Context 927. The eye rings, in combination with latch hooks, were used to secure the windows. All walls are keyed together with the exception of Context 925, which is a rebuild.

2. The Bank Barn (Figures A1.1; A1.4- A1.8; Plates A1.1-A1.7)

The bank barn encompasses an area approximately 107 feet by 37 feet. The walls are constructed of large micaceous schist rubble with occasional quartz boulders. The walls are undressed and mortared unless otherwise noted. Investigation of the standing walls was directed towards understanding their construction sequence and structural components.

The west section [901] of the north wall, running west-east, consists of large rubble with no visible mortar. The north face is the only accessible elevation of this wall and its junction with Contexts 902 and 903 is obscured by collapse. The low remains of the east section [902] of the north wall, keyed to Context 903, have a whitewashed exterior face. The east end of this wall appears thickened and angles towards the south (Figure A1.4). Wall 903, keyed to 902 and 904, is about eight feet high with a shadow showing from a former perpendicular wall on its east face (Figure A1.6). It would appear that the shadow should match up with the interior wall [25] but the shadow appears about 3 feet south of Context 25. This could be evidence of the rebuilding of the barn. A 19th century bottle (*circa* 1840's) was discovered in the northeast

section of this wall, wedged into the rocks and surrounded by mortar. It appears to have been placed there during the construction of the west barn wall [903], and thus provides a *terminus post quem* for the walls on the west part of the site since they are all of one build.

The west section [904], (Figure A1.6) of the south bank barn wall, keyed to Contexts 903 and 905, is a seven foot high wall of typical construction. On the north face of Context 904, approximately 16½ feet east of the southwest corner, a shadow from a former perpendicular wall is visible. Context 905 is a short wall running south-north, keyed to Context 904 (Figure A1.5) and to Context 906 (Figure A1.6). The stones on the west face are reddened, probably due to a fire, and the repaired north end is squared off with cut quoins. The east section [906] of the south bank barn wall is keyed to Context 905 and is collapsed at the east end. Context 907 is a possible north-south wall that has collapsed. It would have been keyed to Context 906.

Excavation Units 85 through 103, and 120 were excavated within the bank barn. Units 85 through 103 revealed various episodes of fill which included destruction debris and a mix of modern and historic artifacts. A typical profile consisted of a very dark brown humic layer [1] overlying a grayish brown silty loam with pebbles [2] overlying a yellowish brown silty clay [3] overlying a dark grayish brown silty loam with grit and large schist cobbles [6].

Excavation Units 85, 86, 88, 93, 97, 98, 99, and 100 revealed two internal barn walls. One consisted of mortared stone [25], the second was a brick capped, mortared stone wall [20] (Figure A1.7), and the two walls are keyed together in Excavation Unit 88 (Plate A1.4). These walls encompassed an interior room within the northwest corner of the barn which measured approximately 22 feet by 13 feet with a 4 foot opening at the northeast corner. Excavation Unit 91,

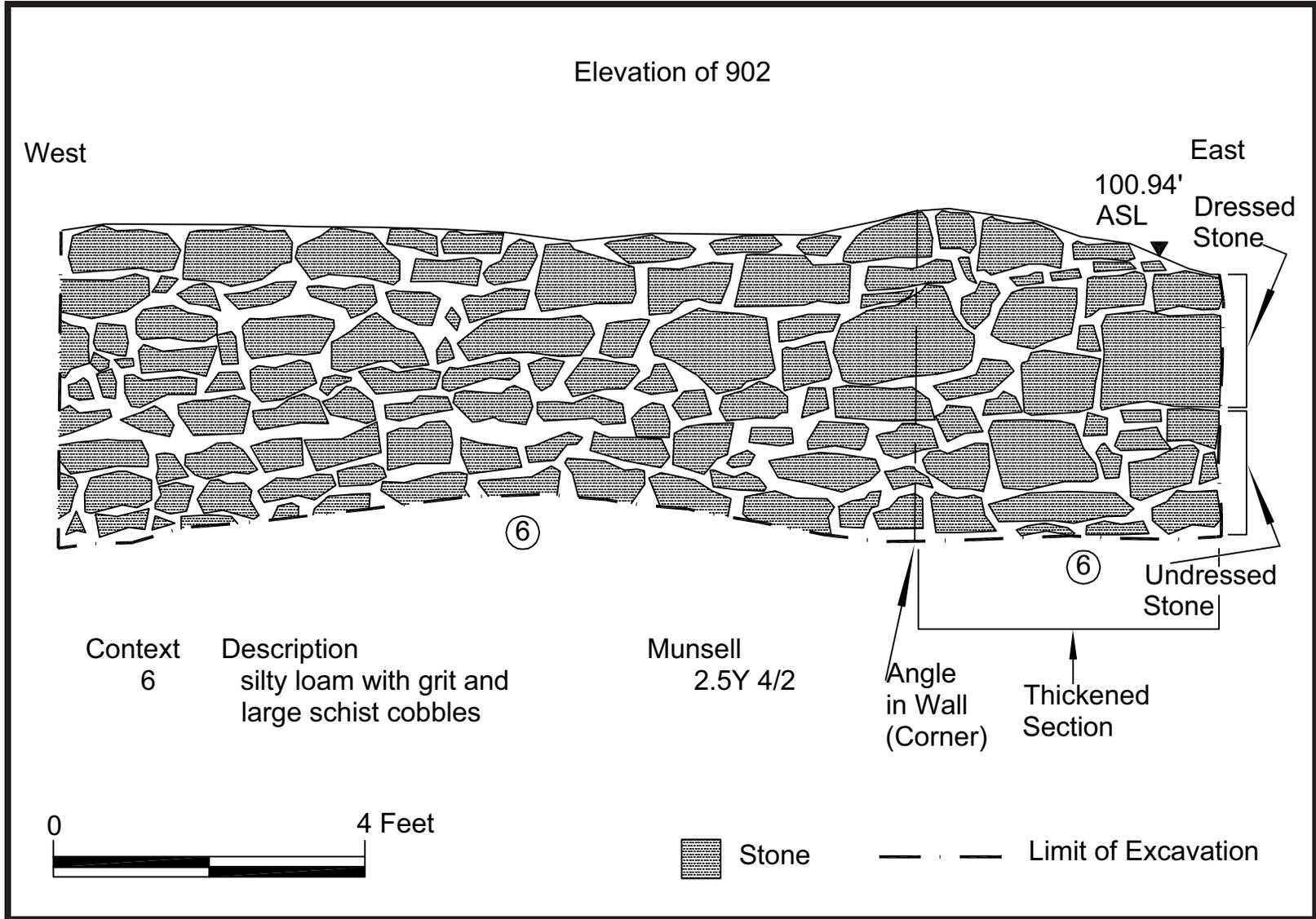


Figure A1.4. Profile of Bank Barn Wall; Context 902S.

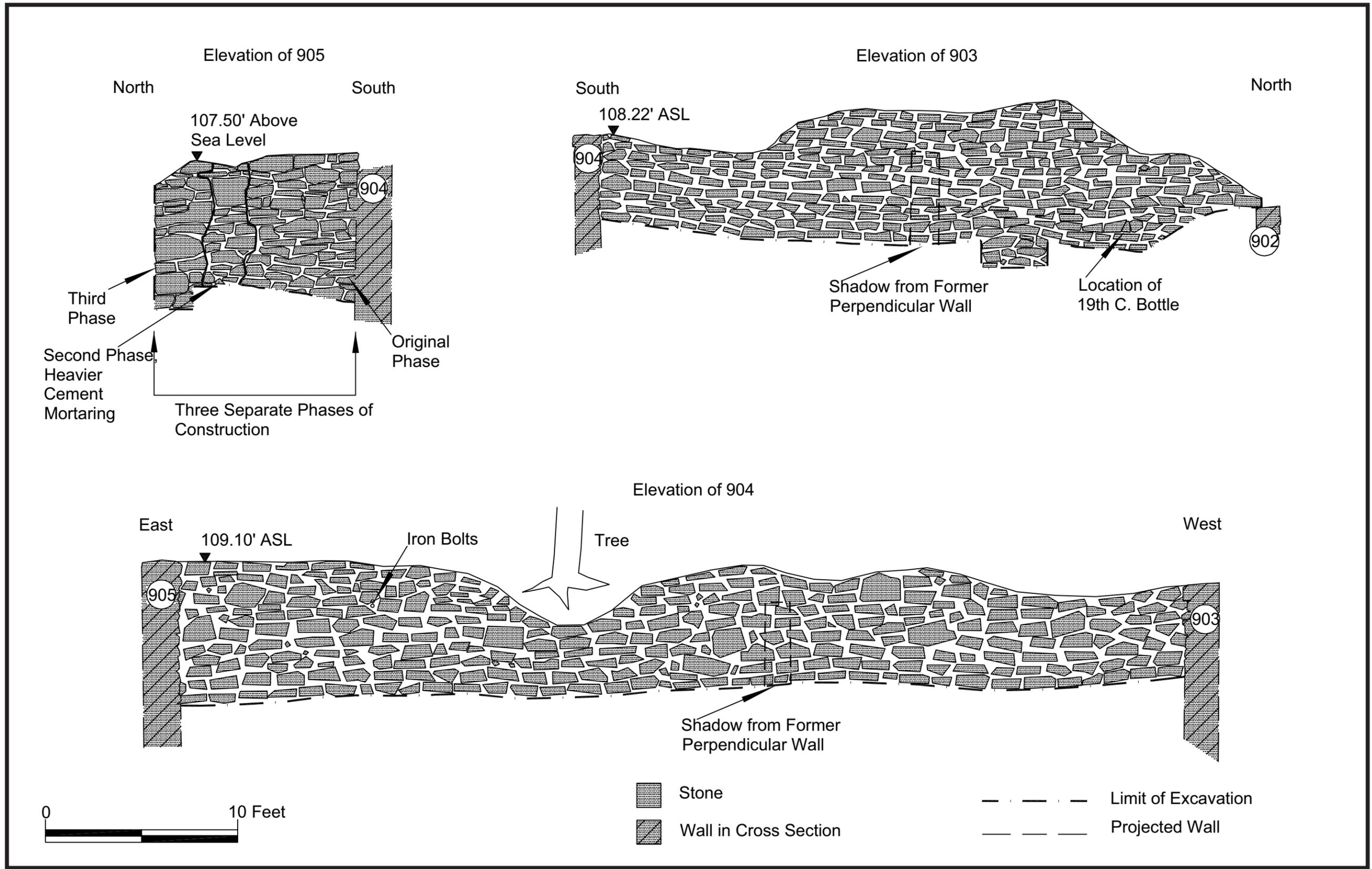


Figure A1.5. Profiles of Bank Barn Walls; Contexts 903E, 904N, and 905W.

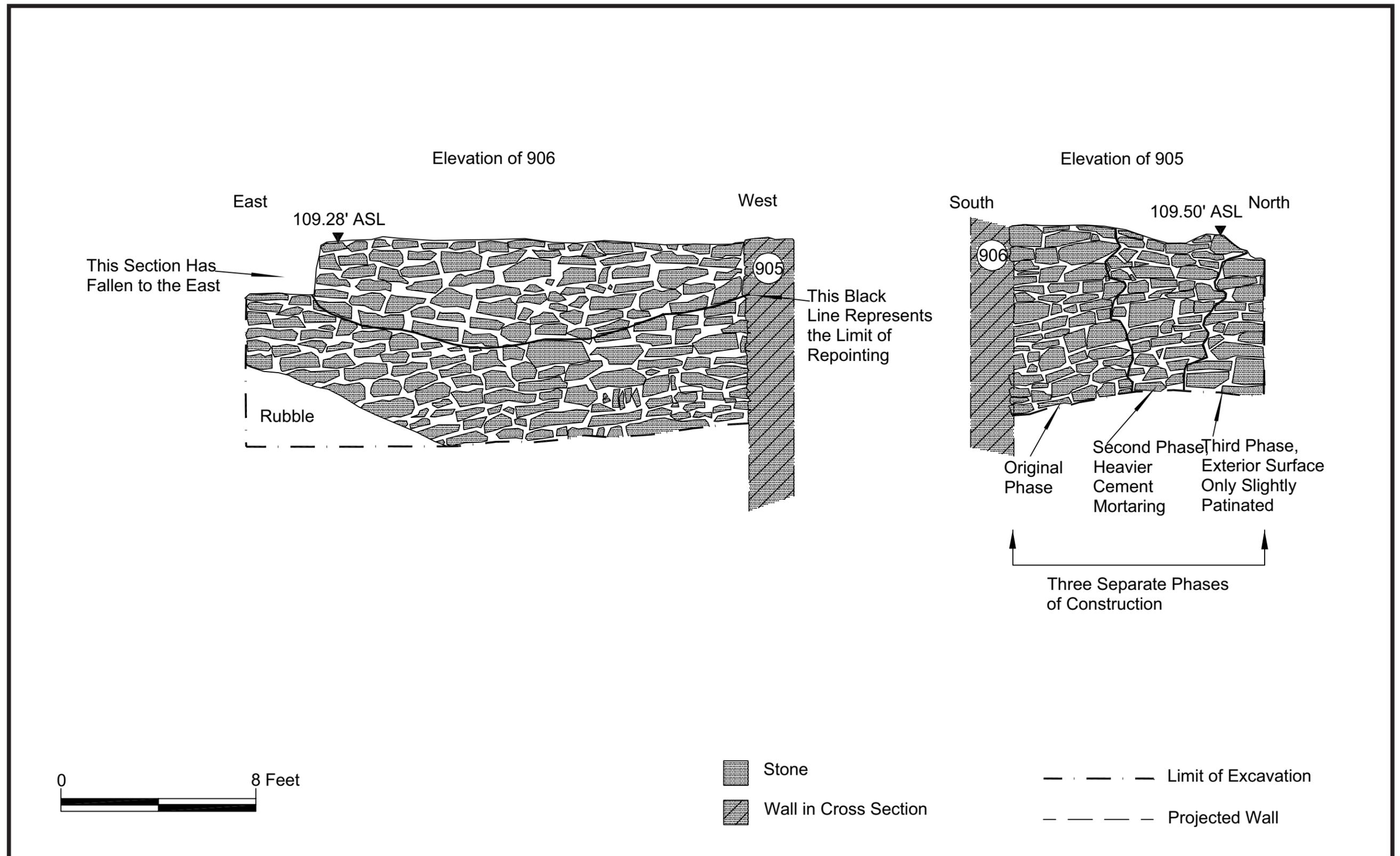


Figure A1.6. Profiles of Bank Barn Walls; Contexts 905E and 906N.

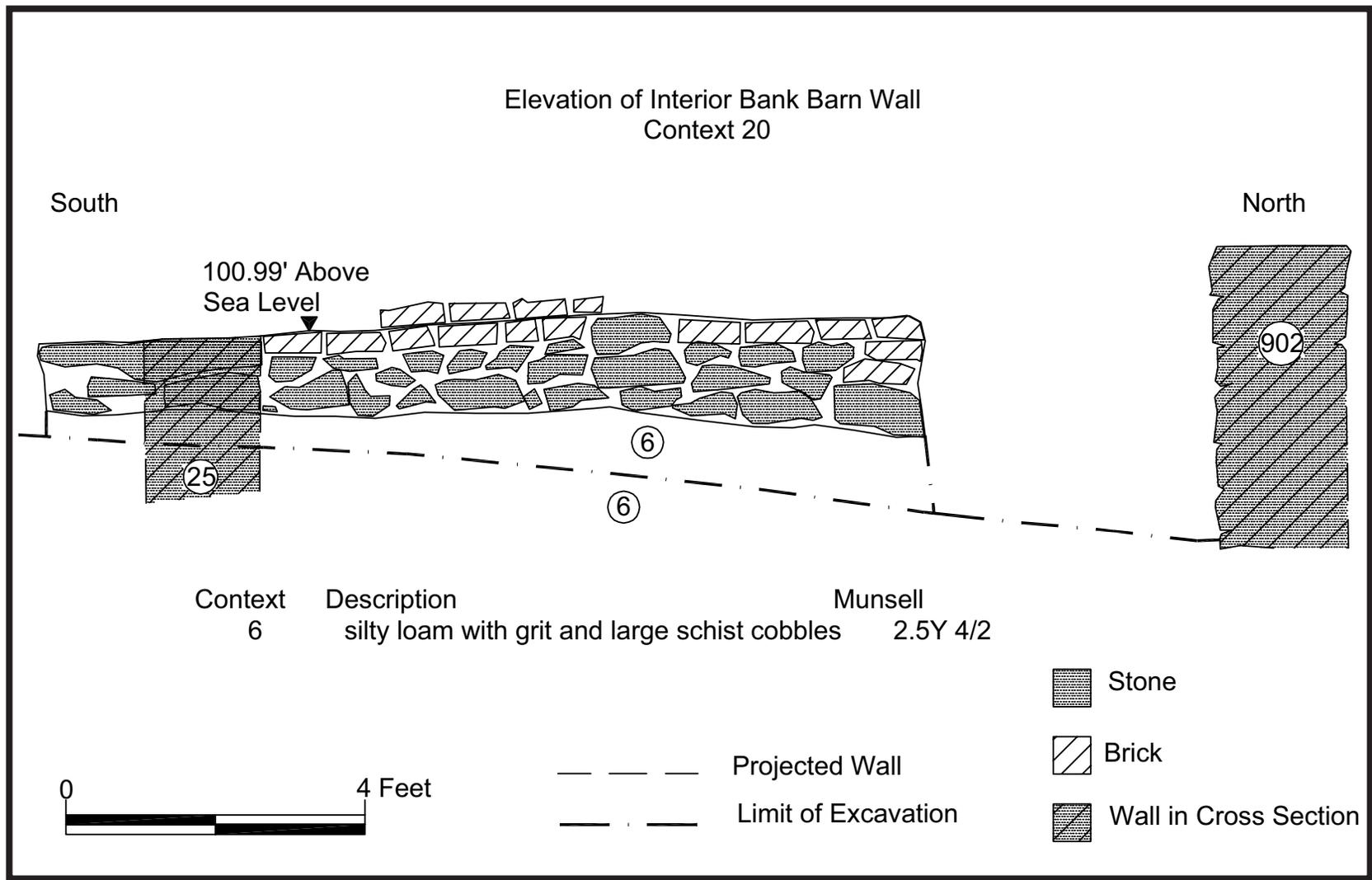


Figure A1.7. Profile of Interior Bank Barn Wall; Context 20E.



Plate A1.1. General view looking northwest showing western part of the bank barn, taken from the top of the south wall of the bank barn [904]. The large western gable wall of the barn [903] is visible on the left. In the center of the photograph interior walls 20 and 25 have been exposed by excavation and the interior face of the north wall of the barn [902] has also been exposed. Henderson Road is in the background (Photographer: Bill Liebeknecht, May 1998) [HRI Neg. #98014/14:13].



Plate A1.2. A second view of the interior walls of the bank barn, looking northeast from the southwest corner of the barn. Gregg Tindall and Aaron Levinthal are recording (Photographer: Susan Ferenbach, May 1998) [HRI Neg. #98014/9:12].



Plate A1.3. View looking west showing the southeast portions of the bank barn walls. The partially-rebuilt wall section [905] projects from the main south wall [906] in right center. Stone pier 908 is visible in the left foreground and the threshold stone [911] can be seen in front of 905 (Photographer: Dawn Turner, May 1998) [HRI Neg. #98014/5:30].



Plate A1.4. View facing west showing interior walls in the bank barn partially exposed. Wall 20, with brick course on top, is in the foreground. Wall 25 runs west towards to west gable wall of the barn [903] (Photographer: Dawn Turner, May 1998) [HRI Neg. #98014/6:31].



Plate A1.5. The same wall features as shown in Plate A1.4, looking east-northeast from the west gable wall of the bank barn (Photographer: Dawn Turner, May 1998) [HRI Neg. #98014/6:28].



Plate A1.6. A burnt post, probably a door or gate support for in the entry to the small room in the northwest corner of the barn. The post was found in Excavation Unit 90, just south of the north wall of the barn [902], and in line with the end of interior wall 20. View is to the northeast. (Photographer: Susan Ferenbach, May 1998) [HRI Neg. #98014/9:1].



Plate A1.7. View looking south inside the bank barn showing the earlier pier [26] and the later pier [910] located in Excavation Unit 87 (Photographer: Susan Ferenbach, May 1998) [HRI Neg. #98014/9:5].

abutting the north wall [902] of the bank barn, revealed a thickening on the south face of the wall that may line up with the north-south southern wall [905] of the bank barn. (This unusual angle will be explained under the section on the Outbuilding). This unit, along with EU #s 90, 92, 93, and 94, also revealed a walkway along the interior face of the wall [902]. This walkway consisted of two soil types, a yellowish brown compact sandy loam with grit and pebbles [14], and a dark grayish brown loamy silt with schist [35]. Context 35 appears next to the interior face of the wall and context 14 is adjacent to context 35, with both contexts continuing through the opening of the interior room described above. At the eastern end of the east-west interior wall [25] a 1½ foot extension of the north-south wall [20] extends south, beyond context 25. This is probably the north side of an entranceway leading into a southwest room within the barn.

Post holes were discovered in three units within the bank barn area. Excavation Unit 90 revealed the remains of a burnt wooden post that was probably used as a support for an entrance relating to the interior room within the bank barn (Plate A1.6). This post is on the projected alignment of interior wall 20 with a walkway [14, 35] between them. The post hole discovered in Excavation Unit 91 is located on the interior corner of the thickened stone wall [902]. A third post hole was discovered in Excavation Unit 92.

Excavation Unit 87 was placed around a visible pier [910] constructed of schist and mortar, capped with rectangular, dressed stones and finished with cement (Plate A1.6). The excavation revealed an earlier pier [26] adjacent to the visible pier, and was constructed in a similar fashion except for the inclusion of bricks.

Excavation Unit 120 was placed north and west of Context 905 (Figure A1.8). This irregular shaped unit revealed the remains of a former footing and the top of bedrock. The bedrock was removed down to this

point for construction of the bank barn and could have been used as a floor as it is level. Figure A1.8 shows a detailed plan view of Excavation Unit 120 and a rendering of the landscape before and after construction of the barn. The hillside was removed down to the top of bedrock [64] for construction of the barn. The builder's trench [65] was cut deeper into the bedrock to build the footing for Context 905 and possibly Context 63. When construction of the walls was completed, this area was filled [2] and leveled.

The bank barn's southern wall [906] is keyed into the eastern north-south wall [905], and appears to be a support wall outside of the main bank barn building. A possible shed or lean-to could have existed here. Two poured stone piers Contexts 908 and 912, could have held supports for an entranceway to a lower section of the bank barn.

The west surface of Context 905 is reddened which was probably caused by a fire. While we were excavating, a local gentleman, John Shaw, stopped by with his mother. He informed us that his Uncle Jim Shaw rescued a woman from the burning barn in the period from 1938 to 1940. This fits in with our knowledge of the cessation of the working farm from 1940 on, and explains the reddened stones of the barn walls.

3. The Outbuilding and Well (Figures A1.1, A1.9- A1.11; Plates A1.8-A1.10)

The investigation of the outbuilding area was intended to establish the relationship between this part of the complex and the bank barn. These two elements of the farm layout are on different alignments: the outbuilding being placed parallel to Henderson road, while the bank barn is aligned along the private road on the south side of the farmstead. The most obvious question to ask when faced with such data is whether the two parts were constructed at different dates, and how they subsequently functioned together.

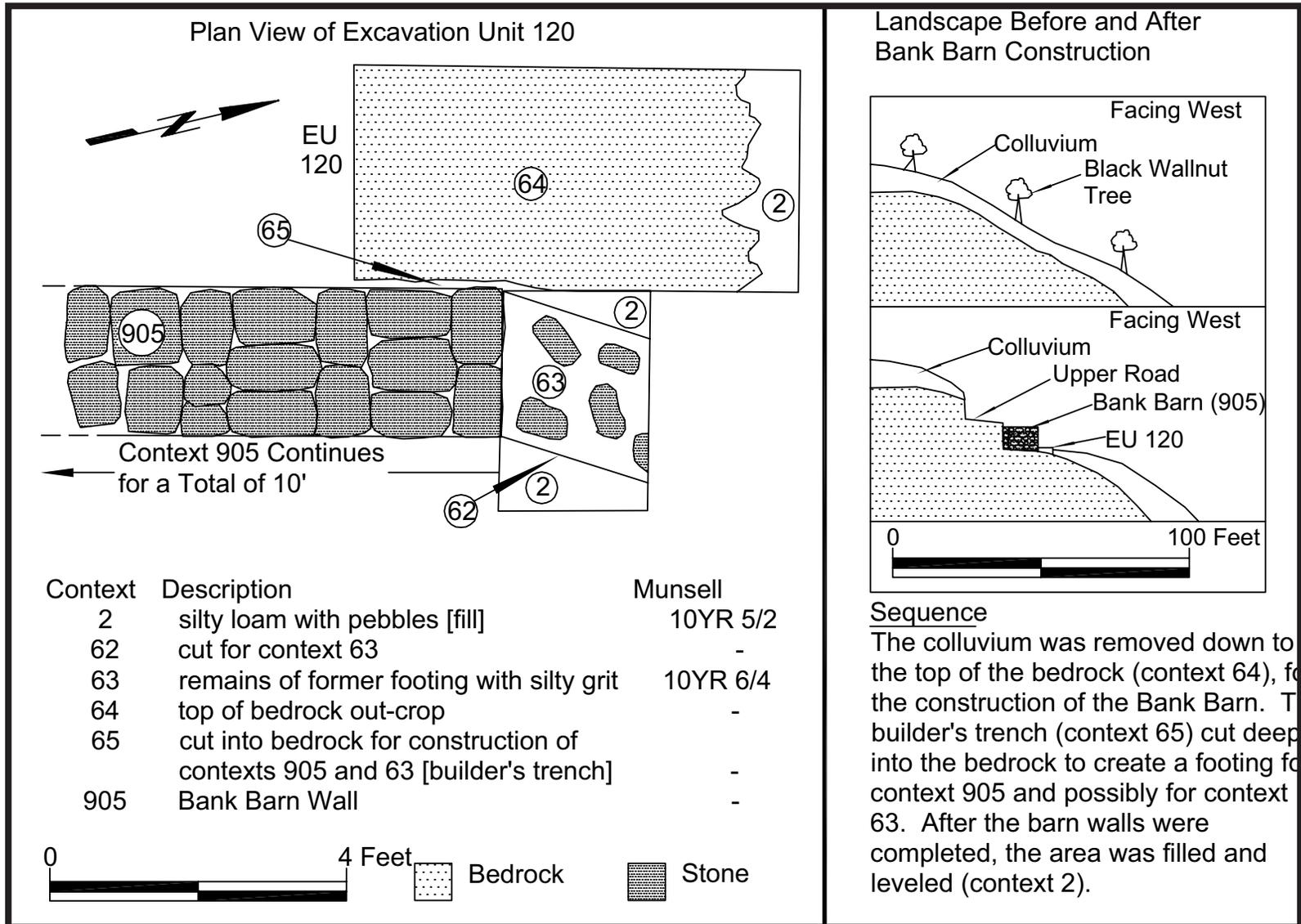


Figure A1.8. Plan View of Excavation Unit 120 with Rendering of Landscape Before and After Construction of the Bank Barn

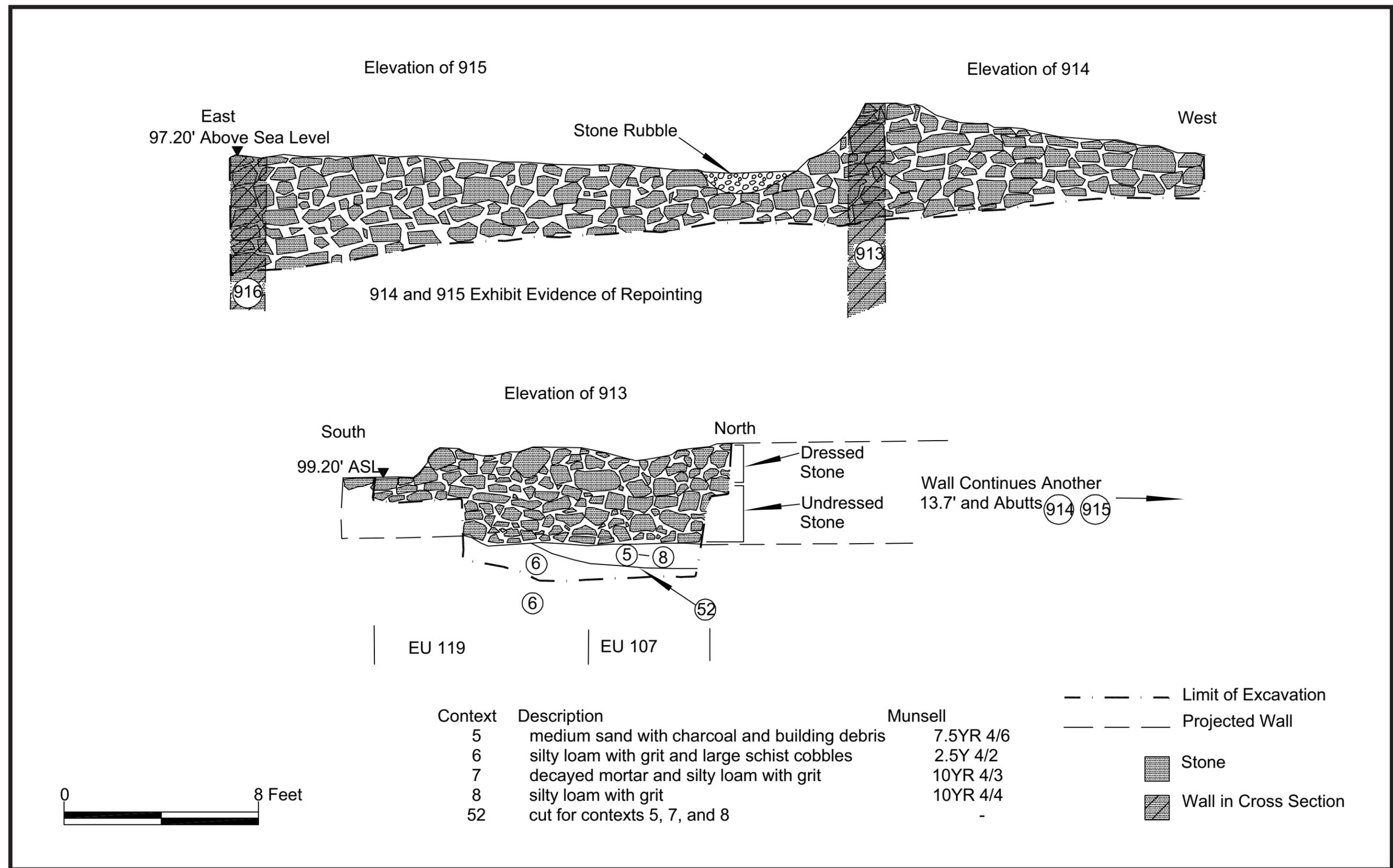
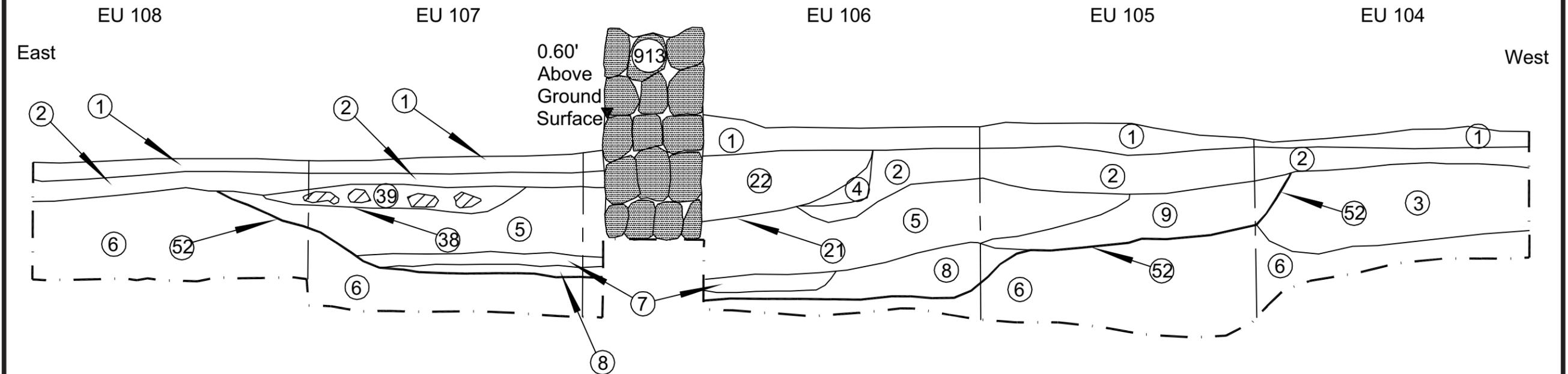


Figure A1.9. Profiles of Outbuilding Walls; Contexts 913E, 914N, and 915N.

South Profiles of Excavation Units 104 Through 108
Showing Pit Feature



Context	Description	Munsell
1	silty loam	10YR 2/2
2	silty loam with pebbles	10YR 5/2
3	silty clay	10YR 5/4
4	medium sand	10YR 3/4
5	medium sand with charcoal and building debris	7.5YR 4/6
6	silty loam with grit and large schist cobbles	2.5Y 4/2
7	decayed mortar and silty loam with grit	10YR 4/3
8	silty loam with grit	10YR 4/4
9	clay loam with decayed schist	10YR 5/3
21	cut containing contexts 4 and 22	-
22	silty loam	10YR 2/2
38	cut containing context 39	-
39	coarse sand	2.5YR 4/2
52	cut containing contexts 5, 7, 8 and 9	-
913	stone wall	-

- - - - - Limit of Excavation
 Stone
 Schist Cobbles



Figure A1.10. South Wall Profiles of Excavation Units 104 through 108 Showing Pit Feature.



Plate A1.8. The south profile of Excavation Units 105 and 106 showing pit feature which is probably the basement of Jeremiah Springer's pre-1849 log house. The full profile of this feature can be found on Figure A1.10. The smoother soil at the bottom of the profile is the natural subsoil. The looser material above, containing stones, is the material used to fill up the hold in the mid-19th century and which included artifacts from the Springer occupation of the site. Outbuilding wall [913] at right of the view was built over the infilled pit, probably by James Ward or William Little. (Photographer: Susan Ferenbach, May 1998) [HRI Neg. #98014/9:30].



Plate A1.10. General View looking southwest showing excavations in progress. Outbuilding walls, Context 917 at the bottom left of view and Context 913E at the center of view, and Bank Barn walls, Contexts 903 and 904 in the background (Photographer: Dawn Turner, May 1998) [HRI Neg. #98014/5:10].

The outbuilding structure encompasses an area approximately 30 feet by 40 feet and the walls are constructed mainly of mortared large schist rocks and occasional quartz boulders, essentially the same materials and techniques as the bank barn. The western portion of the north wall [914], keyed to Context 913, is whitewashed and stuccoed on the exterior face. The eastern portion of the north wall [915], is one build with Context 914 and is also whitewashed on the exterior face (Figure A1.9). Context 913, a north-south wall, is keyed to Context 914 but has a higher percentage of quartz rock than is present on the other walls (Figure A1.9, Plate A1.10). The east and south walls [916, 917] are one build with Context 916. The interior of the enclosed portion of the outbuilding structure measures 12 ½ feet by 24 feet and has a five foot entranceway in the southwest corner. A well is located two feet east of the southern end of Context 913 and 12 feet south of the outbuilding entranceway (Plate A1.9).

Excavation Units 81 through 84, and 104 through 119 were placed in and around the outbuilding. Units 104 through 108 revealed a burnt pit feature (Figure A1.10, Plate A1.8; cut of pit context 52, fill levels 5,7,8 and 9). Units 81 through 84 were excavated to find the extent of this feature. The pit feature runs south-north from the middle of EU 82 to the interior of the north wall [914] of the outbuilding, and west-east from Excavation Unit 104, under the wall [913], to Excavation Unit 108. The approximate measurements of this feature were 19 feet by 29 feet. It contained four layers or pockets of fill. The fill consisted of a strong brown medium sand with charcoal and building debris [5], a dark brown silty loam with decayed mortar and grit [7], a dark yellowish brown silty loam with grit [8], and a brown clay loam with decayed schist [9]. Artifacts recovered from this pit included a 1797 and an 1837 Liberty Head One Cent coin, both in good condition. One illegible Liberty Head in poor condition was also recovered. This pit feature could possibly be the remains of the cellar hole

from the log house documented in the 1822 Mill Creek Hundred tax assessment and still in existence in 1850. If this is the case, it would explain the unusual placement of the possible bank barn wall running from the eastern corner of the north wall [902] to the north-south wall [905], possibly so placed to avoid this feature. In any event, these changes appear to confirm the 19th- century re-planning of the farm suggested by the Phase II investigations (Hunter Research, Inc. 1996). Post holes were identified in Excavation Units 83 and 84 within the burnt pit feature, perhaps indicative of structural components.

Excavation Unit 119 was placed over the northern portion of the well [918], and measured 5 feet by 7 feet (Plate A1.9). This unit revealed the southeastern portion of the burnt pit feature cut by the well, a stone walk [929] encompassing the well, a post hole [51], and a pathway [39] heading towards the eastern section of the outbuilding. This pathway also appeared in Excavation Units 107, 108, and 117 and consisted of a weak red coarse sand. A post hole [51] was located under the stone walk and could be associated with the log house. The northern portion of the well was dismantled revealing a layer of ash/cinder, mucky loam, and the water table at 12 foot below surface. The lower part of the well was lined with quartz rocks and the cap consisted of Wissahickon schist (apparently built later). Some of the artifacts recovered were medicine and dairy bottles, rusted hardware, a 1929 Lincoln Head penny, and a brass plate dated 1852 showing the burning of safes, evidently an advertisement for a fireproof safe.

Excavation Unit 115 was placed on the exterior southeast corner of the outbuilding and excavated to the bottom of the wall corner [916, 917]. The profile for Excavation Unit 115 consisted of a layer of humus [1] overlying a dark grayish brown silty sand with schist [11] overlying a grayish brown silty loam with pebbles [2] overlying a dark grayish brown silty loam with grit and large schist cobbles [6]. The top three

contexts yielded numerous artifacts. Context 6 was sterile except for the top two inches where root disturbance had brought in artifacts. The relationship between the wall and the stratigraphy is unclear as there was no evidence of a builder's trench.

Excavation Unit 116 was placed straddling the south wall [917] of the outbuilding (Figure A1.11). Excavation of the interior section revealed a builder's trench for context 917 comprised of a sterile dark yellowish brown silty loam [19]. Excavation Unit 118 was placed in the interior northeast corner of the outbuilding. The profile consisted of a very dark brown silty loam [1] overlying a very dark grayish brown silty loam [16] overlying a brown silty loam with gravel [17] overlying a dark brown silty loam with a large quantity of schist [49]. Only the top two contexts could be excavated completely due to the fragility of the walls [915, 916]. Context 17 was excavated in the southwest quadrant of Excavation Unit 118 to the top of context 49, and both contexts 17 and 49 were sterile.

4. The Retaining Wall (Figure A1.1, Plate A1.11)

Excavation Units 200 through 204 were placed on a north-south axis starting at the retaining wall heading south towards the Ward House Site (Plate A1.11). Excavation of Unit 203 revealed a probable post hole containing a redware sherd, a stoneware sherd, one window glass fragment, and five cut nail fragments. This area did not reveal the expected deep fill deposits, but did contain some artifacts which are most likely associated with the Ward/Little House. A typical profile consisted of a very dark grayish brown silty loam with gravel ("A" Horizon), overlying a dark grayish brown silty loam with gravel ("E" Horizon), overlying a brown sandy clay loam with gravel ("B" Horizon), overlying a dark brown sandy clay loam with gravel and schist ("C" Horizon). Excavation

Unit 200 was excavated to a depth of approximately four feet below the surface, revealing the bottom of the retention wall. The wall was comprised of mostly schist and some quartzite, and did not appear to be mortared. Further inspection of the retaining wall revealed metal rods protruding from the top of the wall, and spaced approximately ten feet apart. These were probably fence or guard rail supports.

Excavation Units 205 and 206 were placed between the outbuilding and Excavation Unit 200. These units revealed the retention wall [928] and a probable stone pier footing with a section of wood on the top. It is uncertain whether the wood is incidental or a possible floor board. A protruding metal rod was discovered in Unit 206 atop the retention wall, similar to those to the east.

5. The Ward/Little House Site (Figures A1.1, A1.12)

The Ward/Little House is located outside of the construction zone (Figure A1.1), and was therefore subject to less intensive investigation. The house foundation appears to be a half-basement structure set into the hillside with the front facing the north (downslope) side. This side may have been frame, as there is no clear sign of a continuous stone wall along this side and lack of sufficient tumble to indicate a stone wall. Whatever the details of its structure it is clearly not a log house and therefore probably post dates 1850, possibly built by Ward or Little.

The west wall [919], running north-south, exhibits a whitewashed interior face and is generally made up of smaller stones than the bank barn and outbuilding. The south wall [920], keyed to Contexts 919 and 921, is collapsed in the center due to tree growth. The interior face is whitewashed and a 22 foot by 7 foot concrete pad is located above this wall. The north end of the east wall [921] was possibly repaired. It was fin-



Plate A1.9. View looking south showing stone-lined well [918] with surrounding stone walkway [929], located in Excavation Unit 119. Scales are in feet (Photographer: Susan Ferenbach, May 1998) [HRI Neg. #98014/11:10A].

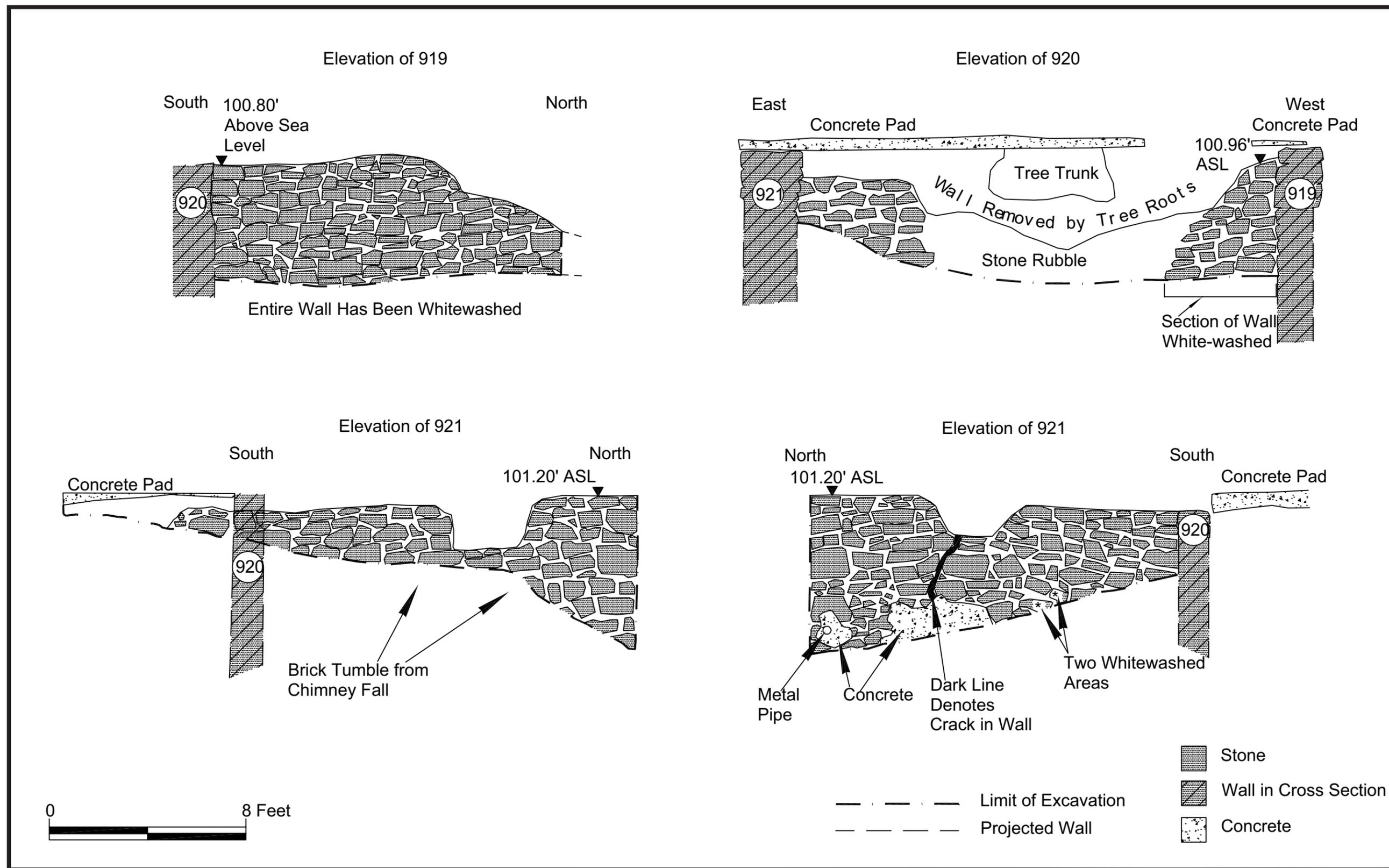


Figure A1.12. Profiles of Ward/Little House Walls; Contexts 919E, 920N, 921E, and 921W.



Plate A1.11. Excavation Units 200 to 204: view looking down and north showing post hole at center right of view and retaining wall [928] located at center top of the view. This excavation trench was designed to examine what were hoped to be rich 19th century trash deposits accumulated against the rear of the 19th century retaining wall on the south side of Henderson road, but this expectation was not realized and the soils were shallower than expected and had relatively few artifacts (Photographer: Dawn Turner, May 1998) [HRI Neg. #98014/6:19].

ished off with squared stones like Context 905. A galvanized pipe emerges from the west face of the possible repair. Concrete rendering can be seen around the pipe and further south on the bottom of the wall. Two small areas show whitewash on the west face. To the east of Context 921 is an area of brick rubble [933] which is probably tumble from a chimney fall. A complex area located approximately six feet north of the eastern section of the house contains a stone-lined well [930]. Adjacent to, and north of the well is a layer of brick three feet across and two bricks wide. A concrete pad extends almost 14 feet north from the house, surrounding the well and extending eight feet to the east of the east wall [921]. To the north and east of this concrete pad is a section of stone, capped with concrete [932]. This could possibly have been a patio or a section of steps. A section of stone curves around the well, two to three feet north of the well [931], with a concrete foundation continuing to the west in front of the house (Figure A1.1).

Appendix A.2

SUMMARY OF SUBSURFACE TESTING

Note: This appendix is not included in the electronic version of this report. A printed copy is available at the Delaware Department of Transportation and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office.

Appendix A.3

ARTIFACT INVENTORY

Note: This appendix is not included in the electronic version of this report. A printed copy is available at the Delaware Department of Transportation and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office.

Appendix A.4

REVISED NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR THE THE SPRINGER/LITTLE FARMSTEAD SITE HENDERSON ROAD/OLD COACH ROAD CHOATE, NEWCASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE

Note: This appendix is not included in the electronic version of this report. A printed copy is available at the Delaware Department of Transportation and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office.