

**REPORT ON THE  
SITE EXAMINATION TESTING  
AND MONITORING OF THE RECONSTRUCTION  
OF THE ACTON STONE CHAMBER,  
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

Prepared for

Town of Acton  
and  
New England Antiquities Research Association  
(NEARA)

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## **ABSTRACT**

The Town of Acton Board of Selectmen, as overseen by the Acton Historical Commission, and in collaboration with the New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA), were awarded a Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant for the restoration and stabilization of the Historic Stone Chamber on the Nashoba Brook Conservation Land in Acton, Massachusetts. The aim of the restoration project was to restore the stone chamber to a condition that both resolves the present safety hazards (danger of collapse), and to re-establish certain architectural principles applied during its period of original construction. The Acton chamber has been known about for many years, but it has been within the last 40 years that, due to both human and environmental factors, it has suffered its most severe deterioration. The deterioration has now reached the stage where it has been determined that, due to its location on public land with open access and the fact that it now possesses a serious danger of collapse with potential serious injury to whomever happens to be present, that it must either be rebuilt or demolished. Restoration consisted of the removal of the soils on the roof of the chamber and the walls of the passage leading into it. This was followed by the removal of the roof slabs, a reconstruction and stabilization of the walls, replacement of the roof slabs and the replacement of the overlying soils to replicate the original appearance.

Prior to any reconstruction work, archaeological Site Examination (950 CMR 70) testing was proposed for the soils located adjacent to the interior and exterior walls of the passage, the floor of the passage and the adjacent stone foundation. The purpose of the Site Examination was to gather sufficient information to determine whether the Stone Chamber was eligible for listing in the National and State Register of Historic Places.

Site Examination testing prior to and during the reconstruction of the Acton Stone Chamber yielded significant information on the methods of construction of the walls, the original depth of the floor of the passage, the possible purpose of the foundation adjacent to the stone chamber, and the area between the stone chamber and the foundation. Materials recovered during the course of testing included one possible Middle Archaic Neville-like projectile point, recovered from a fill layer and thus lacking provenience integrity, as well as historic material spanning the late eighteenth to late twentieth centuries. Documentary research tied the chamber construction with Moses Wood, a Revolutionary War veteran and blacksmith. Documentary research also indicated that the chamber may have been used as an ice house and the adjacent foundation served as the blacksmith shop for Moses Wood and his son Aaron.

Site examination results indicated that, although the passage has been reconstructed, the site maintains significant integrity and is recommended for inclusion on the National Register based on Criteria B, C and D. It is associated with a person of local significance, is representative of a vanishing but once significant vernacular architectural style, and maintains the potential to add information important to the history of the Town, State and region.

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The Town of Acton Board of Selectmen, as overseen by the Acton Historical Commission, and in collaboration with the New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA), have been awarded a Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant for the restoration and stabilization of the Historic Stone Chamber on the Nashoba Brook Conservation Land in Acton, Massachusetts. The aim of the restoration project was to restore the stone chamber to a condition that both resolves the present safety hazards (danger of collapse), and to re-establish certain architectural principles applied during its period of original construction. The Acton chamber has been known about for many years, but it has been within the last 40 years that, due to both human and environmental factors, it has suffered its most severe deterioration. The deterioration has now reached the stage where it has been determined that, due to its location on public land with open access and the fact that it now possesses a serious danger of collapse with potential serious injury to whomever happens to be present, that it must either be rebuilt or demolished.

Restoration consisted of the removal of the soils on the roof of the chamber and the walls of the passage leading into it. This was followed by the removal of the roof slabs, a reconstruction and stabilization of the walls, replacement of the roof slabs and the replacement of the overlying soils to replicate the original appearance.

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Site examination results indicate that, although the passage has been reconstructed, the site maintains significant integrity and is recommended for inclusion on the National Register based on Criteria B, C and D. It is associated with a person of local significance, is representative of a vanishing but once significant vernacular architectural style, and maintains the potential to add information important to the history of the Town, State and region.

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Town of Acton Board of Selectmen, as overseen by the Acton Historical Commission, and in collaboration with the New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA), was awarded a Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant for the restoration and stabilization of the Historic Stone Chamber on the Nashoba Brook Conservation Land in Acton, Massachusetts (Figures 1 and 2). The aim of the restoration project was to restore the stone chamber to a condition that both resolves the present safety hazards (danger of collapse), and to re-establish certain architectural principles applied during its period of original construction. The Acton chamber has been known about for many years, but it has been within the last 40 years that, due to both human and environmental factors, it has suffered its most severe deterioration. The deterioration has now reached the stage where it has been determined that, due to its location on public land with open access and the fact that it now possesses a serious danger of collapse with potential serious injury to whomever happens to be present, that it must either be rebuilt or demolished (Figures 3 and 4).

Restoration consisted of the removal of the soils on the roof of the chamber and the walls of the passage leading into it. This was followed by the removal of the roof slabs, a reconstruction and stabilization of the walls, replacement of the roof slabs and the replacement of the overlying soils to replicate the original appearance.

Prior to any reconstruction work, archaeological Site Examination (950 CMR 70) testing was performed on the soils located adjacent to the interior and exterior walls of the passage, the floor of the passage and the adjacent stone foundation. The purpose of the Site Examination was to gather sufficient information to determine whether the Stone Chamber was eligible for listing in the National and State Register of Historic Places.

Archaeological testing sought:

- to examine and record the methods of construction of the walls,
- to determine the original depth of the floor of the passage,
- to investigate the stone foundation adjacent to the stone chamber,
- and to investigate the area between the stone chamber and the foundation.

It was hoped that by examining the builder's trenches, the mound around the passage and the passage itself, artifacts would be recovered that would help to establish the date of construction and use of the entire complex.

Background research was conducted to place the stone chamber within a context of the history of the Town of Acton and that of the history of the property. The working hypothesis was that this complex was part of a larger farm or industrial complex and that it provided the farm owner with additional income aside from that gained solely from farming.

The Acton Stone Chamber is similar to other chambers found throughout New England and Putnam County, New York. It is an example of the type of colonial architectural

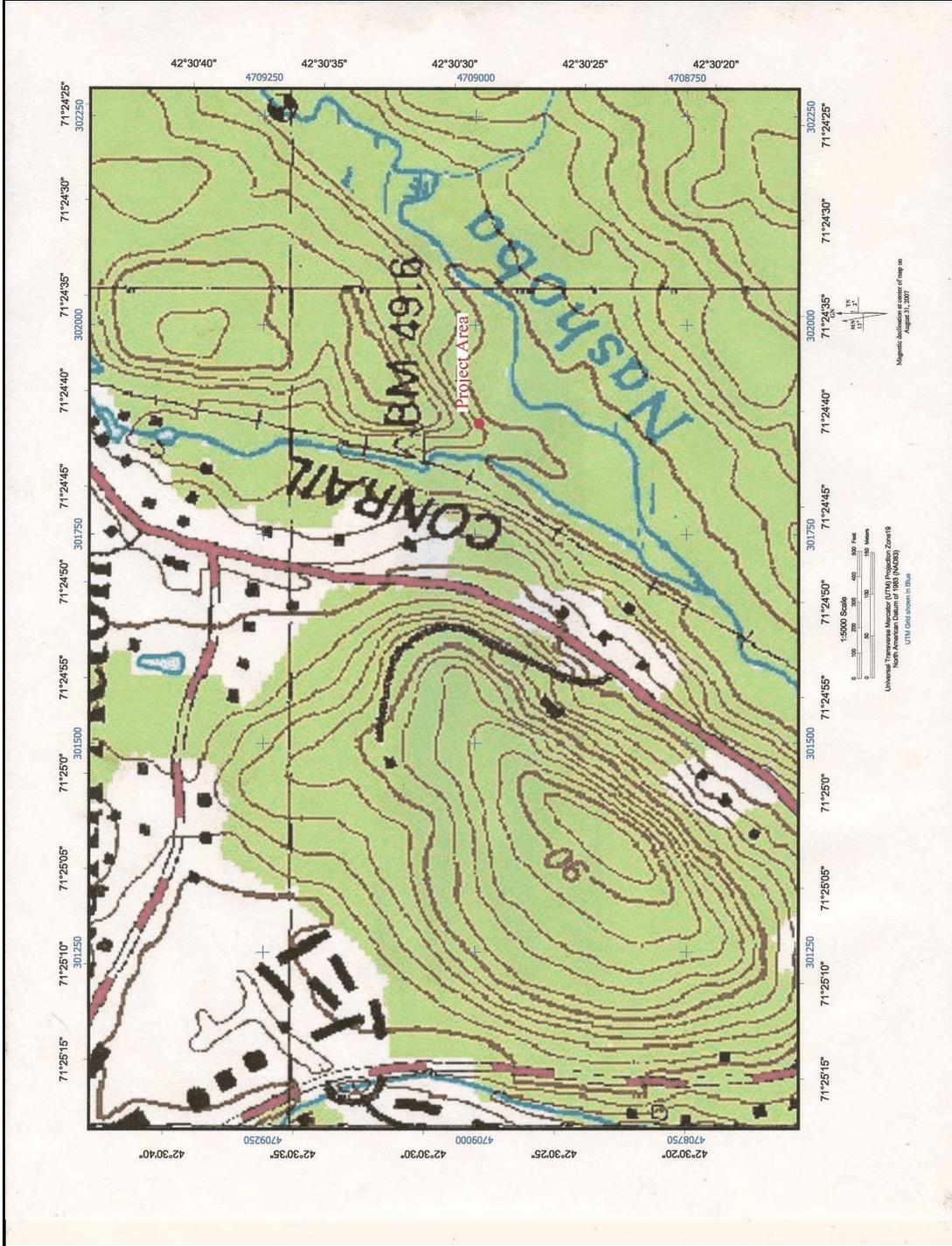


Figure 1. Location of the Acton Stone Chamber on the USGS Topographic Quadrant map

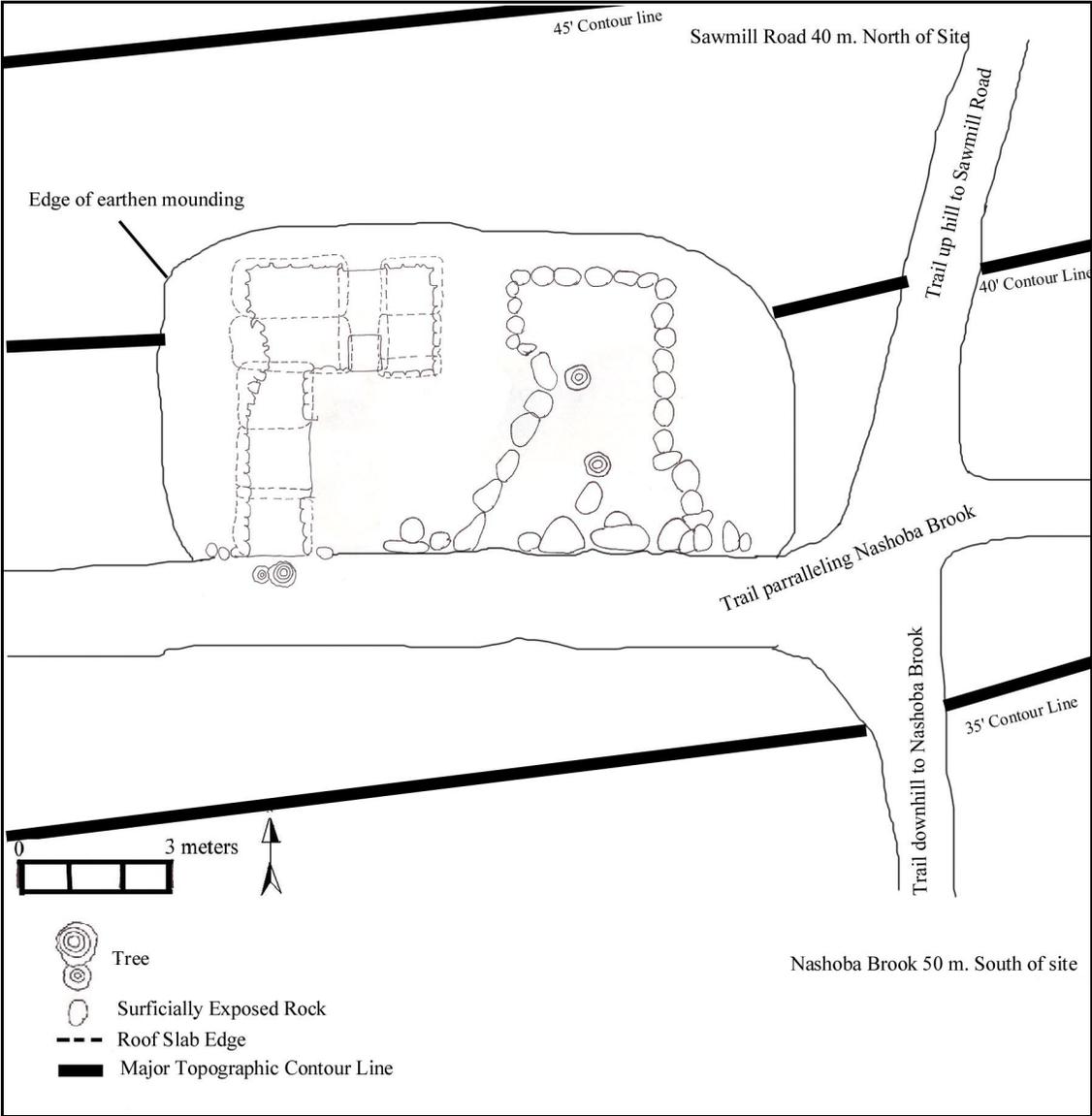


Figure 2. Acton Stone Chamber project map



Figure 3. Exterior of stone chamber prior to reconstruction



Figure 4. Exterior of stone chamber following reconstruction

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

construction that likely served a variety of purposes such as root cellars, animal shelters, feed storage, dairy and cider or vinegar storage and aging. Acton's chamber has a low passage entrance and the entire structure is of a modified post and lintel design. The entire passage and chamber have an L-shape, a less common form. Another interesting feature is the presence of pillar of stone at the junction of the passage and the chamber itself. This feature was identified as likely being part of the original construction, and was added possibly due to roof slump or collapse, or as extra support for this portion of the chamber roof.

The dimensions of the Acton Stone Chamber are as follows:

-Length of the passage	17' 5"	5.3 meters
-Width of passage	3' 6"	1.1 meters
-Length of chamber east to west	11' 5"	3.5 meters
-Width of chamber north to south	6' 10"	2.1 meters
-Width of pillar	24"	.6 meters
-Height of chamber	6'2"	1.8 meters

The dimensions of the adjacent stone enclosure are as follows:

-Width east to west	13'	4 meters
-Length north to south	20'	6 meters
-Wall height	39'	1 meter

The following is the report on the archaeological Site Examination at the Acton Stone Chamber. The Site Examination was conducted under permit 2868 issued by the State Archaeologist, in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (36 CFR 800), Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 9, Sections 26-27C as amended by Chapter 254 of the Acts of 1988 (950 CMR 71), and MEPA (301 CMR 11).

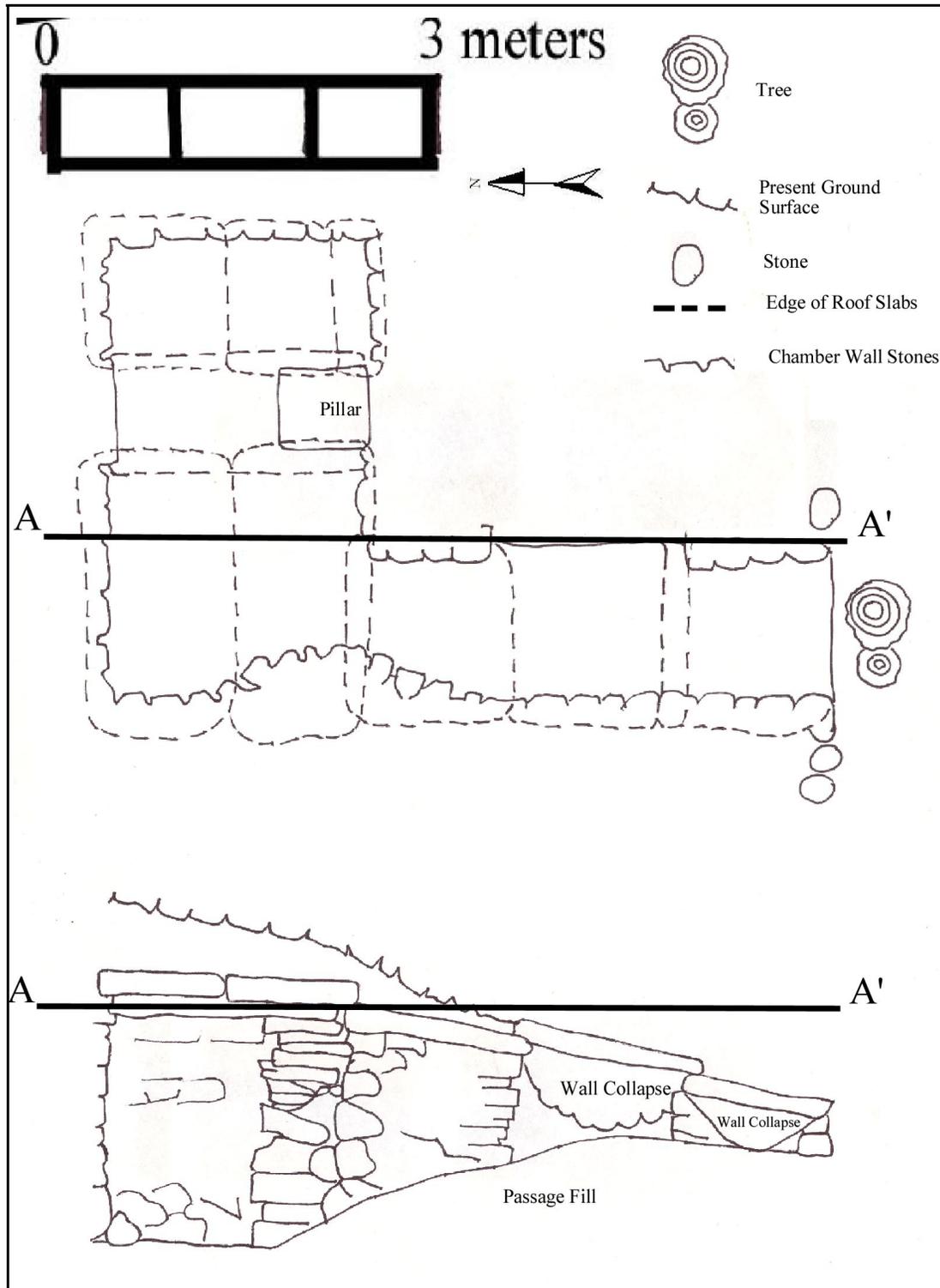


Figure 5. Plan and profile drawing of the Acton Stone Chamber (based on a drawing provided by NEARA)

**II. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT**

The Town of Acton is located in Middlesex County. It is 24 miles west of Boston and is bordered by Westford and Carlisle to the north, Concord to the east, Maynard and Stow to the south and Boxborough and Littleton to the west. The majority of the topography of Acton is rugged upland terrain with gravelly and rocky soils, especially in the northern part of the town where the Acton chamber is located. The more rocky terrain accounts for the higher elevations to be found in this section as well. Larger hills include Strawberry, Wright and Great Hill. Major drainages include, in the south, the Assabet River, and Nagog Brook to the west and Nashoba Brook immediately to the south of the stone chamber. These significant waterways led to focal points of settlement and industry along them.

The underlying bedrock geology of the project area consists of granitic schist and gneiss. Outcrops of granite occur in the general area and were quarried in the historic past. Soils at the project area are Hinckley loamy sand on 15-25% slopes. The Acton Stone Chamber is located at the bottom of a wooded hill approximately 60 meters from a home on Mill Street. A few bushes exist on the chamber mound and a few trees are growing in the adjacent foundation. One cut stump was located at the mouth of the chamber passage. The chamber is situated on the slope of the hill and is approximately 50 meters from Nashoba Brook. Granitic schist and gneiss were visible in the immediate area around the chamber, possibly indicating that the large roof slabs were quarried from the immediate area, helping to explain why this location was chosen as the site of the chamber. Another outcrop of granitic schist and gneiss has been located on Nashoba Brook approximately one half mile to the north of the stone chamber. While no evidence of quarrying was observed at this location, it shows that outcrops of this type of stone is fairly common in the area.

### **III. HISTORIC CONTEXT**

Acton was originally part of the Christian native community of Nashoba and part of the Euro-American town of Concord. Native and English settlement in town was focused in the Nashoba Brook area, including the area where the stone chamber is located. Euro-American settlement in northern Acton began in the 1650s and the area was continually occupied to the present day. By the time of Acton incorporation in 1735, the economy of the town was focused on apple production and mixed agriculture. Industrial development supported the apple industry with saw and stave mills being constructed. As time passed and even to this day, apples continued to be an important economic staple. Improved roadways leading to Boston and other major towns led to an expansion of industry, including shoe and boot manufacture, gun powder and wood working. Acton's economy became increasingly focused on export to Boston and the town eventually became a suburban bedroom community for people working in and around Boston.

The history of Acton during the **Plantation Period (1620-1675)** is intimately tied to that of Concord to the east and Littleton to the west. Native populations in the general Concord area were impacted by the 1633 smallpox epidemic that originated in Boston. This likely reduced the strength of the communities living in the Concord and Acton area. Between 1650 and 1675, John Eliot, the evangelical missionary to the Natives, began organizing the remnants of the Native communities living around Boston into seven "Praying Indian Towns" that essentially encircled Boston. The northern portion of Acton, in the area of the Nashoba Brook Conservation Land where the Stone Chamber is located, together with Spring Hill, may have been part of the Nashoba Praying Village established by Eliot in the mid-1600s. One of the purposes of these towns was to provide a sanctuary where Native Americans would, if they were willing to adopt European ways, be protected from attack by other Natives such as the Mohawk. The center of the Nashoba Brook praying village was in what is now Littleton. Nashoba extended for a four-mile square from the center of Littleton. Daniel Gookin described the community of Nashoba as follows:

"Nashobah is the sixth praying Indian town. This village is situated in a manner in the centre between Chelmsford, Lancaster, Groton, and Concord. It lieth from Boston about twenty five miles, west north west. The inhabitants are about ten families, and consequently about fifty souls. The dimensions of this village is four miles square. The land is fertile, and well stored with meadows and woods. It hath good ponds for fish adjoining to it. The people live here, as in other Indian villages, upon planting corn, fishing, hunting, and sometimes labouring with the English. Their ruler of late years was John Ahatawance, a pious man. Since his decease, Pennakennit is the chief. Their teacher is named John Thomas, a sober and pious man. His father was murdered by the Maquas in a secret manner, as he was fishing for eels at his wear, some years since, during the war. He was a pious and useful person ; and that place sustained a great loss in him. In this village, as well in other old Indian plantations, they have orchards of apples, whereof they make cider...."

Near unto this town is a pond, wherein at some seasons there is a strange rumbling noise, as the Indians affirm ; the reason thereof is not yet known. Some have conceived the hills adjacent are hollow, wherein the wind being pent, is the cause of this rumbling, as in earthquakes.

At this place they attend civil and religious order, as in the other praying towns : and they have a constable [named Captain Josiah, or Pennahannit] and other officers.

This town was deserted during the Maquas' war [1660s-1670), but is now again re-peopled, and in a hopeful way to prosper.” (Gookin 1677: 183-184).

During King Philip’s War, distrust of all Native people caused the colonists in Boston to collect as many of the Christian town Natives as possible, and concentrate them on Deer Island in Boston Harbor. Following the war, those who survived the interment on Deer Island were released, but the Praying towns had by this time become parts of the larger English communities.

Acton did not exist as a separate town until its incorporation in 1735. The New Grant of Concord Village in 1655 included much of the land of present day Acton, lands granted to west and northwest of the already established Village of Concord (MHC nd: 2). These lands were granted to the town of Concord “for feeding” (Shattuck 1832: 274). This land grant was written so that it did not include the following: the Iron-Work Farm, Major Simon Willard's farm in the north part of the tract, and two grants near Nagog Pond, one to the Indians, and the other to Joseph Wheeler and others (Shattuck 1832:274). Native trails running along Nagog and Nashoba brooks became the early settlement roads that connected mill sites to Concord and Littleton. By the later half of the seventeenth century, c. 1669, it is known that Captain Thomas Wheeler of Concord had leased land, constructed a house and a grist mill on Nashoba Brook, and was keeping cattle for the people of Concord (MHC nd:3). Wheeler may have acquired land that was abandoned by the Nashoba Natives during the years of the Mohawk raids. Wheeler's farm consisted of 260 acres of upland and meadow northwest of Nashoba Brook near Great Road. His farm is believed to lie approximately 1/4 mile from the Acton Stone Chamber and is today represented by the foundation of the house, barn, outbuildings and a cattle drover path. Other early settlers in Acton included John Law (ca. 1656) who settled on School Street and John Shepard (ca. 1660) who settled on Hosmer Street (MHC nd:3).

**Colonial Period (1675-1775)** settlement focused on what later became Acton Center and around Wheeler's Mill, where an iron furnace was constructed in the early eighteenth century by Joseph Harris (MHC nd. 4). The Nashoba Brook saw the erection of other saw and grist mills throughout this period as well. By 1738, there appears to have been a dwelling house, barn, grist mill and saw mill erected at the end of what is now Wheeler Lane ( Acton Historical Society 1974:17). While mixed agriculture, primarily at the subsistence level, was the dominant economic activity prior to King Philip's War in 1675-1677, apple growing became the primary crop in the eighteenth century. Orchards were located around the town, especially in the area around Nashoba Brook and the stone chamber. The apple industry, with the primary products being cider and vinegar, retained a dominant position in Acton's economy throughout the eighteenth and into the early

twentieth century (MHC nd: 5). Along with the apple industry, an increase in the importance of cooperage, the making of barrels used to ship apples, cider, beef, pork, etc., increased to the point that in 1757, a culler of shingles and staves was elected by the town to inspect the quality of the coopered wares (Acton Historical Society 1974: 18).

Trends that characterized Acton during the **Federal Period (1775-1830)** included improvement of roads and the expansion of mills and cottage industries in town. Union Turnpike was laid out in 1806 which connected Concord with West Acton and the Harvard Turnpike, Route 111 (MHC nd:6). New and expanded industries in Acton included the Faulkner saw and grist mills in South Acton, the Lewis Wood water powered turning shop, and the Fletcher shoe and boot mills in Acton center (MHC nd: 6). As a response to increased industrial and mill activity, the town center saw development with the building of a hotel and housing lots around the Town Common throughout this period. The 1795 map of the Town Of Acton shows an orchard being located in the project area at this time (Figure 6). No other orchards are identified on this map, making it likely that the orchard here must have been of a notable size or possibly was the only one in town at this time. The map also shows the mill pond that is still present to the immediate east of the Stone Chamber, indicating that this was a location of early industry, possibly that associated with Wheeler's occupation of the nearby area.

The most important event in the **Early Industrial Period (1830-1870)** was the construction of the Fitchburg Railroad in 1844. This line connected Boston with Fitchburg through West Acton (MHC nd:8). This line opened up the Town of Acton to both the economic benefits of increased trade with Boston and to an influx of inhabitants who worked in Boston but wanted to live in the suburbs. The economic growth led to an expansion of mill and industrial activities in town, which in turn led to an increasing need for housing and schools for the influx of new mill worker families and children of people commuting to work in Boston. The 1832 map of Acton shows a saw mill located at the southern end of the mill pond adjacent to the stone chamber site (Figure 7). It also shows a structure located on the south side of the road extending from what is now Route 27 down to the saw mill. This structure is in a position to likely be the Stone Chamber.

The **Late Industrial Period (1870-1915)** saw an increase in the apple growing and processing portion of Acton's economy. In West Acton, Edwin Parker and Sons constructed cider mills in the 1870s and Robinson's Cider and Jelly Manufactory was established in the 1880s while in South Acton, Henry Barker built a cider and vinegar mill in the period (MHC nd: 12). Thanks to the railroad connection to Boston, that city now became a major target market for apple businesses in Acton. Luke and later Arthur Blanchard, for example, shipped 60,000 barrels of apples to Boston in one season (MHC nd:12).

The economy stayed relatively stable for Acton during the **Modern Period (1915-1940)**. The town became more of a haven for businessmen working in Boston and the American Powder Mill, established in 1864, helped maintain the economy in the twentieth century with government contracts and sales to Russia (MHC nd:14).

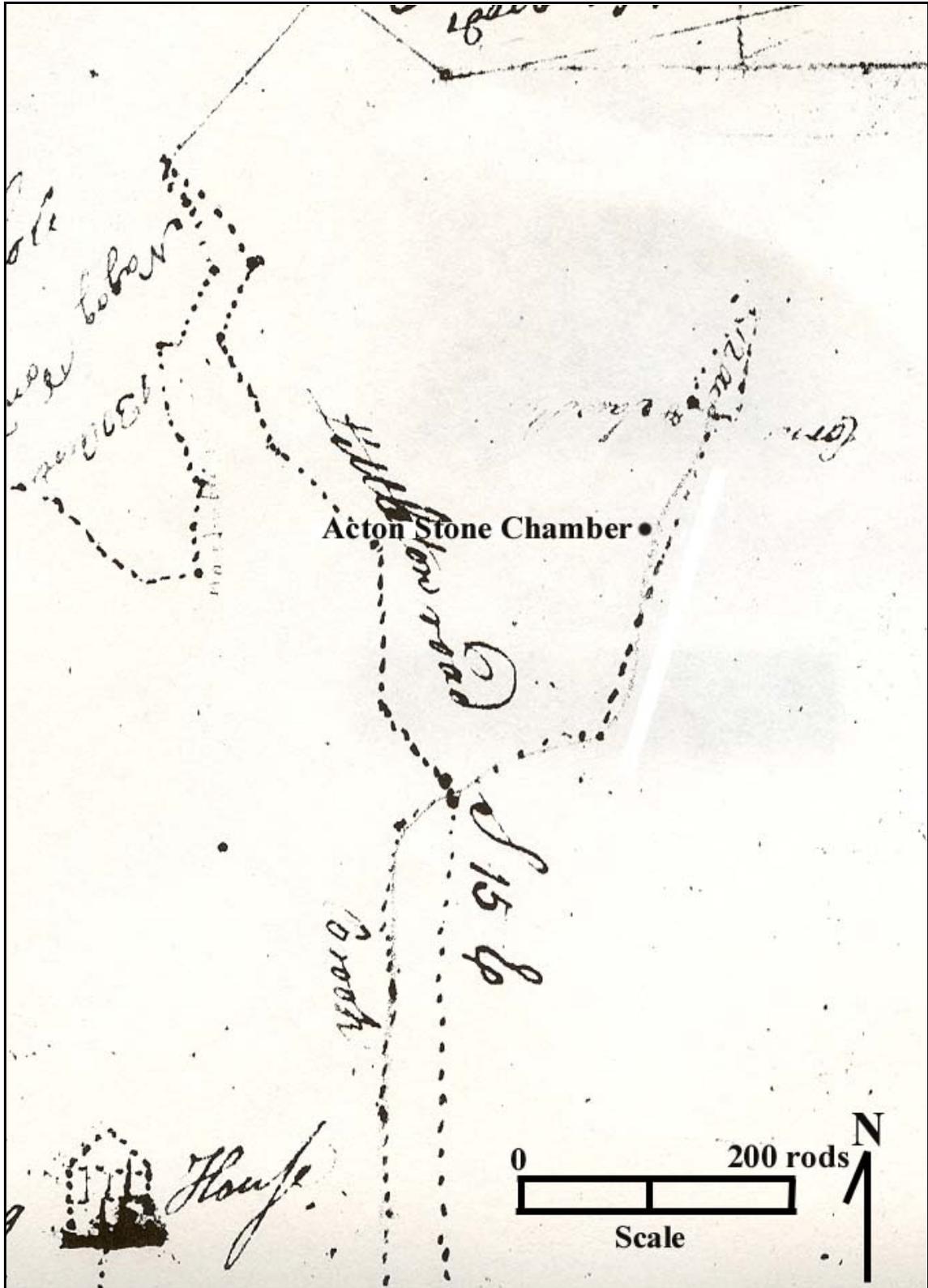


Figure 6. Location of the Acton Stone Chamber shown on 1795 map of Acton

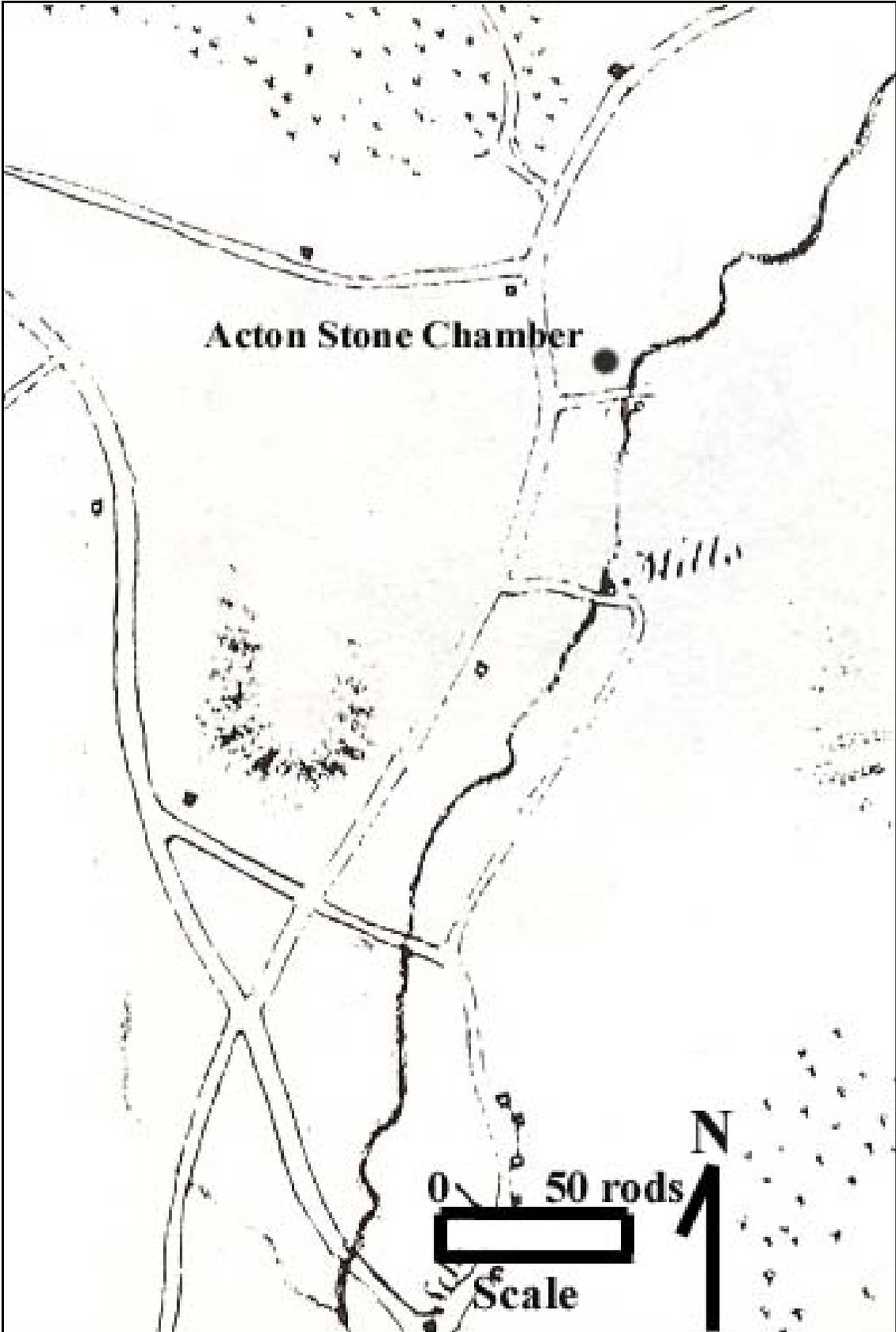


Figure 7. Location of the Acton Stone Chamber shown on 1831 map of Acton

### **A. Known Historic Sites**

Four historic archaeological sites are located in Acton, all of which are within one half mile of the project area. The four sites are all part of a farm complex dating to the eighteenth to nineteenth century. Acton HA-1 and 4 are identified as two separate sites, but they appear in fact, to be one and the same. This site consists of fourteen subsistence level granite quarries. These quarries are examples of small scale quarrying by farmers attempting to supplement the income generated by their farms. One other site is the farmstead associated with the granite quarries. This site consists of two cellar holes, a possible root cellar, a cart path and associated stonewalls. The final site is a three by twelve meter stone platform associated with the farmstead.

Several unrecorded historic mill complexes that lie on Nashoba Brook are also known in town. Nashoba Brook was a source of mill power from the late 1660s through the nineteenth century. A historic farmstead, identified as the possible site of the Wheeler farm, is located approximately 1/4 mile to the north of the stone chamber.

### **B. Historic Archaeological Potential**

General historic settlement patterns have been developed for historical resources in New England and these can be used to help predict where historic archaeological sites may be found (Handsman 1981; Paynter 1982; Walbauer 1986; Wood 1978). Economic geographers have also formulated models on historic settlement that take into account variables such as proximity to bodies of water, arable soils, granite outcrops, and gravel and clay beds (Haggett et al. 1977). Proximity to settlement concentrations, freshwater springs, streams and sources of waterpower also effect where people will settle.

Historic Archaeological potential can be stratified as follows:

High/ Moderate potential: Within 100 m. of a major transportation network, with 100 m. of fresh water and with 1000 m. of a settlement concentration

Low Potential: >100 m. of a major transportation network, >100 m. of fresh water and >1000 m. of a settlement concentration

The project area was expected to have a high archaeological potential to yield evidence of historic use of this area of Acton. The site contains one historic site, the Acton Stone Chamber, that may date to the late seventeenth to sometime in the nineteenth century. The chamber is located in an area of Acton believed to have formerly been part of the Nashoba Praying Indian town and has seen continual European historic occupation since at least the middle seventeenth century. Located within 1/4 mile of the site are several unrecorded historic mill sites, the Wheeler farmstead and the Quail Ridge farmstead, the later being near Nagog Pond. The site is located adjacent to a historic town road, Main Street (Route 2A/ 27), and is adjacent to the Nashoba Brook. It was expected that the site examination would yield evidence that can help to better date the Stone Chamber construction as well as to provide information about the use of the chamber and the adjacent foundation. This was believed to be especially true of the builder's trenches into which the foundations of the walls were laid, the floor of the passage and chamber, and

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## **HISTORIC CONTEXT**

the adjacent foundation. The Acton Stone Chamber may have stood in Acton for much of the town's existence. Archaeological testing of the area within and around the stone chamber prior to the reconstruction was predicted to yield evidence from Acton's past. Archaeological data recovered was expected to yield information on when the structure was constructed, what purpose or purposes it was used for, and how its location and use relate to the larger history of the Town of Acton.

**V. SITE EXAMINATION METHODS**

**A. Justification**

The area in and around the Acton stone chamber had a high potential for containing historic archaeological resources. This area was determined to likely contain information that could help to date the stone chamber construction as well as to provide information about the how the chamber fit into the economy of Acton in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. This was believed to be especially true of the builder's trenches into which the foundations were originally laid, the floor of the chamber and the area within the adjacent foundation. A site examination was justified to investigate the stone chamber prior to the restoration work, to gather sufficient information to determine whether the archaeological deposits associated with the stone chamber are eligible for listing in the National and State Register of Historic Places by determining the limits of the deposits, and to assess their integrity, significance and research potential for possible inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

**B. Documentary Research**

Preliminary examination of the historic site files, historic maps, and the Acton Town Report (MHC n.d.) was conducted at the Massachusetts Historical Commission in order to assess the historic potential of the project area and develop an initial historic context. Further research was conducted at the Acton Town Hall, the Acton Historical Society, and the Acton Public Library.

**Deed Research**

A search for the ownership chain for the land on which the Acton Stone Chamber is located was conducted by Hobbs Abstract Company of Worcester, Massachusetts in July of 2006. It is believed that Moses Woods, a blacksmith and Revolutionary War veteran, was the first owner of the land in the general vicinity of the stone chamber. In 1837, Woods stated he had lived in the present house since 1774 and that in general he had lived in town since 1771 (MDRD 1831). Woods house was located on the westerly side of the road from Stowe to Carlisle (Main Street/ Route 27). The stone chamber and the 13 acres that it is situated on, are located on the eastern side of the road, just south of the Woods homestead making it likely that the chamber was associated with this homestead. Moses Woods died in 1837 and his will left all of his land including 14 acres called the Smith Lot and two acres of pasture and woodland near the dam with a shop standing on the same with a privilege of flowing for the use of the said shop, to his son Aaron (MDRD 1837). The "Smith lot", referred to in Moses' will may be the land on which the stone chamber is situated. The dam is likely the one located on Nashoba Brook adjacent to the stone chamber, making it possible that the structure adjacent to the chamber was Woods blacksmith shop.

Aaron Woods and his sister Sally were he next owners of the land from 1837 to 1872. Aaron Woods died intestate in 1872 and his inventory listed his estate valued at \$800.00

for land, \$125.00 for barn, and \$5.00 for his shop. The 1875 map of Acton does not show Woods house on the western side of the road, but does show the houses of a Mr. Harris to the north of the chamber and a Mr. Smith to the south. The land had remained in the Woods family for approximately 100 years until 1875 when it was sold to Simon Tuttle by the heirs of Aaron Woods. In 1876, Simon Tuttle's estate included a Woods lot of 13 acres valued at \$550.00 (MDRD 1876). This was likely the same as the Smith lot that was referred to in Moses Woods' will. Simon Tuttle's inventory also stated that there was "rent of ice house" on the inventory schedule. This ice house could very well be the stone chamber, which it appears was being rented out by the Tuttlés.

### **Stone Chamber Research**

The Acton Stone Chamber is similar to other chambers found throughout New England and Putnam County, New York. It is an example of the type of colonial architectural construction that likely served a variety of purposes such as root cellars, animal shelters, feed storage, dairy and cider or vinegar storage and aging. Acton's chamber has a low passage entrance. The passage and the chamber itself are of a modified post and lintel design. The entire passage and chamber have an L-shape, a form that occurs less often than not. Another interesting feature is the presence of a pillar of stone at the junction of the passage and the chamber itself.

Probably the most comprehensive work on the study of stone chambers in the Northeast is Giovanna Neudorfer's 1980 publication on the stone chambers of Vermont. Neudorfer's work attempted to place the stone chambers within historical, cultural and topographical contexts as a way of better understanding their existence. She identified two general types of chambers: Type A which are integrated into the stonework of an existing building or foundation hole or located within an existing building or foundation hole; and Type B which is built into a hillside or sloping bank, freestanding and embanked on one or more sides with earth or simply freestanding (Neudorfer 1980: 13). Thirty-three percent of those surveyed in Vermont (n=14) were found to be Type A with the remainder being Type B including one that was attached to the foundation wall of a defunct cider mill (Neudorfer 1980: 13).

Historically, chambers were referenced in the nineteenth century as being important components on farmsteads "Every farm should have the essential appendage of a cellar-dry, ventilated, cool in summer and warm in winter, for the double purpose of a dairy and storing of roots" (Neudorfer 1980:38). These chambers were recorded historically as being used to house root crops fed to farm animals in the winter. One farmer stated that "I have a comfortable shelter provided for all my sheep, with a cellar attached to it, for the purpose of storing roots" (Neudorfer 1980: 38). The banked architecture and orientation of the opening of the chamber is also consistent with eighteenth and nineteenth century farm traditions for maintaining stable temperatures in summer and winter through the use of solar heat and earth as insulation (Neudorfer 1908: 56)

Thirty-one of the chambers were rectangular or square in shape. These measured 1.63 to 6.34 meters in length, 1.12 to 3.52 meters in width and .7 to 2.32 meters in height

## SITE EXAMINATION METHODS

(Neudorfer 1980:18). Six of these rectangular or square chambers were L-shaped, like the Acton chamber. Table 1 below compares five of the L-shaped chambers (12,17, 20, 27, 34) and one chamber attached to a cider mill (28) and one from Vermont with the Acton chamber.

Table 1. Comparison of Vermont Chambers with the Acton Chamber

Identification	Length	Width	Height	Type	Date
Chamber 11	4.55	2.38	1.84	A	1807
Chamber 28	6.23	2.27	1.83	A	1855
Chamber 12	5.21	2.85	1.56	B	1805
Chamber 17	2.31	2.39	2.14	B	?
Chamber 20	3.63	1.3	1.79	B	?
Chamber 27	3.99	2.64	1.55	B	1805
Chamber 34	3.16	2.17	1.53	B	?
Acton	4.4	2	2	A	?

\*measurements in meters

As can be seen in Table 1, the Acton chamber compares very closely with the Vermont chambers. The Acton chamber appears to be of a Type A as it is attached to the foundation to its east.

All of the stone chambers looked at by Neudorfer were physically associated with late eighteenth to nineteenth century farm complexes, including the one that an informant said was attached to a cider mill and was used to age cider (Neudorfer 1980: 28, 30). Vermont stone chambers have the following locational characteristics in common: they are located close to domestic/ farm complexes, close to roadways and to some sort of water supply. In the nineteenth century it was recommended that "In order that a farmer may make the most of his roots, he should have a cellar fixed to receive them in the fall...the cellar should be placed as near the yard as practicable with a watering place at hand." (Neudorfer 1980: 38).

Table 2 shows a comparison between the Acton chamber and the L-shaped and chambers associated with cider mills in Vermont.

Table 2. Comparison of L-shaped chambers associated with cider mills in Vermont

Identification	Date	Distance from House	"" from Water	"" from Road
Chamber 40	1807	Attached	?	?
Chamber 11	1855	Attached	near well	15 m

## SITE EXAMINATION METHODS

Table 2. Comparison of L-shaped chambers associated with cider mills in Vermont (continued)

Identification	Date	Distance from House	“” from Water	“” from Road
Chamber 12	1805	8 m	18 m	27 m
Chamber 17	?	?	18 m	½ km
Chamber 20	?	12 m	64 m	75 m
Chamber 27	1805	10 m	18 m	15 m
Chamber 28	?	38 m	?	60 m
Chamber 34	?	75 m	?	?
Acton	?	?	40 m	100 m

The Acton Chamber may have been associated with the Wheeler farm located approximately 1/4 mile away from the site, but it is much more likely that another farm was located somewhere closer to the chamber, possibly within the present subdivision to the north of the chamber. The chamber is within 40 meters of the Nashoba Brook and 100 meters from Main Street (Route 27). Overall, the chamber seems to fit in with the general recommendations of nineteenth century farmers that the structure be located near water and near the farmyard.

John Cole studied the structures identified as Irish "Monk's Caves" in western Massachusetts in the late 1970s. Cole's study was a reaction against what he saw as the mis-attribution of the construction of historic period stone structures, like the Acton Stone Chamber, to Irish monks, European and Mediterranean cultures, and Native Americans (Cole 1981). His basic premise was that if these structures were the product of an intrusive pre-Columbian culture, then they should have in, around and near them, other intrusive elements such as pottery, tools, and other structures. Conversely, if they were Native American or were the products of post-Contact European settlers, they should show stylistic similarities to non-intrusive structures and should fit into the local technological and architectural traditions (Cole 1981: 6). Cole and his team from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, archaeologically investigated nine structures and two related sites in western Massachusetts. Like the Acton Stone Chamber, the structures investigated by Cole were built of local, natural stone most of which had no drill holes, laid without mortar, rectangular, and partly aboveground (Cole 1981: 10). The western Massachusetts structures occurred exclusively in upland hill country rather than in valleys or bottomlands (Cole 1981: 11).

No documentary evidence regarding the structures was found in any deed of title search of the properties on which they were situated and they were not identified on any map. Although they now are generally located in peripheral woods areas, their locales were not originally so remote. The structures were found to be located in areas that once saw appreciable populations during the nineteenth century. Subsequent drastic depopulation in

the late nineteenth century, left these structures in what are now isolated woodland areas, a situation that has added to their mystery. Originally, every site that was identified once stood very close to previously settled but now abandoned major settlements and communication routes and while the areas are now wooded, they were once open country (Cole 1981: 11). All the sites showed close associations with nineteenth century settlement remains, the limited number of artifacts recovered were all nineteenth century in date, and at no site were artifacts or other associations found that suggested great age or exotic affiliation "Style and technology therefore, provide no positive evidence of great antiquity when examined closely." (Cole 1981: 25).

Cole concluded that "lacking any evidence to suggest otherwise, it must be concluded that the structures examined date to the historic period and therefore cannot be the product of pre-Columbian settlement." (Cole 1981: 25). A similar case was made by Gorman et al (1986) at "Druids Hill" in Lowell, Massachusetts. In every case, the structures were found to fit comfortably within the historic tradition and functionally they conform to the predictions of what would be found in a post-Columbian cultural system (Cole 1981: 25). The structures were constructed in the nineteenth century by local settlers operating within an agrarian system where a form of vernacular architecture unfamiliar to most people living and working in today's urban consumer world was necessary. The structures are aspects of vernacular architecture that had been built for diverse reasons (root storage, ice houses, cider storage, cemetery cold storage, etc.) and have only recently been "artificially sorted out from a wide range of everyday constructions of no great interest and no overt uniqueness at all to their builders" (Cole 1981: 26). They are ancillary farm structures and outbuildings dating to the nineteenth century which, when originally constructed were closely tied to their creator's farm or settlement, but which now, as a result of abandonment of the surrounding area, historic amnesia and the modern world's thrill of making a big discovery and sensationalizing the mundane, have been mistakenly interpreted as something that they are not, nor were ever meant to be.

### **C. Research Design**

#### **1. Theory**

Archaeological findings that can address some of the topics relating to the agrarian life before and after the Revolution and into the Industrial Age include material culture, foodways, the spatial organization of the farmstead and evidence of any change or evolution in that organization, evidence of agricultural specialization and work areas (Johnson and Handsman 1996: 41; Clark 1990). Features that were looked for during the Site Examination that have the potential to add to our understanding of these topics include the builder's trench associated with the stone chamber, deposits on the floor of the chamber and passage, and deposits within the adjacent foundation. These findings were combined with the background research that was designed to identify the owners of the property and trace the history of it.

One of the purposes of the site examination was to help determine National Register eligibility by identifying what categories this site would fall under in the Register. This

site may be eligible for nomination under Criteria B, C and D. It is associated with a person of local significance, is representative of a vanishing but once significant vernacular architectural style, and maintains the potential to add information important to the history of the Town, State, and Region. For the purpose of this site examination characteristics of the area within and surrounding the chamber were examined include two areas of research. The first were the processes or relationships that have been instrumental in shaping the environment such as spatial organization, land uses and activities, responses to natural features, and cultural traditions. The second are the physical components or features that make up the environment such as circulation networks, boundaries, vegetation related to land use, structural types, cluster arrangements, archaeological sites, small scale elements and perceptual qualities (McClelland et al 1990: 4-8).

### **2. Field Methods**

Site examination testing was conducted for two main goals: the determination of the boundaries of the site and gaining a better understanding of the site's age, contents, integrity and function so that the significance of the site can be assessed. Site Examination testing was limited to the area immediately adjacent to the stone chamber. The purpose of the Site Examination was to give a preliminary definition of the size, data contents and spatial arrangement of artifacts and features, especially the stone chamber's building trench, floor deposits and material within the adjacent foundation, for the purpose of assessing the site's integrity, research potential, and significance, and in order to make an opinion of the potential eligibility of the site for inclusion in the National and State Register of Historic Places.

### **3. Mapping**

An initial map has been developed for the project (Figure 5). As testing was conducted, mapping continued with the final version being a detailed map of the project area. This map was used as a means of recording the location of testing and features revealed during the course of excavation. This map also recorded the condition of the chamber and surrounding area both before and after reconstruction activities have taken place.

### **4. Laboratory Processing and Analysis**

Artifacts collected during the intensive survey were cleaned, identified, described and catalogued for analysis. The artifacts were then be placed in labeled acid-free plastic bags that were then be placed within acid-free boxes for curation at the Public Archaeology Laboratory in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. One copy of the report on acid free archival quality paper and the original excavation forms, maps, catalog sheets and a copy of the final report accompanied the artifacts to the curation facility. The Plymouth Archaeological Rediscovery Project retained copies of all this documentary material in our project files.

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## **SITE EXAMINATION METHODS**

Analysis focused on identifying the nature, period of manufacture, possible use and interpretation of recovered materials. This analysis, along with the findings from the site examination and background research, was used to determine if the site was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

**V. SITE EXAMINATION RESULTS**

The project area was expected to have a high archaeological potential to yield evidence of historic use of this area of Acton. The site contains one historic site, the Acton Stone Chamber, that may date to the late seventeenth to sometime in the nineteenth century. The chamber is located in an area of Acton known to have formerly been part of the Nashoba Praying Indian town and has seen continual European historic occupation since at least the middle seventeenth century. Located within 1/4 mile of the site are several unrecorded historic mill sites, the Wheeler farmstead and the Quail Ridge farmstead, the later being near Nagog Pond. The site is located adjacent to a historic town road, Main Street (Route 2A/ 27), and is adjacent to the Nashoba Brook. It was expected that the site examination would yield evidence that can help to better date the Stone Chamber construction as well as to provide information about the use of the chamber and the adjacent foundation. This was believed to be especially true of the builder's trenches into which the foundations of the walls were laid, the floor of the passage and chamber, and the adjacent foundation.

Archaeological testing was associated with the proposed impacts that the reconstruction would cause to the chamber and its associated mound (Figure 8). Reconstruction of the east and west walls of the entry tunnel impacted both the exterior mound portion of each wall, but also the interior of the entry tunnel floor. Testing against the exterior of the west wall was designed to sample the exterior mound with the hope being that artifacts relating to the wall and the mound construction may be recovered. This testing consisted of the excavation of three 1 meter by 1 meter excavation units adjacent to the wall.

Due to the degree of collapse of the eastern wall, testing on the interior of the entry tunnel was focused against the western wall. This testing was conducted with the purpose of identifying the original floor level and identifying whether the tunnel into the chamber originally sloped from south to north as it now does, meaning that people would have to crawl into the tunnel, or whether the original tunnel height was high enough for people to walk fully erect into the chamber. Testing within the tunnel consisted of the excavation of four 50 cm wide by 1 meter long trenches placed adjacent to the west wall.

Testing on the eastern side of the entry tunnel was conducted to investigate the eastern wall as well as the space between the eastern wall and the stone foundation or animal pen located adjacent to the eastern side of the chamber mound. Testing here consisted of the excavation of one 1 meter by 1 meter excavation unit adjacent to the eastern wall, and two 50 centimeter wide by 1 meter long test trenches adjacent to the collapsed section of the eastern wall.

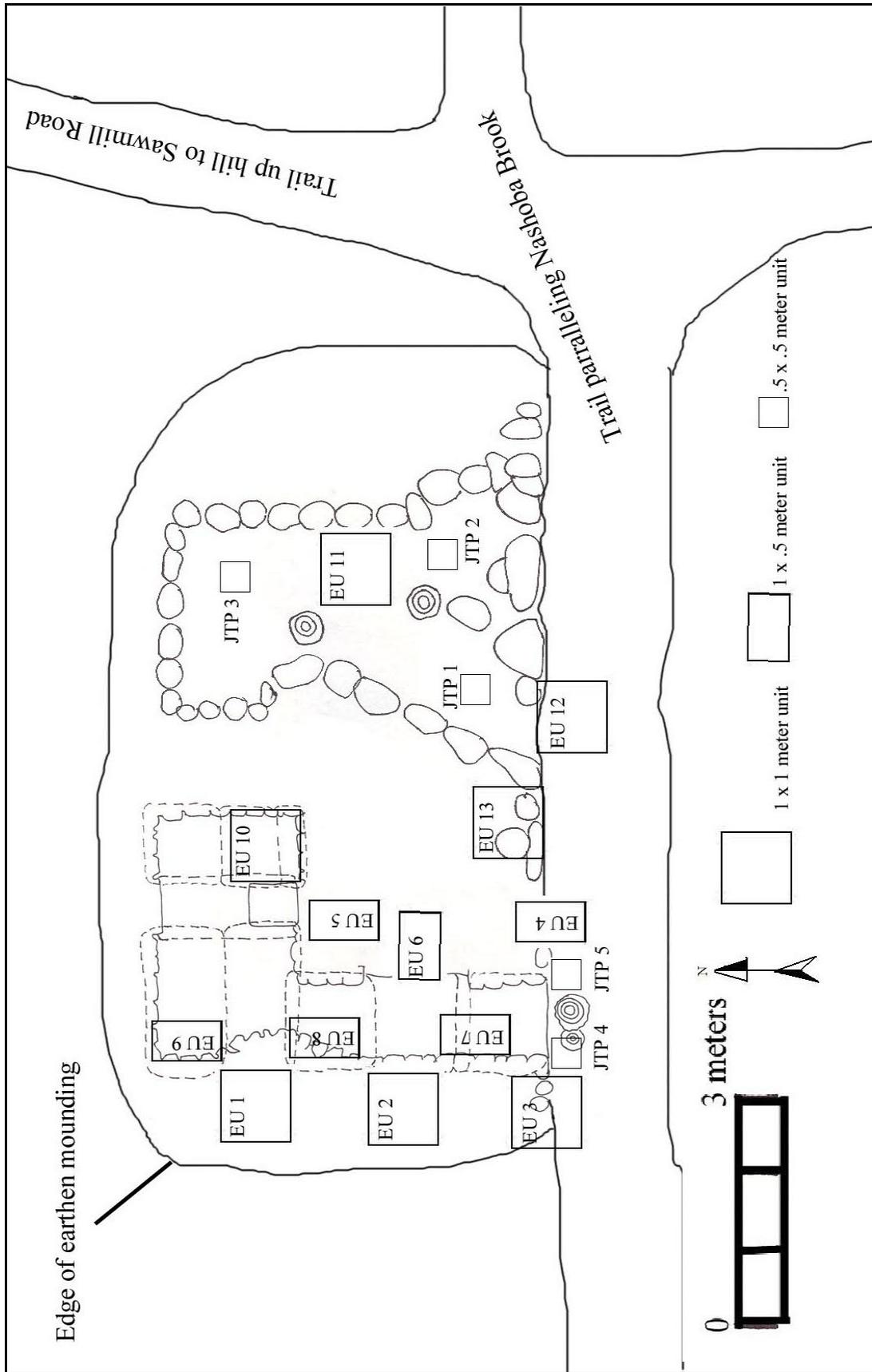


Figure 8. Site Examination testing at the Acton Stone Chamber

Additionally, three 50 centimeter by 50 centimeter test pits, JTP 1-3, were excavated within the foundation or animal pen located to the immediate east of the stone chamber. These test pits attempted to help determine the use of this stone walled enclosure. If nails and other architectural debris were recovered, then it would be likely that the enclosure once served as the foundation for a structure. If no artifacts, or very few artifacts were recovered, then it may be more likely that the enclosure was indeed an animal pen. It was hoped that testing within this stone enclosure would also help determine the original use of the stone chamber. One theory that was investigated further was that the chamber and enclosure were used for processing apples and storing cider and vinegar over the winter while it aged.

Two additional test pits were excavated on the exterior of the chamber to the east and west of the entrance into the chamber passage. These test pits, JTP 4 and 5, were placed here to investigate if any evidence of a builder's trench was present.

### **A. Judgemental Test Pits**

Three test pits (JTP 1,2 and 3) were located within the enclosure or foundation located to the east of the stone chamber. The test pits were placed here in an attempt to help determine the nature of this enclosure, whether it was ever covered or had a structure built upon it (thus serving as a foundation and not an enclosure), or if, rather, it was open and served more as a pen. Testing yielded possible eighteenth to nineteenth century artifacts consisting of two hand-wrought nails and 13 machine-cut nails or nail fragments as well as more recent fragments such as clear machine-made bottle glass, wire nails, tar paper and a piece of blue transfer-printed whiteware. Artifacts from this area were consistent with those recovered from outside and inside of the chamber itself, indicating a contemporaneity of use for the two areas. As will be discussed further later, the abundance of machine-cut nails within hearth deposits inside of the chamber itself may indicate a dismantling and subsequent burning for firewood of the timber associated with a structure possibly located in the area of JTP 1 to 3 (Figure 8).

Judgemental test pit 1 (JTP-1) was located just to the north of a discontinuity in the south wall of the foundation adjacent to the stone chamber. Large rocks, likely tumbled in from the surrounding walls, covered the surface of the test pit area. Excavation was conducted within and between the rocks revealing a 15 cm deep A horizon consisting of dark brown (10YR 3/3) sandy silt overlying a yellow brown (10YR 5/6) sandy silt B1 horizon. The B1 was excavated to a depth of 20 cmbs where excavation was halted due to the constrictive nature of the pit as a result of the rock tumble. A total of 12 artifacts (machine-cut nails and charcoal) were recovered from this test pit. Artifacts recovered from all the JTPs are presented in Appendix I.

JTP 2 was located 2.2 meters to the north of JTP 1 in the approximate center of the enclosure/ foundation. Excavation revealed a five centimeter deep A0/ duff which overlaid a 15 cm deep dark brown sandy silt A1 horizon. The A1 in turn overlaid a yellow brown B1 sandy silt which overlaid a light yellow brown possible B2 horizon. The A1 horizon extended to a depth of 20 cm, the B1 to a depth of 30 cm and the B2 to the

## SITE EXAMINATION RESULTS

bottom of the test pit, a depth of 35 cm (Figure 6). A total of 38 artifacts (whiteware, charcoal, machine cut, hand-wrought and wire nails, tar paper and clear glass) were recovered from this test pit.

JTP 3 was located 2.5 meters to the northeast of JTP 2. Soil horizons encountered were consistent with those identified in JTPs 1 and 2. Large rocks were encountered at the bottom of the test pit. A total of eight artifacts (clear glass) were recovered from this test pit.

Two test pits were excavated in front of the entrance to the stone chamber. JTP 4 was located on the western side of the entrance while JTP 5 was located on the eastern side. JTP 4 encountered layers of dark to light yellow brown redeposited soils to a depth of 45 cmbs. A thin layer of dark brown soil, possibly representing the original ground surface, was encountered from 45 to 50 cmbs (Figure 9). Numerous large boulders and cobbles were encountered throughout the course of the testing, representing wall tumble associated with the chamber entrance tunnel. A total of 190 artifacts were recovered from this test pit. Modern material (clear machine-made bottle glass, plastic, .22 cal bullet, recent charcoal) was found from 0-30 cm with the majority, sans the 150 pieces of charcoal, coming from the 0-20 cm level. Potential late eighteenth to nineteenth century artifacts (creamware, hand-wrought and machine-cut nails, thin light aqua and light olive vessel glass, redware tea pot fragments, pearlware) were found from 0-30 cm with the majority being from the 20-30 cm level.

JTP 5 was located 1.5 meters to the east of JTP 4, on the eastern side of the entrance tunnel. Soils in this test pit consisted on dark yellow brown and yellow brown layers, possibly representing the original A1 and B1 ground surfaces. The dark yellow brown sandy silt extended to a depth of 20 cmbs while the yellow brown B1 extended to 40 figure site testing cmbs (Figure 9). A total of 32 artifacts were recovered from this test pit. Modern material included clear glass, an aluminum pull tab, whiteware, and plastic. Potential eighteenth to early nineteenth century material was limited to one piece of creamware similar to the pieces from JTP 4.

### **B. Exterior: West Side of Passage**

Three excavation units, two (EU 1 and 2) measuring 1 x 1 meter square and one measuring one meter north to south by 50 cm east to west (EU 3), were excavated on the west side of chamber entrance passage. These units were placed adjacent to the west wall of the passage. Excavation unit (EU) 1 was placed at the southwester corner of the mound, just to the west of the entrance to the chamber passage. EU 2 was placed one meter to the north of the northern side of EU 1 so that there was one meter of unexcavated space between the two units. EU 3 was placed one meter to the north of the northern side of EU 2, again leaving one meter of unexcavated space between them. All three units encountered the same soils. As a result, the stratigraphy of them will be described as a group rather than individually.

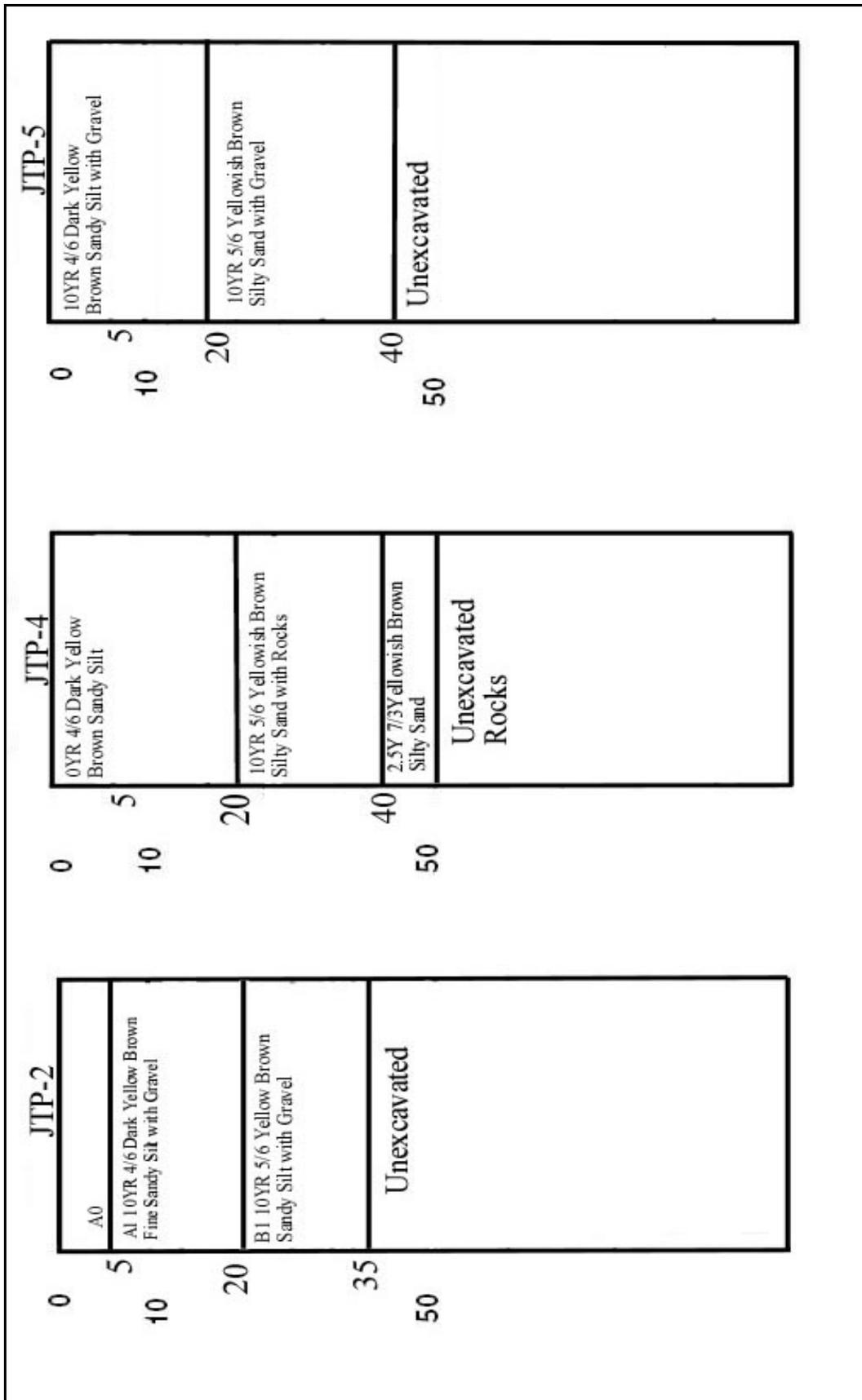


Figure 9. Soil profiles Acton Stone Chamber testing

## SITE EXAMINATION RESULTS

A dark brown (10YR 3/3) sandy silt Layer 4 was encountered in all three units averaging 5 to 10 cm thick in EU 1, 10 to 20 cm thick in EU 2 with the thickest portion being in the northern half, and 10 cm thick in EU 3. Layer 4 overlaid Fill layer 3 which was a yellow brown (10YR 5/4) silty sand layer that was found to be five to 10 cm thick in EU 1, five to 15 cm thick in EU 2 and not present in EU 3. Layer 3 overlaid Layer 2, a dark olive brown (2.5Y 3/3) silty sand with rocks and gravel, which was not present in EU 1 but which averaged 50 to 55 cm thick in EU 2 and 35 to 55 cm thick in EU 3. Layer 1 was encountered only in EU 3 where it took the form of a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) seven centimeter thick layer of fine sand. A rodent burrow was also encountered in EU 1 in the NE corner at 40-70 cmbs. Soils were loose with hickory nutshells being recovered. The original ground surface was encountered below Layer 1 in EU 2 and 3 and below Layer 2 in EU 1. This layer consisted of an unplowed A1 horizon, dark yellow brown in color (10YR 4/6) that averaged 10 cm thick. The A1 horizon overlaid a yellow brown (10YR 5/4) B1 horizon, 10 cm of which was excavated. A large erratic or portion of the underlying bedrock was encountered at the bottom of EU 2, eventually covering the entire floor of the unit (Figure 10, 11, and 12).

Viewed as a whole, it can be seen that Layer 4 was the first deposited at the top of the mound and that Layer 2 represented a significant episode of filling and mounding at the site. It also appears that EU 2 was situated in a probable natural depression with the sides of EU 3 and EU 1 being higher than EU2, on the side of the hill where the stone chamber was built. The original builders may have taken advantage of this depression, possibly making less work for the excavation of the chamber. Following the completion of the erection of the stone walls and the capping with the schist slabs, the chamber was likely mounded at least partially with soils that had been excavated when the passage and chamber were dug. No builder trenches were encountered outside of the chamber, making it likely that the passage and chamber were dug first and then the walls were built from the inside out within the hole made by the excavation, as opposed to trenches being dug first for the walls, the walls being erected and then the interior was excavated. The later would likely have resulted in larger trenches than necessary being dug so that the builders could maneuver within the trench to build the wall. This would have left a filled builder's trench on the outside of the walls. The structure was capped and then mounded.

A total of 172 artifacts were recovered from EUs 1 to 3 (Table 3). The vast majority of this count

Table 3. Artifacts recovered from EUs 1-3

<b>Artifact</b>	<b>Layer 4</b>	<b>Layer 3</b>	<b>Layer 2</b>	<b>Layer 1</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>B1</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Clear Bottle</b>	1						<b>1</b>
<b>Hand-wrought nail</b>	1						<b>1</b>
<b>Machine cut nail</b>	1		1				<b>2</b>
<b>Wire nail</b>	1						<b>1</b>

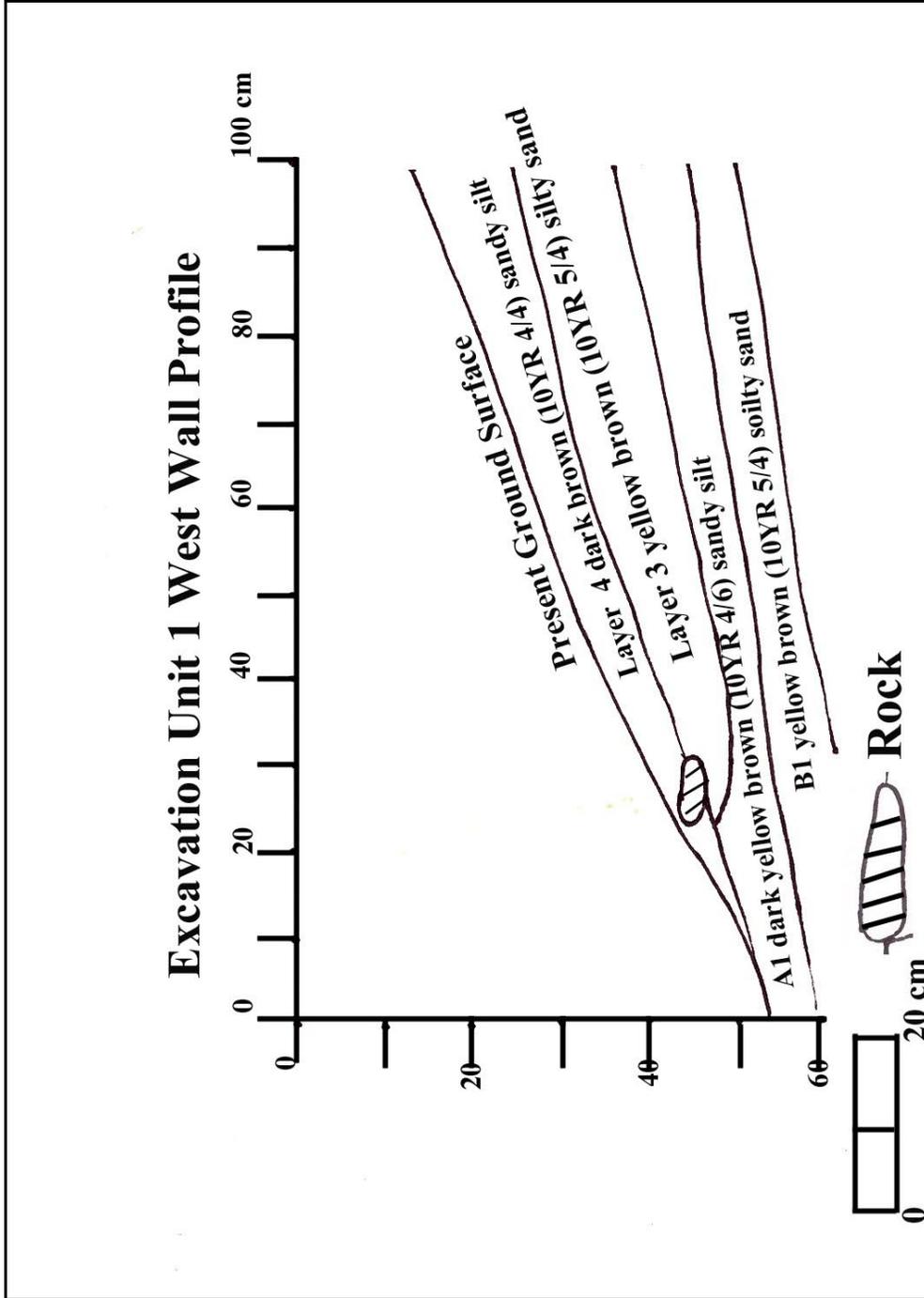


Figure 10. Profile drawing EU 1 west wall

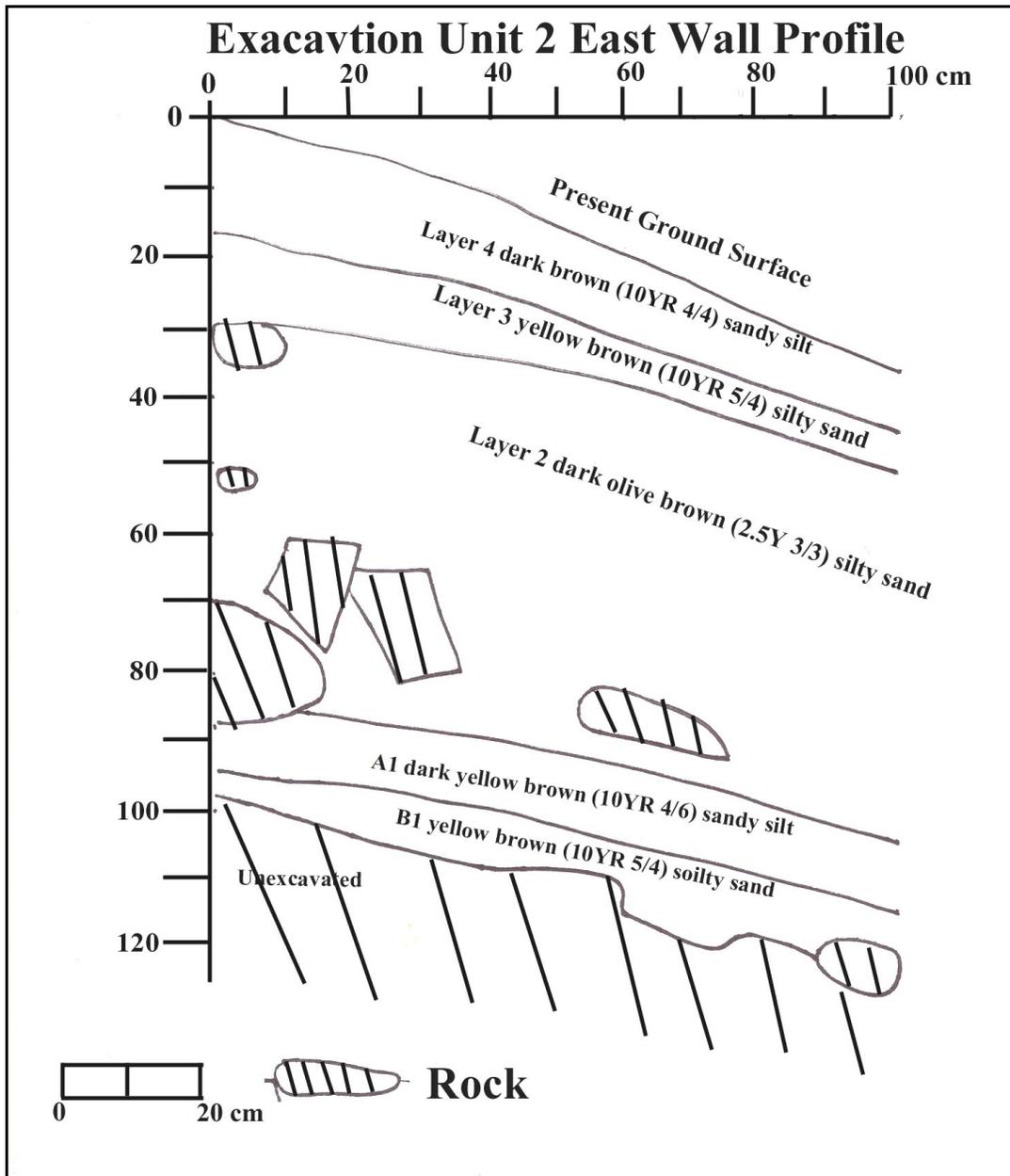


Figure 11. Profile drawing EU 2 east wall

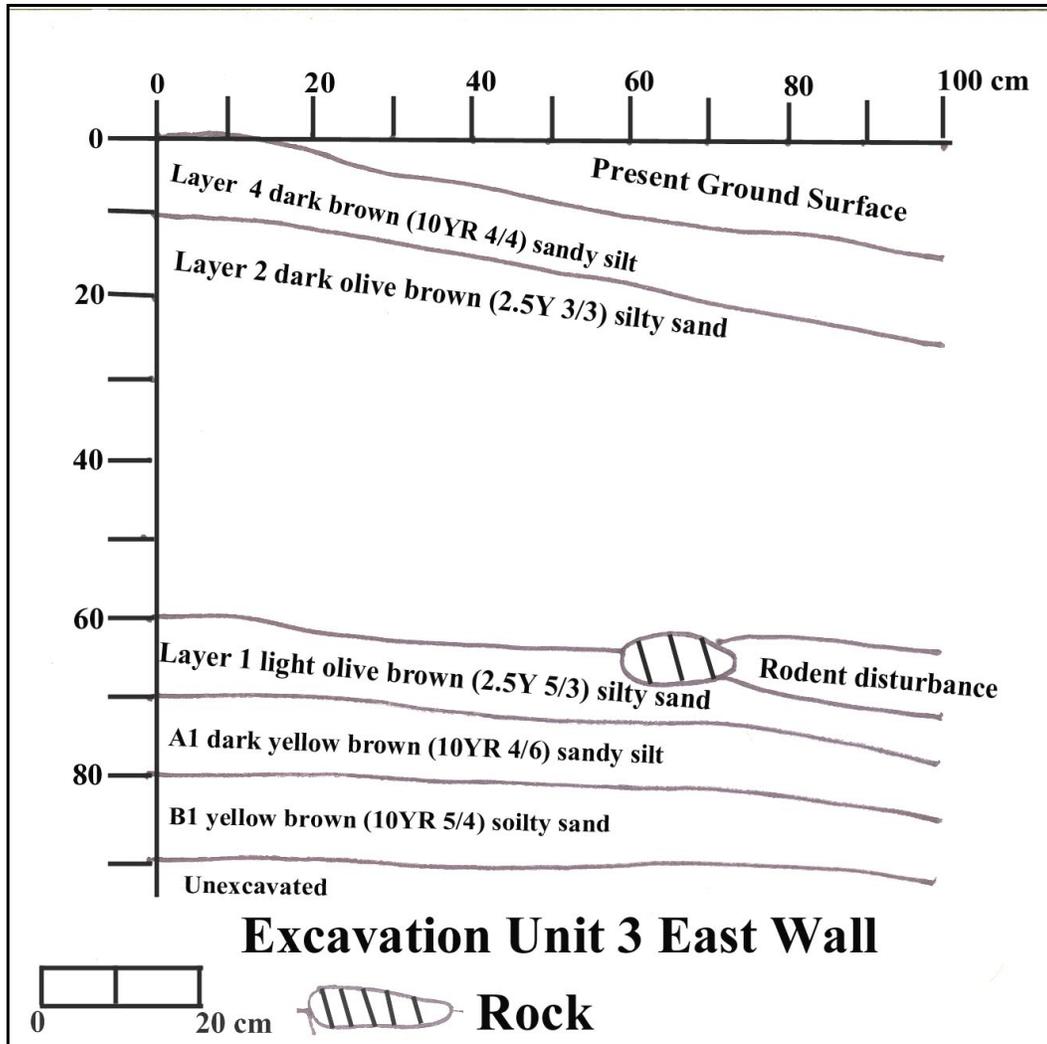


Figure 12. Profile drawing EU 3 east wall

Table 3. Artifacts recovered from EUs 1-3 (Continued)

Artifact	Layer 4	Layer 3	Layer 2	Layer 1	A1	B1	Totals
Charcoal	38		51	19	7	20	135
Wire	1						1
Wood			23			1	24
Burned Wood			6				6
Brick			1				1
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>172</b>

78.5% (n=135), was composed of charcoal, possible worked wood and charred wood fragments. The remaining seven artifacts included modern, machine-made clear bottle glass, a hand-wrought nail, two machine-cut nails, one modern wire nail and one piece of brick. The material was primarily recovered from Layers 4 and 3, but charcoal was recovered into the B1 horizon. It is possible that construction of the chamber may have included at least one episode of burning at the site, either to dispose of cleared brush and

wood, for cooking purposes or to initially clear the land that was later developed. The relative paucity of artifacts indicates that the exterior adjacent to the chamber saw little activity.

### **C. Exterior: East Side of Passage**

Three excavation units, each measuring one meter by 50 cm, were excavated on the east side of chamber entrance passage. These units were placed as close to the east wall of the passage as possible. The units averaged approximately 1.5 meters to the east of the wall due to wall rubble present in this area. EU 5 was placed at the northeastern corner of the mound. EU 4 was placed one meters to the south of the northern side of EU 5 so that there was one meter of unexcavated space between the two units. EU 6 was placed 50 cm to the west of the northwestern corner of EU 5 and was oriented east to west so that it extended into the collapsed portion of the eastern wall of the chamber. All three units encountered the same soils. As a result, the stratigraphy of them will be described as a group rather than individually.

A dark olive brown (2.5Y 6/4) sandy silt, corresponding to Layer 2 in EU s 1-3, was encountered in all three units averaging 15 cm thick in EUs 4 and 6 and 30 cm thick in EU 5 with the thickest portion being in the northern half. Layer 2 overlaid Layer 1 which was a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) silty sand layer that was encountered in EU 6 where it was found to be 10 to 25cm thick. This layer was not present in EUs 4 and 5. In EU 5, Layer 2 overlaid a soil horizon that was identified as Layer 4 in EUs 1-3, a 10YR 5/6 sandy silt that averaged 10 to 30 cm thick with the thickest portion in the southern half. This in turn overlaid Layer 3, the 10YR 3/2 horizon encountered in EUs 1-3. Layer 3 overlaid the A1 horizon in EU 5 while Layer 2 overlaid the A1 in EU 4, located at the bottom of the slope. An area of root disturbance was encountered in EU 5 in the western half, extending into the B1 horizon. It appears that EU 4 encountered the southern terminal edge of the overburden deposited during the mounding phase of construction. The southern portion of EU 6 encountered A1 horizon soils on top of a very rocky B1 (Figures 13, 14, and 15).

It appears that soil horizons associated with EUs 5 and 6 have been impacted by the collapse of the east wall and the excavation and enlargement of the hole in that wall, located at EU 6, for the purpose of creating an entrance into the chamber following the collapse of the first slab toward the tunnel entrance dark olive brown soils were thrown up on top of the original fill layers and subsequently washed down hill on EU 5. Excavation of EUs 4-6 showed less mounding on the eastern side of the entrance tunnel than was evident on the western side.

## SITE EXAMINATION RESULTS

A total of 143 artifacts were recovered from EUs 4 to 6 (Table 4). The vast majority of

Table 4. Artifacts recovered from EUs 4-6

<b>Artifact</b>	<b>Layer 4</b>	<b>Layer 3</b>	<b>Layer 2</b>	<b>Layer 1</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>B1</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Machine cut nail</b>	1				1		<b>2</b>
<b>Wire nail</b>	1						<b>1</b>
<b>Charcoal</b>	5	19			2		<b>26</b>
<b>Burned Wood</b>	110						<b>110</b>
<b>Projectile Point</b>	1						<b>1</b>
<b>Creamware</b>	3						<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>143</b>

this total, 95% (n=136), was composed of charcoal, wood and charred wood fragments. The remaining seven artifacts included two machine-cut nails, one modern wire fragment, three pieces of creamware and one projectile point shaped worked flake of green rhyolite (Figure 16). The flake was recovered from Layer 2. It has been moderately pressure flaked at the lower corners to produce a Neville-like projectile point shape with some possible very light pressure flaking along the edges of the blade. Due to the limited amount of reduction that was used on this point and its recovery from Layer 2, it is unknown if it truly is a Neville-style projectile point produced during the Middle Archaic or if it just happens to look like one. The flake itself has not been modified on its dorsal or ventral surfaces and still maintains its curvature, making it a very poor example of a point and essentially unusable. Given the complete lack of any other ancient Native American material culture at the site, at best this can be said to represent an isolated findspot of an unusable projectile point, but due to its low level of craftsmanship, it may even be a reproduction or attempt at creating a projectile point from a more recent time. It also may have been carried to the site from another location by someone visiting the chamber following its abandonment.

The material was primarily recovered from the very top layer in EU 6, but charcoal and one machine-cut nail was recovered from the A1 horizon in EU 4. EU 6 appears to have encountered a recent hearth that was situated within the hole in the eastern wall of the chamber passage. The overall relative paucity of artifacts indicates that the exterior adjacent to the chamber saw little activity but the recovery of a machine-cut nail in the A1 horizon may help to date the construction of the chamber to the nineteenth century.

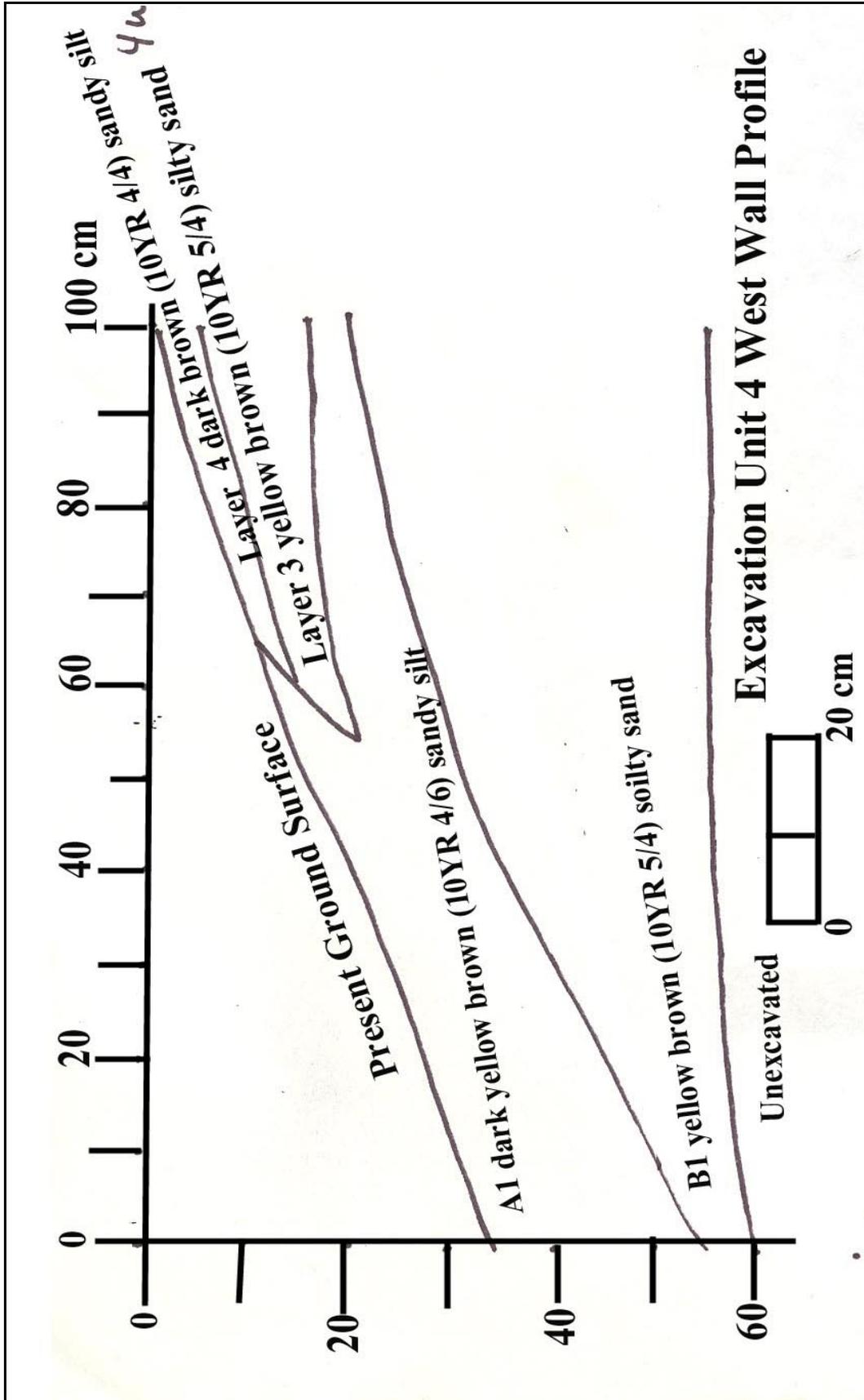


Figure 13. Profile drawing EU 4 west wall

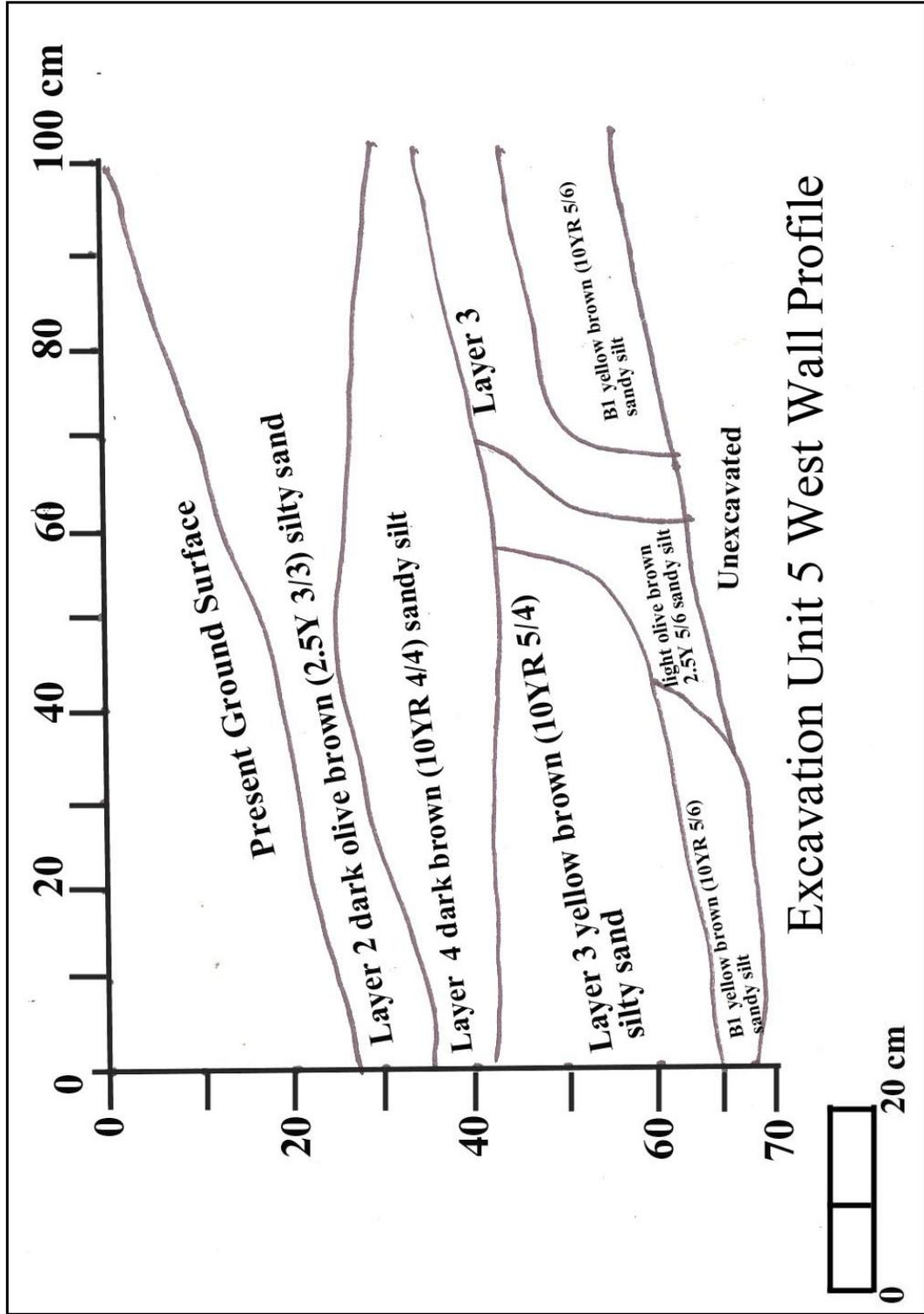


Figure 14. Profile drawing EU 5 west wall

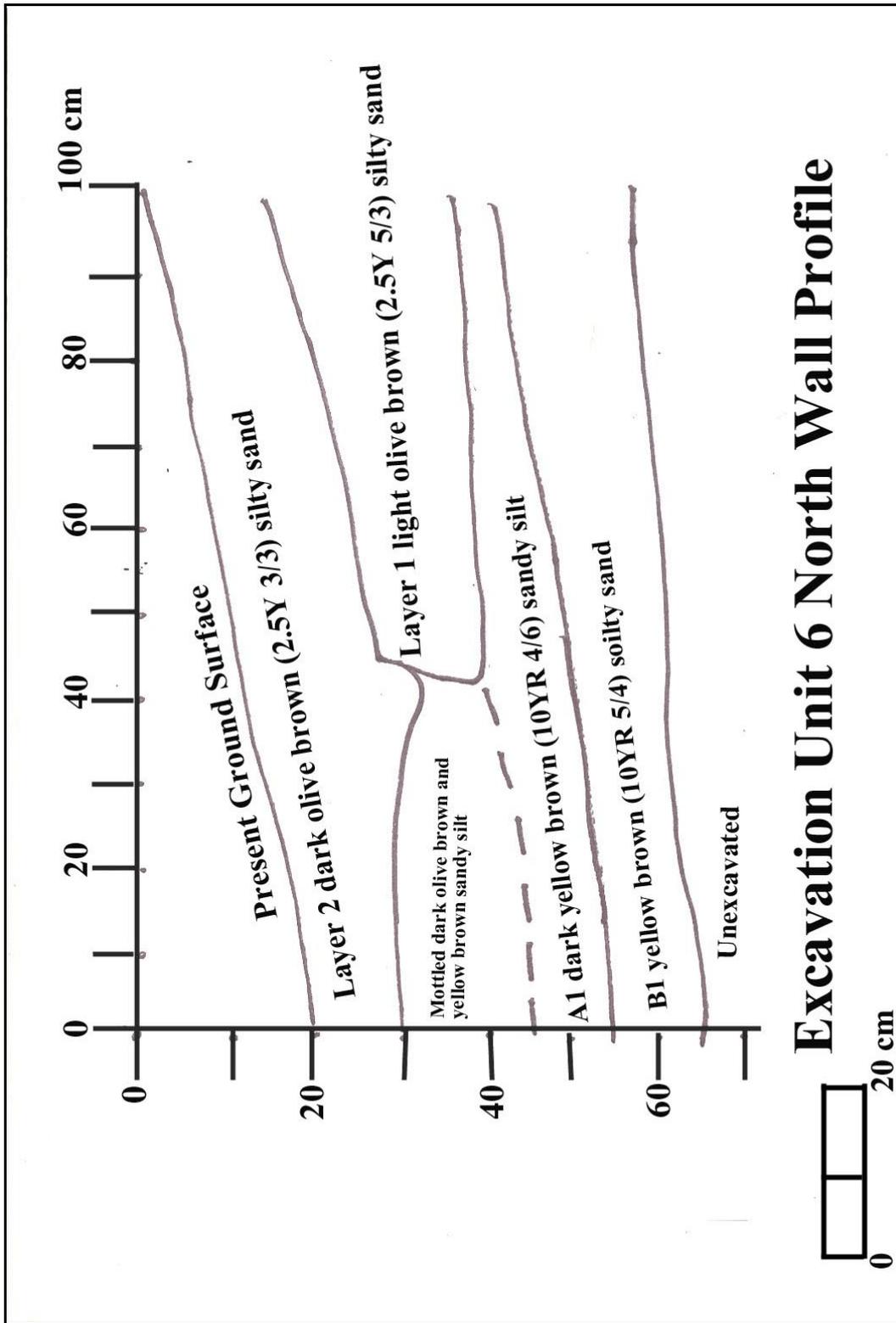


Figure 15. Profile drawing EU 6 north wall



Figure 16. Neville-like point EU 5 10-20 cmbs

#### **D. Chamber and Passage Interior**

Three excavation units, each measuring one meter north to south by 50 cm east to west, were excavated within the chamber entrance passage. These units were placed adjacent to the west wall of the passage. EU 7 was placed at the southern end of the passage just north of the stump at its mouth. EU 8 was placed one meters to the south of the northern side of EU 7 so that there was one meter of unexcavated space between the two units. The southern edge of EU 9 was placed one meter to the north of the northern edge of EU 8. All three units encountered the same soils. As a result, the stratigraphy of them will be described as a group rather than individually.

A light yellow brown (2.5Y 6/4) sandy silt Layer I4 (Interior Layer 4) was encountered in all three units averaging 20-30 cm thick with the shallowest portion being in the northern half of EU 9 and the deepest in EU 8 (Figures 17, 18, and 19). This layer is believed to represent windblown and water-washed fine silt that accumulated in relatively recent times. In the southern half of EU 7 an area of dark soil with the brick, railroad spikes, tar paper and unburned mammal bones was encountered. This appears to represent a relatively recent dump or camp. Layer I4 overlaid Layer I3 which was a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) fine silty sand layer that was found to be five to 25 cm thick, the thinnest portion being in EU 9 and the deepest in EU 8. This was another windblown and water-

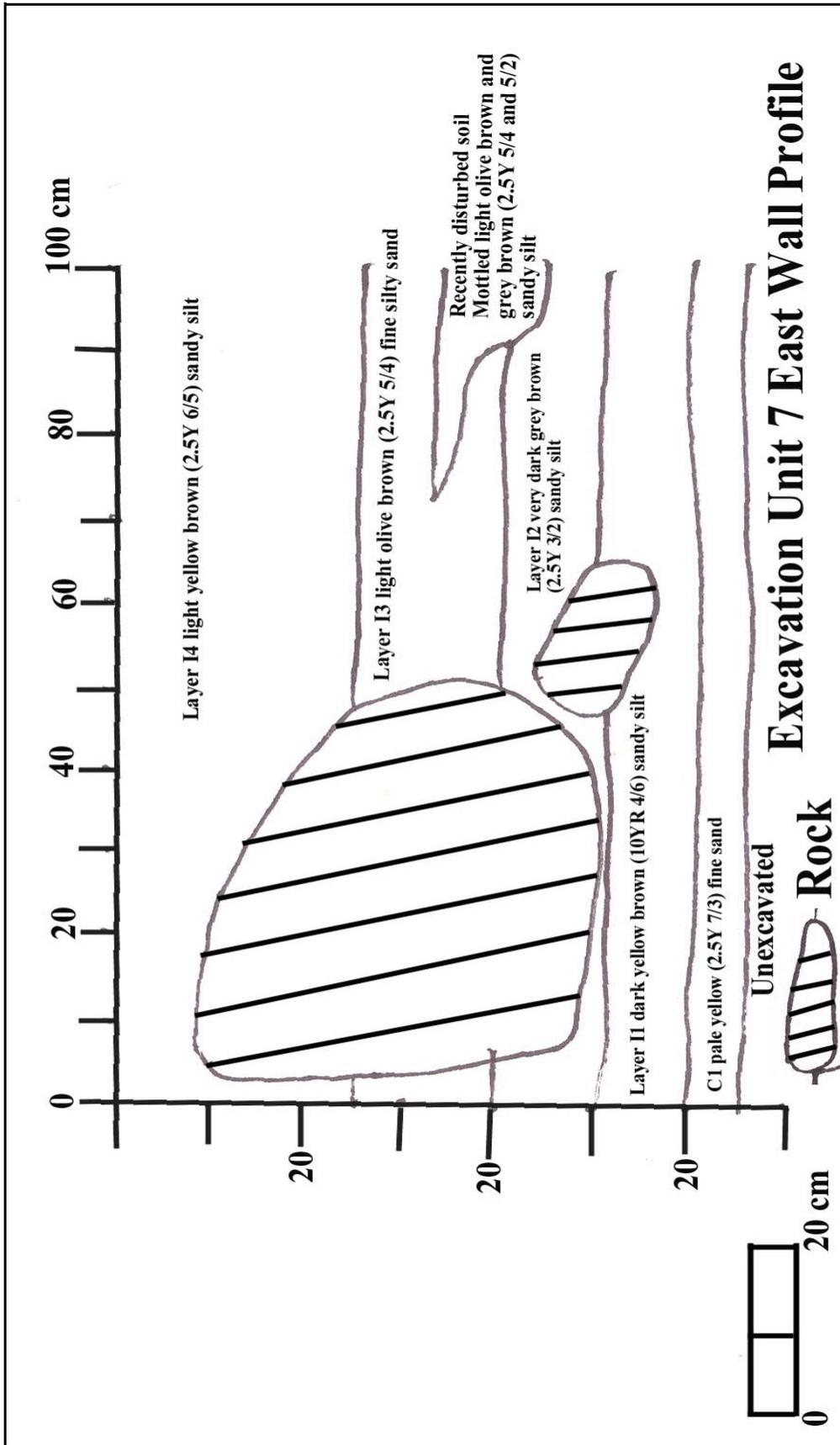


Figure 17. Profile drawing EU 7 east wall

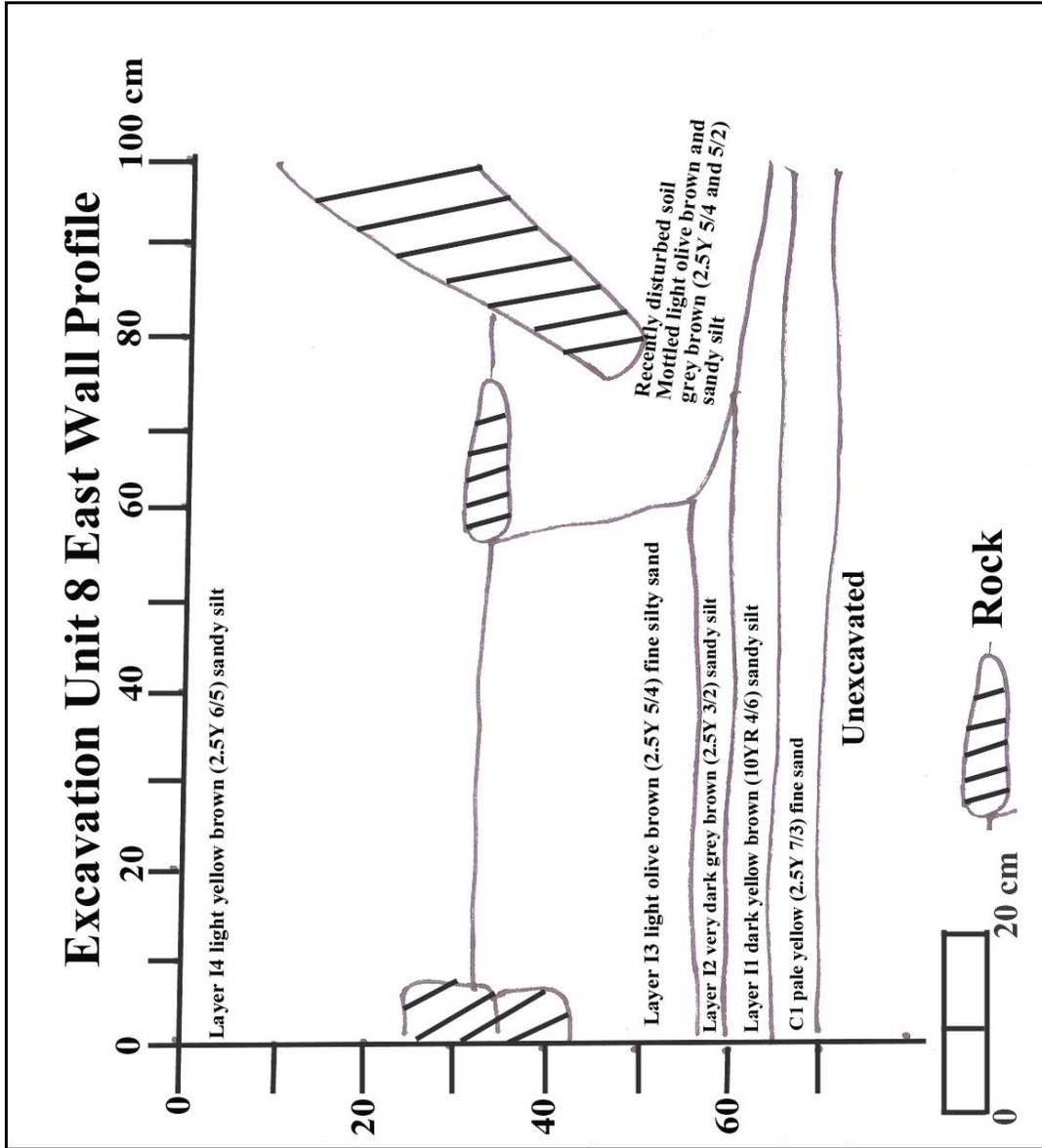


Figure 18. Profile drawing EU 8 east wall

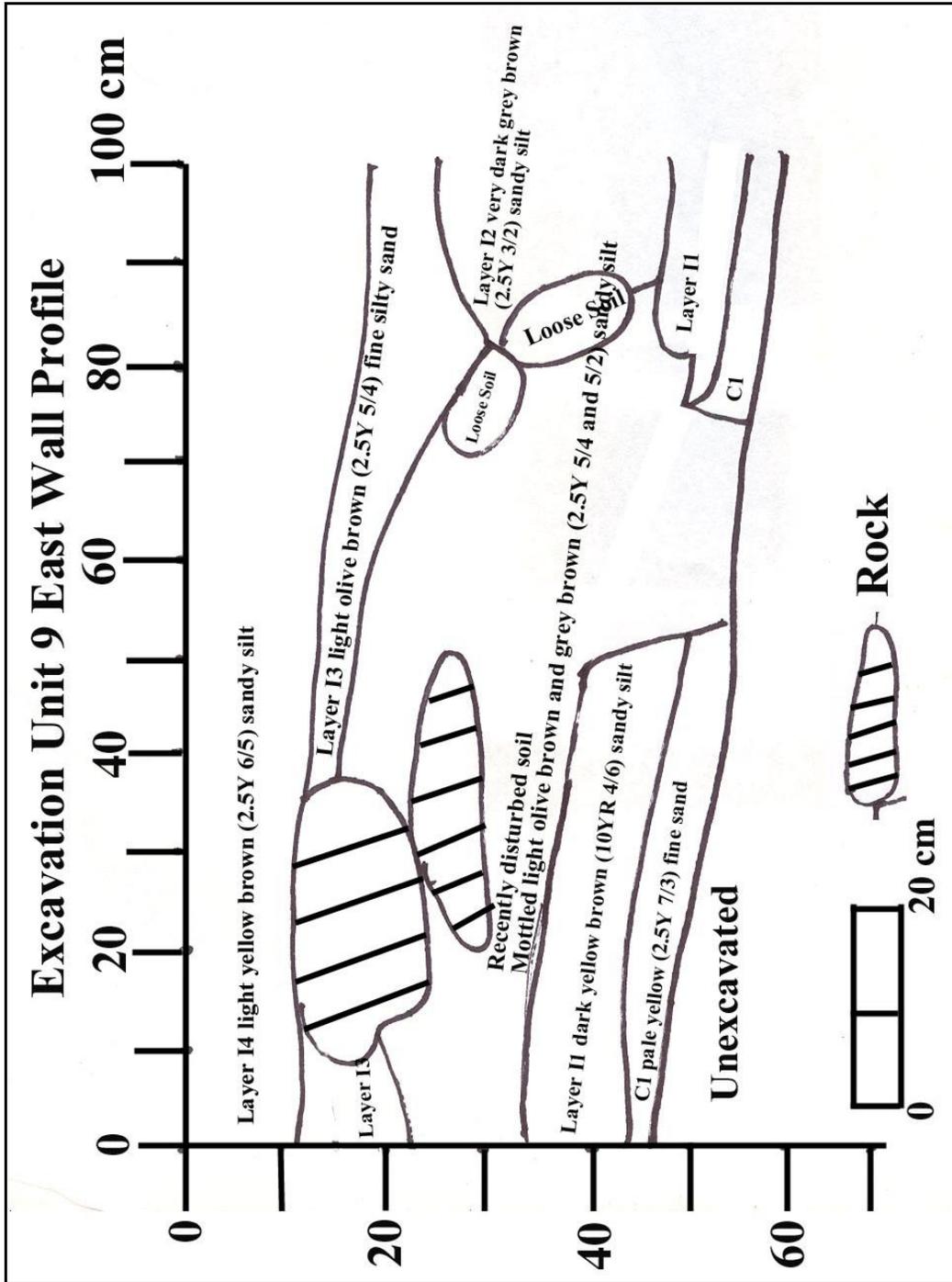


Figure 19. Profile drawing EU 9 east wall

## SITE EXAMINATION RESULTS

washed in layer that appears to date primarily to the late nineteenth century. Included within this layer were many pieces of roof spall and cobbles and boulders associated with the passage foundation walls. Layer I3 overlaid Layer I2, a very dark grey brown (2.5Y 3/2) sandy silt that is interpreted as representing a buildup and decomposition of organic material on original chamber floor. This layer had a uniform thickness between and across all units of five centimeters. In EU 9, Layer I2 consisted of only a small portion in the southern half. The northern half of the unit contained a soft mixture of light olive brown and grey brown (2.5Y 5/4 and 5/2) sandy silt, interpreted as a recent feature created by an individual or individuals using the chamber as a recreational location. Associated with this disturbed soil was a large amount of charcoal and numerous brown, green and clear bottle glass fragments. This feature measured 80 cm north to south and was 25 cm deep. Layer I1 was encountered below Layer I2. Layer I1, which was dark yellow brown (10YR 4/6), is believed to be a combination of the original floor and some organic decomposition. This layer was also uniformly five centimeters thick. A pale yellow (2.5Y 7/3) fine sand C1 horizon was encountered below Layer I1 (Figures 17, 18, and 19).

Apparently, after the abandonment of the chamber, the location was used by individuals as a possible camp or habitation site in the late nineteenth century and also in the late twentieth century. At some point soon after its abandonment and continuing into recent times, some factor in the local environment changed, likely development at the top of the hill and clearing of vegetation on summit and hill side associated with the chamber, that caused dramatic increased erosion resulting in the deposition of layers I3 and I4. By the time that the chamber passage began filling with wind and waterborne silt, stones had collapsed from the sides of the passage and were quickly buried with Layer I3.

A total of 990 artifacts were recovered from EUs 7-9 (Table 5). The vast majority of this

Table 5. Artifacts recovered from EUs 7-9

<b>Artifact</b>	<b>Layer 4</b>	<b>Layer 3</b>	<b>Layer 2</b>	<b>Layer 1</b>	<b>Layer 2/3</b>	<b>Layer 2/1</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Clear Bottle</b>	48	35	12	1			<b>96</b>
<b>Hand-wrought nail</b>	2				1		<b>3</b>
<b>Machine cut nail</b>	2	64	34	3			<b>103</b>
<b>Wire nail</b>	1						<b>1</b>
<b>Charcoal</b>	84	49	79	49	5	42	<b>308</b>
<b>Wood</b>		19	6	1	1		<b>27</b>
<b>Burned Wood</b>	5			17			<b>22</b>
<b>Brick</b>	2			1			<b>3</b>
<b>Whiteware</b>	11	2	8	1			<b>22</b>
<b>Bone</b>	3	3	1				<b>7</b>
<b>Brown Bottle</b>	2	1	46	1		7	<b>57</b>
<b>Bullet</b>	1						<b>1</b>
<b>Mortar</b>	38	58		67	15		<b>178</b>
<b>Tar Paper</b>	31						<b>31</b>
<b>Railroad Spike</b>	3	1	1				<b>5</b>
<b>Iron</b>	3	1		2			<b>6</b>
<b>Shell</b>	1						<b>1</b>
<b>Green Bottle</b>	2	32	7				<b>41</b>
<b>Pull Tab</b>	1	3					<b>4</b>
<b>Screw Cap</b>	1	3					<b>4</b>

**SITE EXAMINATION RESULTS**

Table 5. Artifacts recovered from EUs 7-9 (Continued)

<b>Artifact</b>	<b>Layer 4</b>	<b>Layer 3</b>	<b>Layer 2</b>	<b>Layer 1</b>	<b>Layer 2/3</b>	<b>Layer 2/1</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Bottle Cap</b>	1						<b>1</b>
<b>Ironstone</b>		11	11				<b>22</b>
<b>Coal</b>		8	6				<b>14</b>
<b>Brass Rivet</b>		3					<b>3</b>
<b>Iron Screw</b>		1					<b>1</b>
<b>Metal Can</b>		17					<b>17</b>
<b>Paint</b>			1				<b>1</b>
<b>Wax</b>			1				<b>1</b>
<b>Clay Pipe</b>			1	2			<b>3</b>
<b>Iron Wedge</b>			2				<b>2</b>
<b>U-nail</b>				1			<b>1</b>
<b>Iron Buckle</b>					1		<b>1</b>
<b>Pearlware</b>						1	<b>1</b>
<b>Aqua Flat Glass</b>						1	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>990</b>

count, 77.7% (n=769), was composed of floral material (charcoal, wood and charred wood fragments) (n=356), modern refuse (bottle glass and related hardware, whiteware, cans, wire nail, bullet, tar paper) (n=275), and mortar (n=178) presumably from the walls of the passage at least. The remaining artifacts can be grouped into nineteenth century material (machine-cut and hand-wrought nails, ironstone, clay pipe stems, iron wedges, iron buckle, pearlware and aqua flat glass) (n=136) and material not assignable to any specific period (bone, brick, unidentifiable iron, shell, coal, railroad spikes, brass rivets, iron screw, possible paint fragments, wax and a u-nail) (n=44). The mortar was found throughout the excavation and particularly in the 40-60 cm range in EUs 7 and 8 and the 20-30 cm range in EU 9. It is believed that this mortar was once used on the stones of the passageway at least and possibly also in the chamber proper. It appears to have chipped out and fallen onto the floor over time. The recovery of two iron wedges (EU 8 50-60 cm) may be the result of these tools having been used to split the stones used in the passageway. This theory will be discussed further under the architectural interpretation.

The pieces of ironstone from EU 8 40-60 cm and the clay pipe fragments from EU 8 50-60 cm, provide a terminus post quam of pre 1891 for the pipes, all of which are part of one pipe and one of which is stamped "Davidson/ Glasgow" indicating a manufacture by Davidson in Glasgow Scotland before 1891. After the McKinley Tarrif Act was passed in 1891, items imported from abroad had to be stamped with their country of origin and not city, thus a post 1891 pipe should be stamped Scotland and not Glasgow. These artifacts were recovered on the original floor, indicating that the washing in of soil must have begun soon thereafter. Also, the abundance of machine-cut nails and charcoal may indicate a dismantling of the structure that stood over the foundation/ enclosure to the east with it subsequently being burned within the chamber. This could have happened after the chamber ceased to serve its original function.

**E. Additional Testing**

At the request of the Acton Historical Commission and NEARA, additional testing was conducted at the site in 2007. It was hoped that the excavation of additional units would be able to help determine the degree of disturbance in the chamber proper (as the original testing was situated within the passageway into the chamber and not within it), the use of the adjacent enclosure (especially if it could have been a blacksmith shop), and to further help date the period of construction of the entire complex. A request to conduct additional testing was submitted to the MHC and approved. One additional Excavation Unit (EU) was placed within the chamber itself, two within the adjacent enclosure, and one outside of the enclosure to the south for a total of four additional EUs. The excavation of these units, which were not in the original excavation plan, was for the purpose of further investigation of both the chamber and the enclosure with the hope being of the recovery of definitive information regarding the use of both structures. Excavation and recording was carried out in the same manner as was previously used for the original testing. The locations of these additional units is shown in Figure 8.

EU 10 was located inside of the stone chamber, encompassing the space between the pillar and the eastern wall of the chamber. The present floor of the chamber consists of fine, loose and dry wind deposited and washed in silt and three flat rocks, presumably part of the chamber walls, were present on the surface. This unit was excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels within the natural stratigraphy. The upper layer (0-10 cmbs) consisted of the fine silt with acorns, hazel nuts and leaf litter, all representing recent rodent nesting, being present in the western half. Below the loose fine silt, the original floor of the chamber was encountered. The floor was approximately 5 cm thick and was more compact dark yellow brown sandy silt. Below the floor the undisturbed glacially derived C1 layer (light yellow brown silt) was encountered to a depth of 30 cmbs. The pillar and the chamber walls were found to rest on and just below the original floor level, indicating that both were constructed at approximately the same time. The chamber wall was found to consist of medium to large-sized boulder in the lower half and flatter slabs in the upper half. The pillar was found to be built mainly of flatter slabs. It is possible that the boulders used for the construction of the lower half of the wall were found when the chamber was originally excavated and subsequently used for the walls while the slabs may have been derived from the same source as the roof slabs.

Artifacts recovered were limited to charcoal fragments, machine-made bottle glass of recent date, and relatively recent wire nails.

EU 11 was located immediately to the south of the break in the enclosure wall. This break was felt to possibly represent the location of a former entryway into the enclosure. Large rocks were encountered in the northern half of the unit. These likely represented subsoil boulders. No artifacts were recovered from this unit.

EU 12 was located within the enclosure adjacent to the eastern wall. Large rocks, likely having tumbled in from the eastern wall, were encountered across the unit. A thick A0

## SITE EXAMINATION RESULTS

duff layer capped a brown Fill Layer 1 horizon that extended to a depth of 30 cmbs. This brown silty sand layer overlaid a dark yellow brown (Fill layer 2) silty sand layer that was felt to have represented the original floor of the enclosure. Below the dark yellow brown soil horizon, an undisturbed B2 horizon was encountered.

Only modern machine-made bottle glass fragments and charcoal was recovered from the A0 and Fill layer 1 (0-20 cmbs). Fill Layer 2 (20-45 cmbs), the possible original floor, yielded hand-wrought and machine-cut nails, burned board fragments, and two fragments of a 19<sup>th</sup> century Kaolin clay pipe bowl embossed with the letters TD (a common 19<sup>th</sup> century pipe bowl mark). Two fragments of modern machine-made bottle glass were also recovered representing evidence of slight mixing as a result of rodent or root activity.

EU 13 was located one meter to the west of EU 11 between the enclosure and the stone chamber. The southern edge of the unit was bordered by several larger granite erratics that represented a retaining wall for the soil placed to the north during the construction of the mound over the chamber. The original builder's trench associated with the construction of the west wall of the enclosure was encountered in the eastern half of the unit. The soil in this area consisted of brown (10YR 3/3) sandy silt containing the majority of the artifacts recovered from this unit. Soils to the north and west of this trench consisted of undisturbed B1 subsoil (10YR 5/4).

Artifacts recovered from this unit consisted of a mixture of modern material (machine-made bottle glass and wire nails) and late eighteenth to nineteenth century hand-wrought and machine-cut nails. A total of 8 hand-wrought nails and 6 machine-cut nails were recovered from within the trench fill from 20-40 cmbs. The nails measured 4.6, 6.3 (n=2) and 7.3 cm in length, making them consistent in size with the hand-wrought and machine-cut nails recovered from the Fill 1 layer outside of the trench. The majority of the nails were in the 4.6-6.8 cm range, common sizes used in framing, making it likely that they were used in the construction of a structure above the enclosure. The nails recovered from the trench may have been within a bag or pouch as they were all found grouped together in the same location. Also found within the builder's trench was a small rake head, of the type commonly called a potato or stone rake. Rakes of this type were commonly used to dig through stony soil and was likely used to help dig the trench. Four of the tines on the rake were broken making it likely that it was discarded into the trench backfill once the trench was completely excavated and was being refilled. The rake head appears to have been cast as opposed to forged, dating it to at least the nineteenth century (Figure 20).

Additional Site Examination testing concluded that:

- 1) the pillar in the chamber was likely built at the same time as the chamber itself
- 2) few period artifacts were recovered from within the chamber indicating little in the way of activities occurred in here that would have resulted in artifacts being deposited there
- 3) the enclosure likely had a wooden structure above it, the recovery of hand-wrought and machine-cut nails indicate that it was constructed at the same time as the chamber



Figure 20. Cast iron rake head (EU 13 25 cmbs)

- 4) the recovery of the charcoal fragments indicate either that the structure burned or that the charcoal was used in the structure (such as a forge)
- 5) the recovery of the clay pipe indicates some one either spending recreational time here or smoking a pipe while working- either way, the pipe dates to the middle to late nineteenth century
- 6) the recovery of the machine-cut and hand-wrought nails from the builder's trench associated with the enclosure is a further indication that a wooden structure stood here and that it dates to the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century
- 7) the area between the chamber and the enclosure appears to have been only an empty space with the stone wall representing a retaining wall to slow erosion

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## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### **VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Interpretation of the Acton Stone Chamber is based on Locard's exchange principle, a concept well-known to criminalists stating that when two objects come in contact, they exchange particles "Wherever he steps, whatever he touches, whatever he leaves, even unconsciously, will serve as a silent witness against him. Not only his fingerprints or his footprints, but his hair, the fibers from his clothes, the glass he breaks, the tool mark he leaves, the paint he scratches, the blood or semen he deposits or collects. All of these and more, bear mute witness against him. This is evidence that does not forget. It is not confused by the excitement of the moment. It is not absent because human witnesses are. It is factual evidence. Physical evidence cannot be wrong, it cannot perjure itself, it cannot be wholly absent. Only human failure to find it, study and understand it, can diminish its value." (Morrish 1940: 72). This principle has equal applicability to archaeological evidence, actions at sites leave traces. Whoever built the Acton Stone Chamber left some trace of their presence at the site, it is up to the archaeological process to collect the facts to place the chamber and its construction within a solid time frame and interpretation.

The earliest evidence present at the site was the recovery of the possible Middle Archaic rhyolite point from EU 4. Unfortunately, this point was recovered from redeposited and mixed fill from an unidentified source. Excavation of all the units outside of the chamber was carried out well into the original ground surface and subsequently the B1 horizon below it. No other evidence of Native occupation was identified at the site indicating either that the possible point was carried in from outside at some point during or following the construction of the chamber, or that the point was deposited in isolation at the site prior to the construction of the chamber and was subsequently incorporated into the overburden that makes up the mound covering the stone chamber itself. In either case, due to the fact that the point was an isolated find and was not recovered in an undisturbed context, it has little archaeological value for interpreting the chamber and the location within which it is situated. Overall, because the chamber is located on a fairly gentle slope overlooking Nashoba Brook, one would expect to find evidence of Ancient Native occupation at this type of location.

Materials, creamware, pearlware and hand-wrought nails, dating to the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century were recovered from JTPs 2 and 4 as well as EU 8. JTP 2 was located within the foundation to the east of the stone chamber, JTP 4 was located at the western side of the entrance to the passage into the chamber and EU 8 was located within the passageway into the chamber. Creamware was recovered from JTP 4 and 5 while pearlware was recovered from JTP 4, EU 9 and from the screening of material from the exterior of the chamber. The material from JTP 4 was recovered from 20-30 cm below the present ground surface and may represent a refuse deposit associated with the construction of the western walls of the passage into the chamber. The recovery of hand-wrought nails from the eastern foundation and from EU 8 may indicate that the wood that was burned in the latter nineteenth century in the chamber originated from the eastern foundation.

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## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Architectural Interpretation**

Acton's chamber has a low passage entrance. The passage and the chamber itself are of a modified post and lintel design. The entire passage and chamber have an L-shape, a less common form. Another interesting feature is the presence of a pillar of stone at the junction of the passage and the chamber itself. This feature may have been added at sometime after the original construction, possibly due to roof slump or collapse, or possibly as just extra support for this portion of the chamber roof.

The construction of the Acton Stone chamber appears to have begun with the excavation of a rectangular cut into the side of the hill associated with the chamber. The original builders may have taken advantage of a natural depression encountered in EU 2, possibly making less work for the excavation of the chamber. Following the completion of the erection of the stone walls and the capping with the schist slabs, the chamber was likely mounded at least partially with soils that have been excavated out when the passage and chamber were dug. No builder trenches were encountered outside of the chamber, making it likely that the passage and chamber were dug first and then the walls were built from the inside out within the hole made by the excavation, as opposed to trenches being dug first for the walls, the walls being erected and then the interior was excavated. The latter would likely have resulted in larger trenches than necessary being dug so that the builders could maneuver within the trench to build the wall. This would have left a filled builder's trench on the outside of the walls. The structure was capped and then mounded.

David Stewart Smith, the mason who reconstructed the passage of the chamber as part of this project, noted that “the back chamber is very well built in granitic schist, allowing for very tight, level courses...the entryway is constructed largely of field stones, contrasting dramatically with the back chamber” (Smith 2006). Figure 21 shows a profile drawing of a section of the North wall of the back chamber immediately north of EU 9. This profile is typical of the wall construction of the chamber. It can be seen in the drawing that the lower courses of the chamber walls are constructed of field stone while the upper courses were constructed of split schist slabs. Split schist slabs were also used as the capstones on the chamber. The field stone cobbles in the chamber appear to have been laid up in much the same way as those in the passage. Cobbles were also used in the construction of the structure adjacent to the chamber, indicating a likely contemporary construction date for all elements, passage, chamber and structure, at the site. The use of the cobbles for both the chamber and passage makes it likely that following the excavation of the passage and chamber holes, the next step was to lay up the walls with field stone, at least to a height of one meter, the height of the passage walls and the lower portion of the chamber wall, followed by the finishing of the chamber walls and roof with split schist slabs. The recovery of two iron feather wedges inside the passage may be related to the splitting of the slabs. It is possible that the split slabs were used on the upper courses of the chamber walls to provide extra stability and a flat, level base for the final capping of the chamber walls with the large schist slabs. At the same time, the pillar was added to the south chamber wall to help support the slabs in this section. The pillar is constructed of schist slabs as well. Following the laying up of the walls and the capping of the chamber and passage, the entire structure was covered and mounded with up to two feet of soil. A door

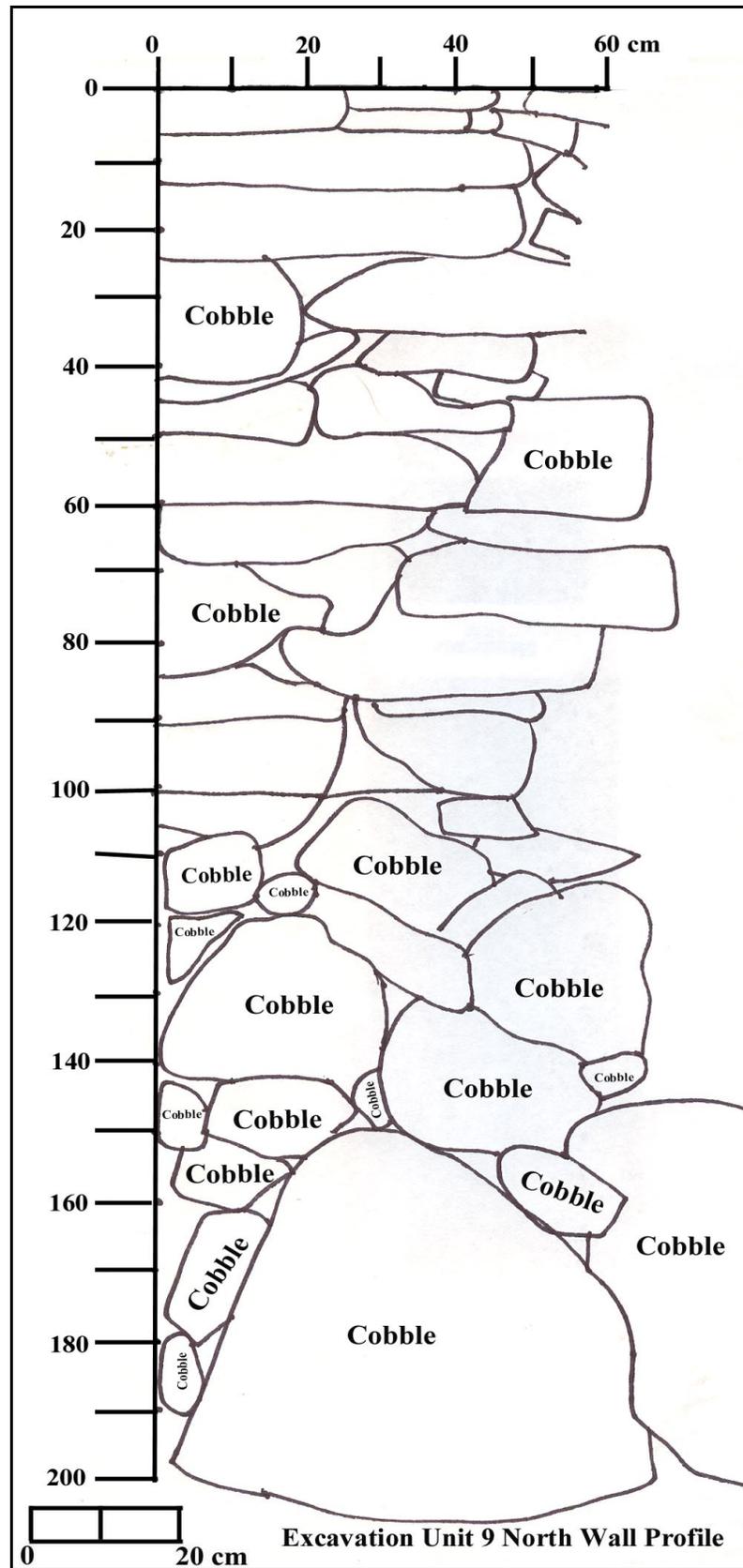


Figure 21. Profile drawing, EU 9 North wall, chamber northwest corner

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## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

was also probably present as evidenced by a possible iron pintle that was recovered.

### **National Register Eligibility**

The National Register is the inventory of historic places and the national repository of documentation on the variety of historic property types, significance, abundance, condition, ownership, needs, and other information. In order to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register, a site, property or structure must meet certain evaluation criteria. The National Register Criteria for Evaluation define the scope of the National Register of Historic Places; they identify the range of resources and kinds of significance that will qualify properties for listing in the National Register. The Criteria are written broadly to recognize the wide variety of historic properties associated with our prehistory and history. The significance, historic integrity, documentation, and treatment of properties is evaluated within its historic context. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in or past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

The Acton Stone Chamber may be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places as it meets criteria B, C and D. Documentary research determined that it was likely constructed in the immediate post-Revolution period of the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century by Moses Wood an Acton Revolutionary War veteran whose family has been a significant part of the history of this section of the Town. The structure itself embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of architecture and method of construction, the corbel-vaulted stone chamber. The structure and site also have yielded and are likely to yield information that is important in history due to the fact that it is one of the few scientifically examined stone chambers in New England. These stone chambers have had a history of various interpretations, but the archaeological work and background documentary research conducted during the Site Examination has helped to establish the date, method of construction and probable use of the site, thus helping to demystify these structures which, while once a common structure on rural New England farms, have been destroyed as building and house construction have eaten up the farmland which they were once part of.

Dincauze characterized these structures as a "lost chapter" in the husbandry of New England "the regional expression of the root crop revolution of the later eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries." (Dincauze 1982). Root crops such as turnips and potatoes,

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

were extolled by period handbooks for their virtues for both man and beast, especially as winter fodder for livestock. The same handbooks explained how to construct cellars within or outside of the house or barn, with a door facing south or east for easy access during the winter (Dincauze 1982). As the livestock market shifted in the middle nineteenth century and species such as sheep were no longer the cash crops they once were, the need for such facilities lessened and many were abandoned, to be followed soon thereafter by the homesteads and even neighborhoods that experienced the sharp turn in the economy that was brought about by the Industrial Revolution. In the end, Dincauze concluded rightly that when the overwhelming number of facts supporting the late eighteenth to nineteenth century agrarian affiliation are presented, "The burden of proof is clearly upon anyone who would claim a different age or historical origin for such masonry outbuildings." (Dincauze 1982)

The Acton stone chamber was likely part of a larger farmstead. It was created either for a specific or general purpose and was used while it served some purpose to the farmstead. At some point, the farm ceased to exist or the use that the chamber served ceased to be practiced on the farm, and the chamber went out of use. The changes that affected farmsteads in the seventeenth through early twentieth centuries have been the focus of archaeological studies in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Delaware (Johnson and Handsman 1996). A site such as this one which may date to before the Revolution, but which likely dates to the late eighteenth to mid nineteenth century, have the potential to explore issues such as the transformation of farming into a market driven, capitalist economy, and the exploration of the emerging class in Acton (Johnson and Handsman 1996:41). Sites of the Industrial Age (1860-1900) have the potential to explore issues such as the continuation of long-standing traditions of agricultural work and moral economies and resistance to modernization in farming (Johnson and Handsman 1996:41). This site existed in Acton for much of Acton's history, and Site Examination testing and background research revealed evidence of what the chamber was used for, what farm it was associated with and how it helped contribute to the farm and the region's economy at various times. Site examination research also focused on identifying possible reasons why the stone chamber ceased to be used. It is believed that, due to economic changes and/or advances in storage technology, were responsible for the abandonment of this and other chambers in the area.

The past has always formed an important ingredient in history regarding the way a person, group, or nation identifies itself. Even in the face of facts that dispute the legends that surround sites and personae, the stories are slow to change. Much of this has to do with a way of "demonstrating the sense of continuity or allegiance to the past." which has been spoken of by Michael Kammen in his work *Mystic Chords of Memory* (Kammen 1991:33). Bronislaw Malinowski said "Myth is a story about the past which has the function of justifying the present and thereby contributing to social stability." (Kammen 1991:14).

Anne Yentsch in her 1993 work on the relationships between material culture and American Ideology stated that "Material culture, the core of archaeology, is thus an active agent through which a people's mytho-history is held and told to succeeding generations."

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## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Yentsch 1993:5). Included within the category of oral history would be houses and sites that were believed to be ones connected with the mytho-history of the town or country. In Yentsch's words: "... oral tradition indisputably embodies folk history. If legends about old houses are an expression of American mythology, then encoded within them is ethnographic information on social values and folk ideas about kinship, community identity, society, history, culture, and nature....'form a moral system and a cosmology as well as a history,' embodying a set of folk beliefs expressing social ideas and values and situating people within society."( Yentsch 1993:5).

Site Examination testing prior to and during the reconstruction of the Acton Stone Chamber yielded significant information on the methods of construction of the walls, the original depth of the floor of the passage, the possible purpose of the foundation adjacent to the stone chamber, and the area between the stone chamber and the foundation. Materials recovered during the course of testing included one possible Middle Archaic Neville-like projectile point, recovered from a fill layer and thus lacking provenience integrity, as well as historic material spanning the late eighteenth to late twentieth centuries. Site examination results indicate that the site, although the passage has been reconstructed, maintains significant integrity and is recommended for inclusion on the National Register based on Criteria B, C and D. It is associated with a person of local significance, it is representative of a vanishing but once significant vernacular architectural style and it maintains the potential to dd information important to the history of the Town, State and region.

### **Summary**

#### **Site Integrity**

The site appears to have excellent integrity with deposits within the passage, chamber and enclosure having been covered with a water-washed layer of soil. Additionally, artifacts were recovered from what may have been builder's trenches in JTP 4 and from EU 13.

#### **Horizontal Distribution**

Artifacts were recovered from undisturbed contexts within the passage, chamber, mound, area between the chamber and the enclosure and within the enclosure itself. The actual area of distribution measured 14 meters east to west by seven meters north to south.

#### **Vertical Distribution**

Artifacts were recovered from mixed contexts to a depth of 0 to 40 cmbs. Artifacts were recovered from undisturbed contexts from 21 to 70 cmbs. The depth at which the recovery of modern material ended and late eighteenth to nineteenth century material began and ended varied between units depending on the depth of the upper fill layers.

#### **Research Potential**

Documentary research determined that it was likely constructed in the immediate post-Revolution period of the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century by Moses Wood an Acton Revolutionary War veteran whose family has been a significant part of the history of this section of the Town. The structure itself embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of architecture and method of construction, the corbel-vaulted stone chamber. The

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

structure and site also have yielded and are likely to yield information that is important in history due to the fact that it is one of the few scientifically examined stone chambers in New England

### **National Register Eligibility**

The Acton Stone Chamber may be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places as it meets criteria B, C and D.

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Appendix A SITE EXAMINATION CATALOG

## SITE EXAMINATION CATALOG

Testing	Unit Depth		Horizon Count		Class	Type	Description
JTP	1	10-20 cm	A	4	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nails with heads
JTP	1	10-20	A	8	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
JTP	2	10-20	A	1	Ceramic	Whiteware	Blue transfer- print design
JTP	2	10-20	A	7	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
JTP	2	10-20	A	1	Metal	Iron	Hand-wrought nail
JTP	2	10-20	A	2	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail
JTP	2	10-20	A	3	Metal	Iron	2 flat fragments, one lump
JTP	2	20-30	A	1	Metal	Iron	Hand-wrought nail
JTP	2	20-30	A	1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail with head
JTP	2	20-30	A	1	Metal	Iron	Wire nail
JTP	2	0-10	A	1	Glass	Curved	Clear glass vessel fragment
JTP	2	0-10	A	12	Synthetic	Tar paper	Fragments
JTP	2	0-10	A	1	Metal	Iron	Machine cut nail with wood attached
JTP	2	0-10	A	5	Metal	Iron	Machine cut nails with heads
JTP	3	30-40	A	2	Glass	Curved	Clear glass vessel fragments
JTP	3	10-20	A	2	Glass	Curved	Clear glass vessel fragments
JTP	3	0-10	A	4	Glass	Curved	Clear glass vessel fragments
JTP	4	0-10	A	2	Glass	Curved	Clear glass vessel fragments
JTP	4	0-10	A	1	Glass	Curved	Brown glass vessel fragment
JTP	4	0-10	A	2	Ceramic	Creamware	Two white-glazed fragments of vessel
JTP	4	0-10	A	1	Metal	Iron	Hand-wrought nail with head
JTP	4	10-20	A	1	Metal	Lead	Bullet .22 caliber, mushroomed top
JTP	4	10-20	A	1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail with head
JTP	4	10-20	A	1	Ceramic	Creamware	1 fragment with no glaze, 1 with white glaze, 1 with white and blue glaze
JTP	4	20-30	A	2	Ceramic	Pearlware	Hand-painted blue floral design
JTP	4	20-30	A	1	Glass	Curved	Light aqua vessel
JTP	4	20-30	A	1	Glass	Curved	Light olive vessel
JTP	4	20-30	A	1	Floral	Charcoal	Fragment
JTP	4	20-30	A	1	Faunal	Bone	Mammal cancellous bone
JTP	4	20-30	A	4	Ceramic	Creamware	Fragments from vessel, with white glaze
JTP	4	20-30	A	1	Ceramic	R.	Glaze missing
JTP	4	20-30	A	4	Ceramic	Earthenware	3 with black on outside and clear on inside, teapot
JTP	4	20-30	A	9	Ceramic	Brick	Fragments
JTP	4	20-30	A	1	Metal	Iron	Hand-wrought nail
JTP	4	20-30	A	3	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nails with heads
JTP	4	20-30	A	1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail fragment
JTP	4	20-30	A	2	Glass	Curved	Clear glass vessel fragments
JTP	4	20-30	A	150	Floral	Burned wood	Fragments of burned sticks
JTP	4	20-30	A	1	Synthetic	Plastic	Melted plastic
JTP	5	10-20	A	2	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
JTP	5	0-10	A	4	Glass	Curved	Clear glass vessel fragments
JTP	5	0-10	A	1	Metal	Aluminum	Pull tab from a can
JTP	5	0-10	A	2	Ceramic	Brick	Fragments
JTP	5	0-10	A	7	Ceramic	Whiteware	Fragments
JTP	5	0-10	A	2	Ceramic	Creamware	Fragments possible plate
JTP	5	0-10	A	11	Floral	Burned wood	One larger chunk, 10 small fragments
JTP	5	0-10	A	1	Coal	Coal	Small chunk
JTP	5	0-10	A	2	Synthetic	Plastic	Plastic cap of some kind and small melted bit of plastic

## SITE EXAMINATION CATALOG

EU	1	0-10	1	Glass	Curved	Clear vessel glass fragment
EU	1	0-10	5	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nails with heads
EU	1	0-10	1	Metal	Iron	Hand-wrought nail
EU	1	20-30	7	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	1	30-40	20	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	2	0-10	28	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	2	0-10	1	Metal	Iron	Wire nail
EU	2	0-10	1	Metal	Iron	Wire, twisted
EU	3	0-10	2	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	3	0-10	8	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	3	20-30	23	Floral	Wood	Fragments
EU	3	20-30	1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut spike
EU	3	30-40	6	Floral	Wood	Burned fragments
EU	3	40-50	1	Ceramic	Brick	Fragment
EU	3	40-50	12	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	3	50-60	10	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	3	50-60	29	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	3	60-70	19	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	3	80-90	1	Floral	Wood	Fragment
EU	4	10-20	1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail fragment
EU	4	20-30	1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail fragment
EU	5	10-20	1	Stone	Rhyolite	Green Neville-shaped flake point
EU	5	20-30	3	Ceramic	Creamware	Fragments of vessel, white glaze on both sides
EU	5	20-30	2	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	6	1-10	3	Floral	Charcoal	Tiny fragments
EU	6	10-20	1	Metal	Iron	Wire nail
EU	6	10-20	110	Floral	Wood	Burned fragments
EU	6	20-30	19	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	6	30-40	2	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	7	Under lg rock in N 1/2	5	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	7	Under lg rock in N 1/2	1	Floral	Wood	Fragment
EU	7	Under lg rock in N 1/2	1	Metal	Iron	Buckle
EU	7	Under lg rock in N 1/2	1	Metal	Iron	Possible stem of hand wrought nail
EU	7	Under lg rock in N 1/2	15	Mortar	Mortar	Round fragments
EU	7	0-10	71	Floral	Burned wood	Fragments of burned sticks
EU	7	0-10	3	Faunal	Bone	Cervical vertebrae of small mammal
EU	7	0-10	1	Glass	Curved	Clear glass vessel fragment
EU	7	0-10	1	Glass	Curved	Brown glass vessel fragment
EU	7	0-10	8	Ceramic	Whiteware	Fragments of vessel, white glaze both sides, word "CHINA" in green on 1 fragment
EU	7	10-20, S ½	3	Mortar	Mortar	Round fragments
EU	7	10-20, S ½	1	Metal	Iron	Wire nail
EU	7	10-20, S ½	22	Synthetic	Taxpayer	Fragments
EU	7	10-20, S ½	1	Ceramic	Whiteware	Fragment with white glaze, blue flower, and gold flecks on one side
EU	7	10-20, S ½	1	Ceramic	Brick	Fragment
EU	7	10-20, S ½	1	Metal	Iron	Small fragment
EU	7	10-20, S ½	1	Metal	Lead	Part of mushroomed out bullet

## SITE EXAMINATION CATALOG

EU	7	10-20, S ½, adj to stump	1	Ceramic	Brick	Large brick
EU	7	10-20, S ½, adj to stump	2	Metal	Iron	Railroad spikes
EU	7	10-20, S ½, adj to stump	6	Synthetic	Taxpayer	Fragments
EU	7	10-20, S ½	5	Floral	Wood	Burned fragments
EU	7	20-30, W. adj to lg bldr in N ½	3	Glass	Curved	Clear glass vessel fragments, pieces of base or corner
EU	7	20-30, W. adj to lg bldr in N ½	3	Mortar	Mortar	Round fragments
EU	7	20-30	1	Mortar	Mortar	Round fragment
EU	7	20-30	2	Metal	Iron	Wire nail
EU	7	20-30	2	Synthetic	Taxpayer	2 small fragments
EU	7	20-30	20	Glass	Curved	Clear glass vessel fragments
EU	7	30-40	2	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	7	30-40	1	Metal	Iron	Fragment, machine cut nail shaft
EU	7	30-40	21	Glass	Curved	Fragments of clear glass bottle. Part of bottle's mouth. Inscription: "WARRANT[...]/FULL ½ PIN[...]"
EU	7	40-50	1	Paint/ chalk	Chalk or paint	Lump of green chalky substance
EU	7	40-50	4	Glass	Curved	Clear vessel
EU	7	40-50	2	Ceramic	Whiteware	Fragments of vessel, white glaze one side
EU	7	40-50	3	Metal	Iron	2 small fragments, possibly of machine cut nails, and one large L-shaped piece of iron (corner of some kind)
EU	7	40-50	70	Mortar	Mortar	Round fragments of various sizes
EU	7	40-50	42	Floral	Burned wood	Fragments
EU	7	50-60	35	Mortar	Mortar	Round fragments
EU	7	50-60	15	Floral	Burned wood	Fragments
EU	7	50-60	1	Ceramic	Whiteware	Fragment, white glaze one side
EU	7	50-60	1	Glass	Curved	Clear vessel
EU	7	50-60	1	Ceramic	Brick	Fragment
EU	7	50-60	2	Floral	Burned wood	Fragments
EU	7	50-60	6	Mortar	Mortar	Fragments
EU	8	0-10	13	Mortar	Mortar	Fragments
EU	8	0-10	13	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	8	0-10	1	Faunal	Shell	Bay scallop fragment
EU	8	0-10	1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail with head
EU	8	0-10	1	Glass	Curved	Clear vessel body fragment
EU	8	0-10	1	Glass	Curved	Brown vessel body fragment
EU	8	10-20	14	Mortar	Mortar	Fragments
EU	8	20-30	2	Metal	Iron	Fragments
EU	8	20-30	2	Metal	Iron	Hand-wrought nail heads
EU	8	20-30	4	Mortar	Mortar	Fragments
EU	8	30-40	14	Mortar	Mortar	Fragments
EU	8	30-40	3	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	8	30-40	1	Glass	Curved	Clear bottle
EU	8	30-40	1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail fragment
EU	8	30-40	9	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nails with heads
EU	8	40-50	13	Floral	Wood	Unburned flat fragment
EU	8	40-50	8	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	8	40-50	42	Mortar	Mortar	Fragments

## SITE EXAMINATION CATALOG

EU	8	40-50	11	Ceramic	Ironstone	Plate
EU	8	40-50	1	Metal	Cuprous	Knife handle rivet
EU	8	40-50	3	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail fragments
EU	8	40-50	11	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nails with heads
EU	8	40-50	1	Metal	Iron	Triangular fragment with hole
EU	8	40-50	1	Metal	Iron	Slot-headed wood screw
EU	8	40-50	7	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail fragments
EU	8	40-50	32	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nails with heads
EU	8	40-50	2	Metal	Cuprous	Knife handle rivets
EU	8	40-50	28	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	8	40-50	6	Floral	Wood	Unburned flat fragment
EU	8	40-50	8	Coal	Coal	Fragments
EU	8	40-50	2	Mortar	Mortar	Fragments
EU	8	40-50	3	Faunal	Bone	Calcined medium mammal longbone fragments
EU	8	40-50	4	Glass	Curved	Clear vessel fragments
EU	8	50-60	3	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail fragments
EU	8	50-60	26	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nails with heads
EU	8	50-60	1	Faunal	Bone	Calcined medium mammal longbone fragment
EU	8	50-60	9	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	8	50-60	2	Floral	Wood	Unburned flat fragment
EU	8	50-60	1	Ceramic	Kaolin	Pipe stem
EU	8	50-60	4	Coal	Coal	Fragments
EU	8	50-60	2	Metal	Iron	Splitting wedges
EU	8	50-60	4	Floral	Wood	Unburned flat fragment
EU	8	50-60	11	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	8	50-60	2	Coal	Coal	Fragments
EU	8	50-60	3	Wax	Candle	Burned candle
EU	8	50-60	1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail with head
EU	8	50-60	11	Ceramic	Ironstone	Plate
EU	8	50-60	34	Mortar	Mortar	Fragments
EU	8	60-70	1	Coal	Coal	Fragment
EU	8	60-70	1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail with head
EU	8	60-70	1	Metal	Iron	Flat fragment
EU	8	60-70	2	Ceramic	Kaolin	Pipe stem fragments, one with "DAVIDSON/ GLASCOW" on sides
EU	8	60-70	4	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	8	60-70	13	Mortar	Mortar	Fragments
EU	8	60-70	14	Mortar	Mortar	Fragments
EU	8	60-70	2	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nails with heads
EU	8	60-70	1	Metal	Iron	U-nail
EU	8	60-70	1	Floral	Wood	Unburned flat fragment
EU	9	0-10	1	Metal	Iron	Railroad spike
EU	9	0-10	1	Metal	Iron	Crown Bottle cap
EU	9	0-10	1	Metal	Aluminum	Pull tab
EU	9	0-10	1	Metal	Aluminum	Screw cap "AGO/ SANT GAIA"
EU	9	0-10	2	Glass	Curved	Clear vessel body
EU	9	0-10	2	Glass	Curved	Green vessel body
EU	9	10-20	32	Glass	Curved	Green beer bottle "MADE IN CANADA" on base
EU	9	10-20	9	Glass	Curved	Clear thick vessel
EU	9	10-20	1	Glass	Curved	Brown vessel fragment
EU	9	10-20	2	Ceramic	Whiteware	Undecorated vessel fragments, flatware

## SITE EXAMINATION CATALOG

EU	9	10-20	8	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments burned sticks
EU	9	10-20	1	Wax	Wax	Large fragment possible candle
EU	9	10-20	1	Metal	Iron	Railroad spike
EU	9	10-20	17	metal	Iron	Sanitary can fragments, possible Coke
EU	9	10-20	3	Metal	Aluminum	Pull tabs
EU	9	10-20	3	Metal	Aluminum	Screw top fragments, 1 with clear glass inside
EU	9	20-30	46	Glass	Curved	Brown beer bottle
EU	9	20-30	7	Glass	Curved	Green possible beer bottle
EU	9	20-30	8	Glass	Curved	Clear bottle
EU	9	20-30	6	Ceramic	Whiteware	Plate with floral transferprint on interior, "DRESDEN/ CHINA" on bottom
EU	9	20-30	1	Metal	Iron	Railroad spike
EU	9	20-30	1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail with head
EU	9	20-30	10	Mortar	Mortar	Fragments
EU	9	20-30	17	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU	9	30-40	7	Glass	Curved	Brown beer bottle
EU	9	30-40	1	Glass	Flat	Aqua
EU	9	30-40	1	Ceramic	Pearlware	Undecorated exterior, plate fragment
EU	9	30-40	42	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments burned sticks
EU	9	40-45	1	Glass	Curved	Brown beer bottle
EU	9	40-45	1	Metal	Iron	Possible nail
EU	9	40-45	45	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments burned sticks
Exterior screening			1	Metal	Iron/ Aluminum	Labeler, "SUPER-NOMADIC"
Exterior screening			2	Metal	Iron	Small thin disc
Exterior screening			1	Metal	Iron	Wire nail, roofing
Exterior screening			1	Metal	Alloy	melted Matchbox car
Exterior screening			7	Glass	Curved	Brown glass beer bottle
Exterior screening			8	Glass	Curved	Clear bottle
Exterior screening			1	Glass	Marble	Marble with green cat's eye
Exterior screening			2	Ceramic	Brick	Fragments
Exterior screening			4	Ceramic	Pearlware	Thin bowl with blue exterior hand-painted leaves
Exterior screening			1	Metal	Lead	.22 cal bullet, squished
Exterior screening			4	Synthetic	Tar paper	Fragments
Exterior screening			2	Synthetic	Plastic	Cigarillo mouthpieces
Exterior screening			1	Synthetic	Nylon	Pink flower
Exterior screening			1	Metal	Slag	Slag fragment
Exterior screening			1	Mortar	Mortar	Fragment
Exterior Screening			1	Metal	Iron	Sanitary can lid
Exterior Screening			5	Metal	Iron	Twisted wire fragments
Exterior Screening			1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail with head

## SITE EXAMINATION CATALOG

Exterior Screening				3	Metal	Iron	U-shaped nail
Exterior Screening				1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail with head
Exterior Screening				1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail fragment
JTP	2	10-20	A	2	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail fragments
EU 10	0-10 cm	Fill 1		2	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments, boards
EU 10	0-10 cm	Fill 1		1	Ceramic	Whiteware	Gilt-edged transfer-printed plate fragment, 20 <sup>th</sup> century
EU 10	0-10 cm	Fill 1		22	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, clear
EU 10	0-10 cm	Fill 1		6	Metal	Iron	Wire nails, burned
EU 10	0-10 cm	Fill 1		22	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, brown
EU 10	10-20 cm	Fill 1		3	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments, burned sticks
EU 10	10-20 cm	Fill 1		3	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, brown
EU 10	10-20 cm	Fill 1		29	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, clear
EU 10	10-20 cm	Fill 1		1	Metal	Aluminum	Pull tab
EU10	20-30 cm	Floor		1	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragment, clear
EU10	20-30 cm	Floor		27	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments, sticks and twigs
EU10	20-30 cm	Floor		2	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, brown
EU10	20-30 cm	Floor		1	Ceramic	Pearlware	Blue-edged plate body fragment
EU10	20-30 cm	Floor		2	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail fragments
EU10	20-30 cm	Floor		1	Ceramic	Whiteware	Undecorated flatware fragment
EU 12	0-10 cm	A1		3	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, clear
EU 12	0-10 cm	A1		51	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, clear
EU 12	10-20 cm	Fill 1		5	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, clear
EU 12	10-20 cm	Fill 1		4	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU 12	10-20 cm	Fill 1		6	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, brown
EU 12	10-20 cm	A1		1	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragment, brown
EU 12	10-20 cm	A1		40	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, clear
EU 12	20-30 cm	F1-2		8	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail fragments, 6 heads
EU 12	20-30 cm	F1-2		1	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragment, brown
EU 12	20-30 cm	F1-2		1	Ceramic	Pipe	Bowl Fragment, TD
EU 12	20-30 cm	F1-2		1	Metal	Iron	Hand-wrought nail fragment with head
EU 12	20-30 cm	F1-2		8	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU 12	30-40 cm	Fill		10	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU 12	30-40 cm	Fill		5	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail fragments, 1 head
EU 12	30-40 cm	Fill		4	Metal	Iron	Can fragments
EU 12	40-45 cm	Fill		11	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments, burned boards
EU 12	40-45 cm	Fill		1	Ceramic	Pipe	Bowl Fragment, 19th century
EU 12	40-45 cm	Fill		1	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragment, brown
EU 13	0-10 cm	A1		20	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments
EU 13	0-10 cm	A1		3	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, clear
EU 13	0-10 cm	A1		4	Metal	Iron	Wire nails
EU 13	10-20 cm	A1		1	Floral	Charcoal	Fragment
EU 13	10-20 cm	A1		1	Metal	Iron	Wire nail
EU 13	10-20 cm	A1		2	Metal	Iron	Hand-wrought nails
EU 13	10-20 cm	A1		3	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, clear
EU 13	10-20 cm	A1		4	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail
EU 13	20-30 cm	A1		18	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, clear
EU 13	20-30 cm	A1		4	Metal	Iron	Wire nails
EU 13	20-30 cm	A1		3	Glass	Curved	Machine-made bottle fragments, brown
EU 13	20-30 cm	Trench Fill		3	Metal	Iron	Hand-wrought nails
EU 13	20-30 cm	A1		1	Metal	Iron	Cast Iron Flange
EU 13	20-30 cm	Trench Fill		1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail
EU 13	25 cmbs	Trench		1	Metal	Iron	Small rake head (Potato rake)

## SITE EXAMINATION CATALOG

	Fill							
EU 13	30-40 cm Trench	1	Metal	Iron	Hand-wrought nail fragment			
	Fill							
EU 13	30-40 cm Trench	1	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail fragment			
	Fill							
EU 13	30-40 cm Trench	4	Metal	Iron	Hand-wrought nails			
	Fill							
EU 13	30-40 cm Trench	4	Metal	Iron	Machine-cut nail			
	Fill							
EU 13	30-40 cm Trench	3	Floral	Charcoal	Fragments			
	Fill							