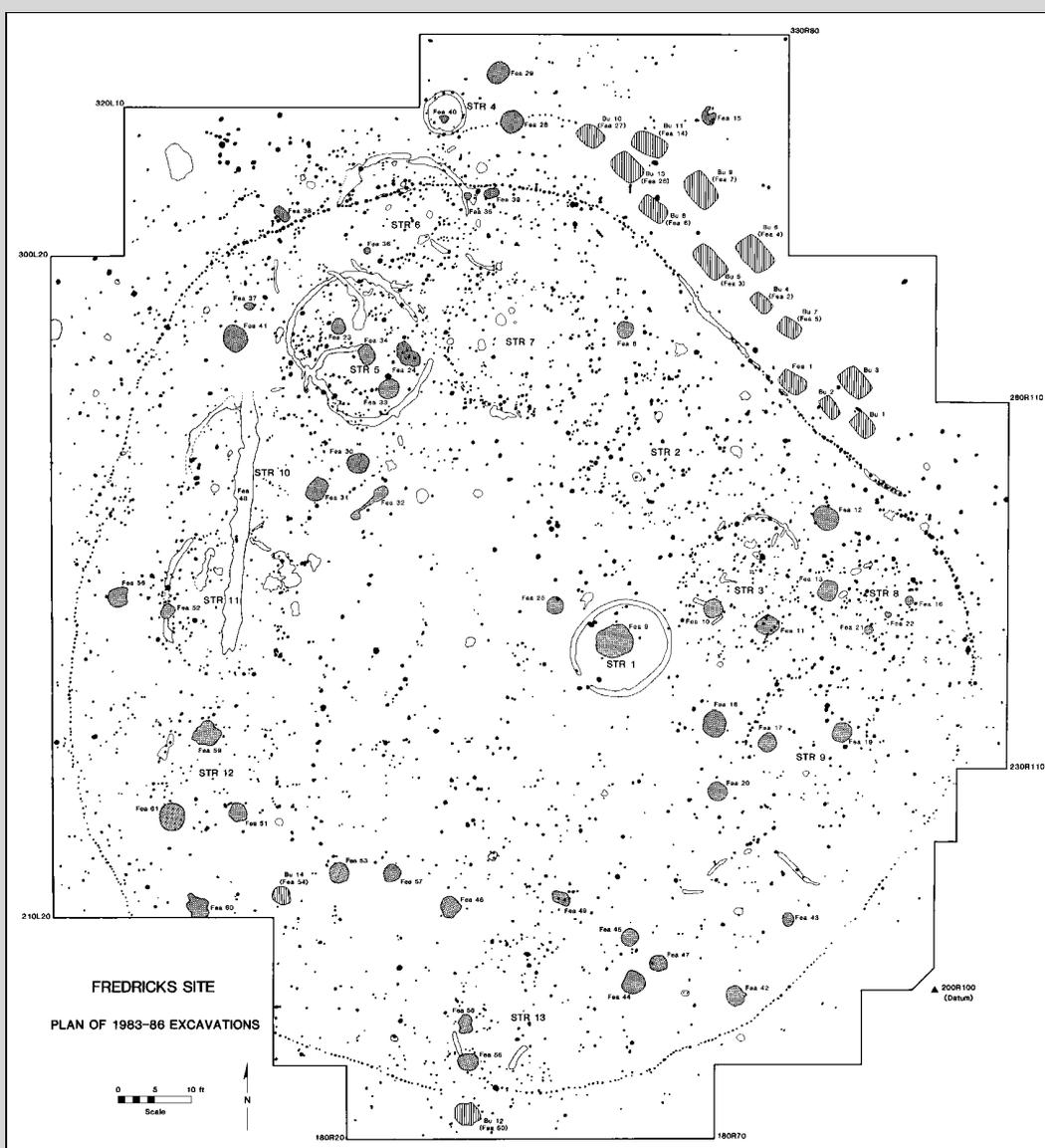


THE HISTORIC OCCANEECHI: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF CULTURE CHANGE

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF 1986 INVESTIGATIONS

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Preliminary Report of 1986 Investigations

(National Geographic Society Grant #3257-86)

by

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INTRODUCTION

The Fredricks site (31Or231), located on the Eno River near Hillsborough, North Carolina (Figure 1), represents the remains of an historic Occaneechi village that was visited and described by John Lawson in 1701 (Lefler 1967). Archaeological investigations at the Fredricks site began in 1983 as part of a larger research project, undertaken by the Research Laboratories of Anthropology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, to study culture change among the Siouan tribes of the North Carolina Piedmont during the Late Prehistoric and Historic periods (ca. A.D. 1300-1740). This site represents one of the latest and best-preserved Indian village sites yet discovered in piedmont North Carolina. Given its proximity to the Wall site (31Or11), an earlier Protohistoric period (ca. A.D. 1550) site that also has been investigated by the Research Laboratories, the Fredricks site has provided significant comparative data for investigating specific aspects of culture change within a single locality (see Dickens et al. [ed.] 1985). Work at the Fredricks site has also allowed substantial insight into aboriginal lifeways on the Piedmont following the initial influx of English traders. At the end of the 1986 field season, all of the interior area of the palisaded village had been excavated, revealing a complete architectural plan.

HISTORY OF INVESTIGATIONS

The Fredricks site was discovered by the Research Laboratories during 1983 while conducting excavations at the nearby Wall site. Limited test excavations of 800 ft² revealed a portion of a cemetery lying just outside the village and a segment of the village palisade. Three human burials within the cemetery were excavated. All three pits

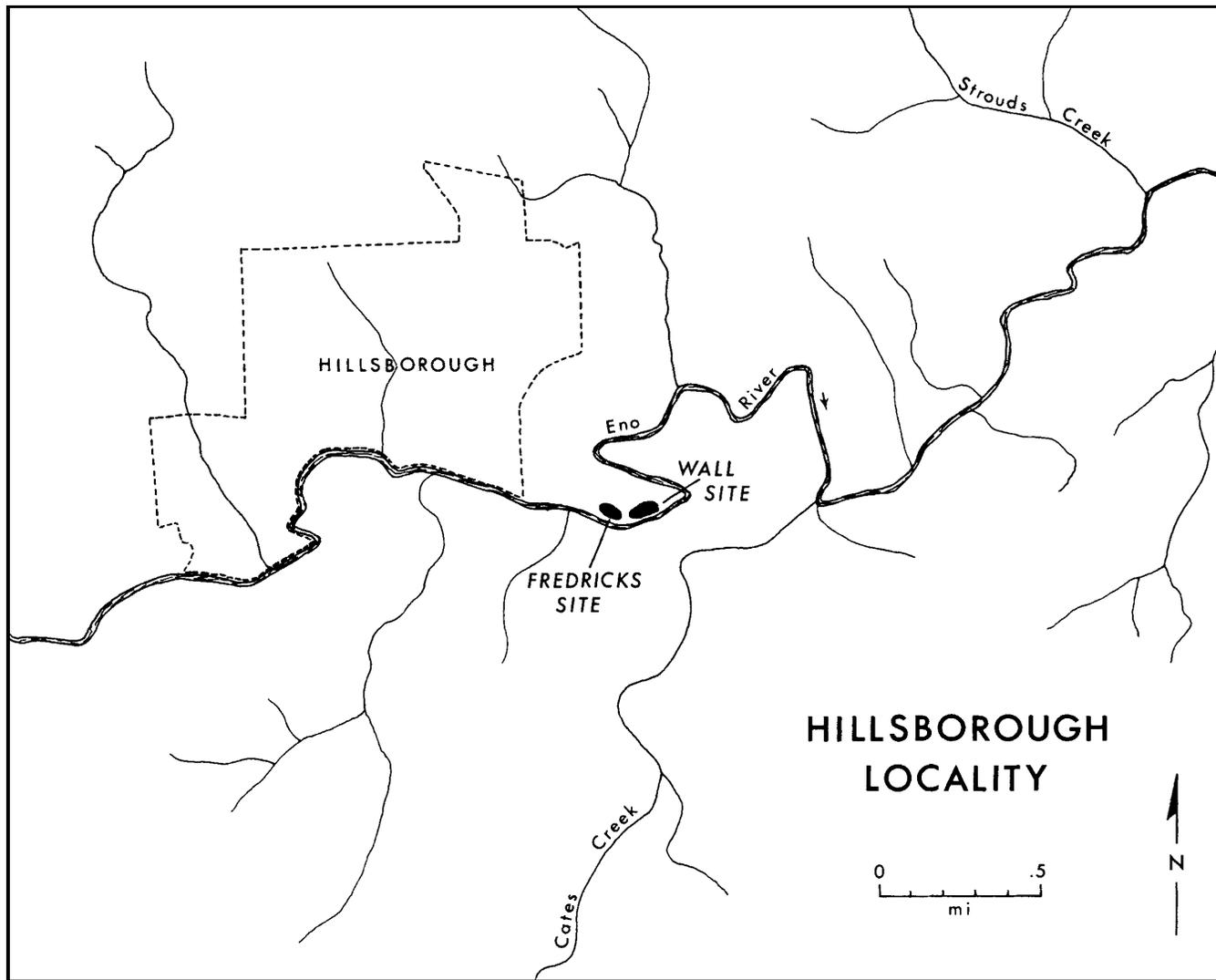


Figure 1. Location of the Fredricks Site Near Hillsborough, North Carolina.

were rectangular with sharp corners (indicating that they probably were excavated with metal tools) and contained numerous artifacts of Euroamerican manufacture. A fourth pit excavated within the cemetery contained neither human remains nor grave associations.

A second field season at the Fredricks site, conducted during the summer of 1984 and sponsored by the National Geographic Society, uncovered a much larger area of the cemetery and the adjacent village (Dickens et al. 1984; Dickens et al. [ed.] 1985). These investigations were designed to obtain additional data on mortuary behavior and to begin sampling domestic areas. In addition, systematic subsurface testing was undertaken on unexcavated portions of the site to delimit probable site boundaries and to make a preliminary assessment of internal site structure.

During 1984, 27 new 10x10-ft units (2,700 ft²) were excavated, and six 10x10-ft units excavated in 1983 were re-exposed. These excavations uncovered six additional burials within the cemetery, a 90-ft palisade segment, and approximately 2,250 ft² of the village area inside the palisade. Mapping of postholes revealed two complete domestic structures. In addition, an oval, wall-trench sweat lodge with an interior fire pit was exposed in the southwesternmost corner of the excavation. Subsurface testing of unexcavated areas consisted of auger sampling at 2.5-ft intervals to identify archaeological features. This procedure proved to be highly reliable and was successful both in delimiting the remainder of the cemetery and in identifying areas of intensive domestic activity within the village. It was somewhat less effective, however, in providing a precise definition of site boundaries.

In 1985, a third season of fieldwork was made possible by

additional funding from the National Geographic Society (Dickens et al. 1985; Dickens et al. [ed.] 1986). These excavations exposed 62 10x10-ft units, almost doubling the total area uncovered during the previous two field seasons. The large excavated area made it possible to estimate the overall size of the village as well as to predict its internal spatial configuration. Twenty-five features and three burials were excavated. The burials were the last remaining in the cemetery, bringing the total to 12 with an additional probable burial. Six new structures were also defined as a result of the 1985 work, and approximately 100 ft of the palisade was exposed as it continued to encircle the habitation area. At the end of the 1985 field season, it was estimated that the village compound within the palisade was small, comprising only about .25 acres. A total of 11-12 houses were estimated to have sheltered approximately 50-75 individuals.

RESEARCH PROBLEMS

The exploratory work conducted at the Fredricks site during 1983-1984 provided information sufficient to answer some general questions about the period of occupation, the overall configuration of the material-culture inventory, mortuary behavior, and subsistence activities; however, it did not provide a firm basis for addressing larger problems pertaining to overall settlement structure and composition. These latter problems were addressed by the 1985 fieldwork and considered the following specific research questions: 1) Is the existing cemetery the only one on the site, and was it the result of one episode of warfare?; 2) What were the habitation structures like and how were they arranged in the settlement?; 3) Did more than one tribe reside in the village?; and 4) What was the size and overall pattern of

the settlement? Fieldwork undertaken to answer these questions consisted of excavating the remaining burials in the cemetery, isolating domestic structures in the northwestern and southeastern parts of the village, and uncovering a large portion of the palisaded village area.

Although the 1985 excavations did much to clarify the internal configuration of the Occaneechi village, additional fieldwork was proposed in 1986 to allow the total excavation of the habitation area within the palisade. Because the small village compound is unique in the Piedmont region, its complete excavation offered a rare opportunity to study the in situ remains of a spatially-bounded social unit larger than a household. And although approximately half the compound had been exposed by 1985, the intrasite patterns were still only generally understood because several structures were represented by diffuse posthole clusters. It was believed that the total excavation of the palisaded area would clarify the spatial definition and relationships of all the structures as well as expose all associated features. The data from the habitation area in conjunction with the cemetery data would permit fine-grained subsistence, social, and ritual reconstructions, and allow accurate estimates of population size. Sampling biases that plague most archaeological investigations would be reduced to a minimum. A detailed knowledge of the village spatial structure would also provide an excellent comparative background for assessing smaller scale excavations at other Contact Period sites and facilitate the reconstruction of intrasite patterns from relatively small excavated samples. This phase of fieldwork was again supported by the National Geographic Society.

In addition to uncovering the remainder of the village compound, the extent of a slightly earlier occupation outside the palisade in the

northern part of the site was also to be explored by auger tests in 1986. Unfortunately, extremely dry and compact soil conditions prohibited the implementation of this phase of the project. Because the palisade did not follow the regular oval outline projected in 1985, it was also necessary to excavate more squares than initially proposed to uncover all the area within the compound.

FIELD METHODS

The 1986 field season at the Fredricks site lasted seven weeks, from May 19 to July 3. The field crew consisted of 14 undergraduate students enrolled for six course credits in Anthropology 151 (Archaeological Field School) at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and 9 undergraduate and graduate field assistants. Excavations were supervised by Dr. H. Trawick Ward and Dr. R. P. Stephen Davis, Jr. of the Research Laboratories of Anthropology.

Field methods employed during the 1986 excavation were similar to those of the three previous field seasons (see Dickens et al. 1984). Site preparation consisted of bushhogging the work area (ca.200x200 ft) and re-establishing the site grid and reference point for elevations. All plowzone (0.5-1.6 ft thick) was excavated in 10x10-ft units, with soil being dry screened through 1/2-inch wire mesh using hand sifters (Figure 2). A 20-liter soil sample from the plowzone of each unit was waterscreened through 1/16-inch mesh to assess small artifact content.

Following the removal of plowzone, the bottom of each excavation unit (top of subsoil) was carefully trowelled in order to identify and record pits and postholes (Figure 3). The trowelled surface was documented by black-and-white and color photographs and was mapped at a scale of 1 in=2 ft (Figure 4). The drawings of each excavation unit



Figure 2. Removing Plowzone.



Figure 3. Trowelling the Top of Subsoil to Expose Archaeological Features.



Figure 4. Plotting Archaeological Features at Top of Subsoil.



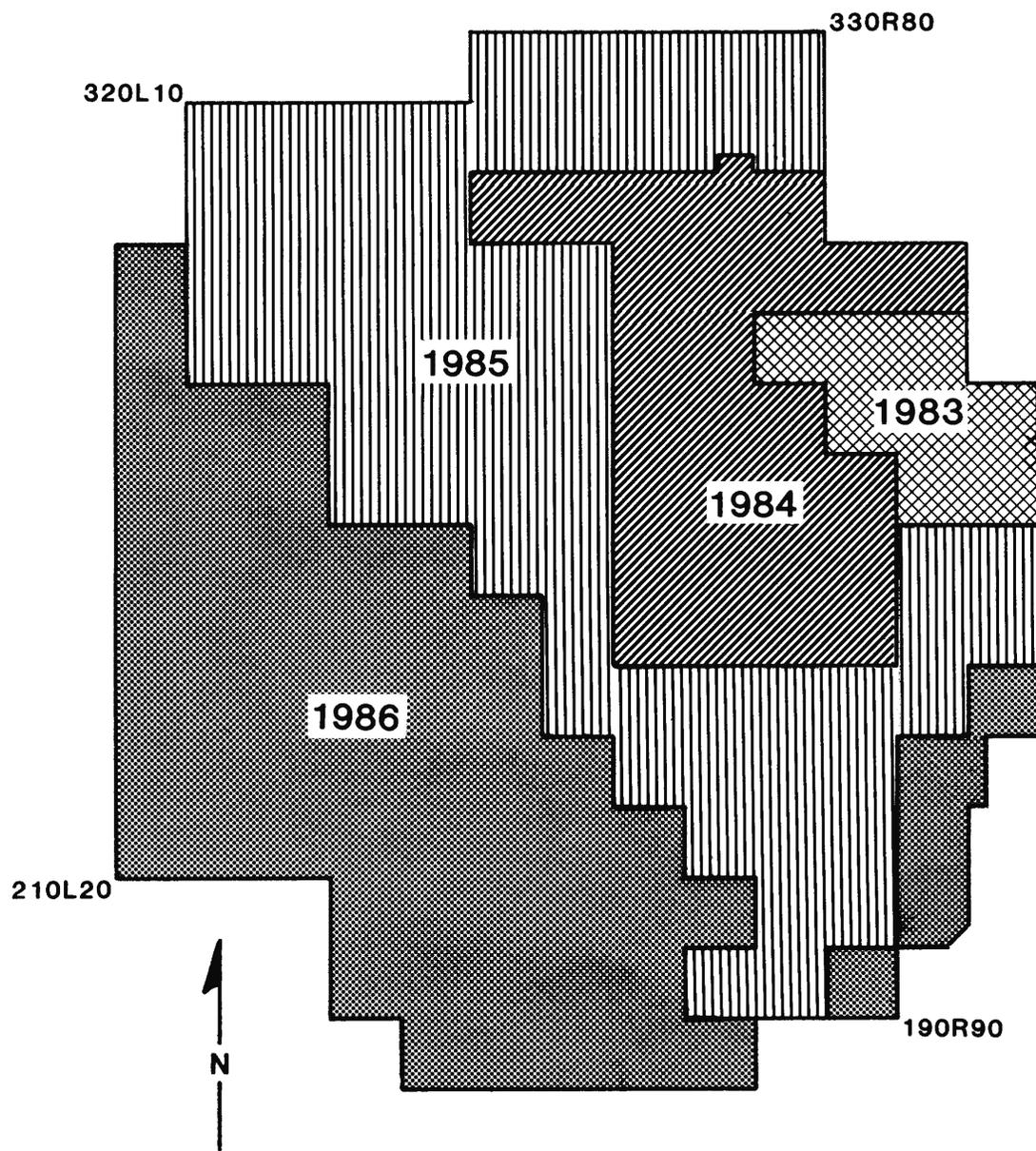
Figure 5. General View of Excavations at the Fredricks Site.

were subsequently combined to produce an overall plot of the excavation. Photographs were also made of all procedures and of the general progress of work (Figure 5). Horizontal and vertical control was maintained through reference to the site grid and by using a transit and rod to determine elevations.

Sixty-two 10x10-ft units forming a single block were excavated in this manner (Figures 6-7). In addition to these excavations, four 10x10-ft units excavated in 1985 were re-exposed.

The 1986 work at the Fredricks site resulted in the identification and/or excavation of 21 features, including two human burials, two possible burial pits, a possible hearth, an irregular trench, and 13 pit features. One probable pit (Feature 60) and a shallow basin (Feature 52) were not excavated. An additional 150 ft of the palisade was exposed and four wall-trench and posthole structures were identified. None of the structures were excavated; however, all of the postholes and wall trenches were systematically mapped and recorded.

Excavation of features and burials was accomplished using trowels, grapefruit knives, brushes, and other small tools. Sunscreens, constructed of wooden frames and bedsheets, were erected over features during excavation to minimize the damage to feature contents by the summer sun. Feature fill was removed in natural zones, when evident, and all fill was waterscreened through sluice boxes having a sequence of 1/2-inch, 1/4-inch, and 1/16-inch wire mesh. This technique permitted the recovery of minute artifacts, including shell and glass beads, lead shot, small animal bones, and carbonized plant remains. Standard 10-liter soil samples from each zone of each feature were simultaneously processed by flotation to retrieve very small, extremely fragile carbonized seeds and plant parts that might otherwise be lost in the



Fredricks Site
Summary of Excavations (1983-1986)

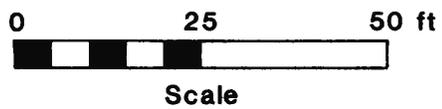


Figure 6. Area Covered by 1983-86 Excavations.

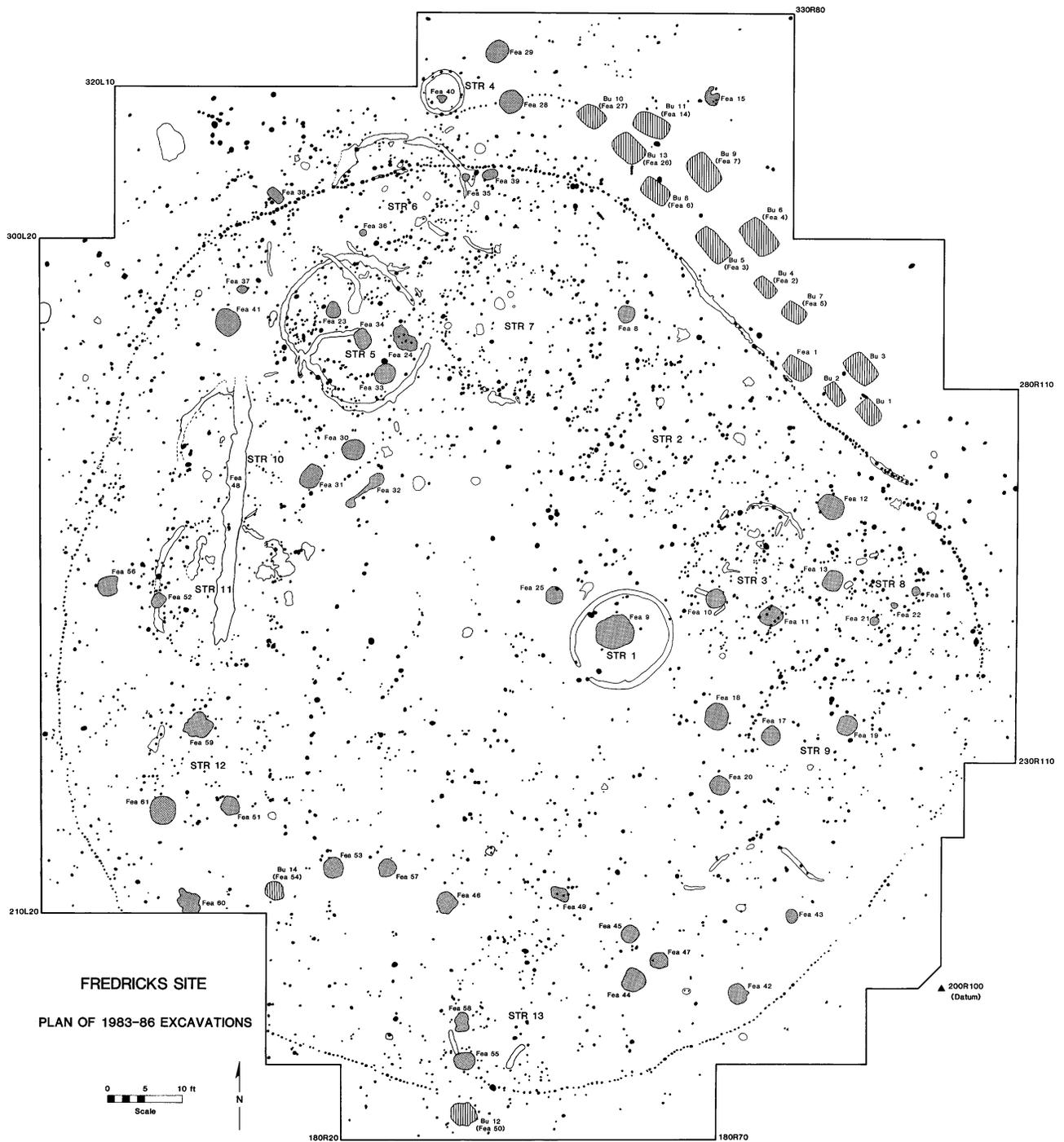


Figure 7. Fredricks Site Plan Showing the Results of 1983, 1984, 1985, and 1986 Excavations.

waterscreening. Elevations were taken following the removal of each soil zone of a feature in order to establish precise provenience for zone contents and to permit the calculation of soil volume.

After completion of excavation, all features and burials were extensively documented by black-and-white and color photography, and by drawings in profile and plan at a scale of 1 in=1 ft. Also, extensive notes were kept by all excavators in both field journals and on standardized feature and burial data forms.

A property line separated the area excavated in 1986 from the area of previous excavations. Respecting this landowner's wishes, human skeletal remains associated with the two definite burials were not removed. Neither were associated artifacts. The pits, however, were excavated, and the skeletal remains were cleaned, thoroughly examined, measured, and photographed. After being documented, the skeletal remains were covered with clean white sand and the pits were re-filled with sifted soil.

RESULTS

The 1986 excavation at the Fredricks site uncovered all the village area enclosed within the palisade except for a small section in the southwest corner where large trees prevented soil removal. Although still small, the village shape was more irregular than predicted after the 1985 field season (see Figure 7). The irregular outline resulted from the fact that the palisade "bowed-out" or expanded to the southwest, thus creating a D-shaped rather than oval configuration. Although much of the structural evidence continued to consist of vague posthole clusters, two additional wall-trench structures were defined and the pit features associated with the structures were extremely rich.

Their depositional character and contents add significant new data that will aid in clarifying general as well as specific behavioral patterns within the village.

Nineteen features and burials were excavated during the 1986 field season. Two additional features were mapped but not excavated and four domestic structures were recorded. A preliminary description of archaeological features and structures is presented below. An additional summary of burials and other features from all three excavation seasons is provided in Table 1.

Burials (Figures 8-9)

Two burials were excavated in 1986. Neither was associated with the cemetery, and both were contained in pits that were very different from those of the cemetery burials. Although human skeletal remains were absent, two other pit features were excavated that resembled burials in form and fill characteristics.

Burial 12 (Feature 50) was located in the southern part of the site, just outside the palisade in what appears to be a southern entrance to the village compound. It contained the remains of an infant about six months old. The body was placed in a shaft-and-chamber pit. Bone preservation was extremely poor, but it appears that the legs were flexed and the head pointed to the south-southwest. Brass bells, which preserved small fragments of cane matting, were found in the leg area. The presence of matting suggests that the body was wrapped prior to interment. A lead bale seal and several shell beads also were present in the leg area.

Burial 14 (Feature 54) was also located in the southern part of the site within a cluster of pit features that formed a band paralleling the

Table 1. Summary of archaeological features at the Fredricks site, 1983-1986.

Feature/Burial Number	Excav. Season	Feature Type	Center Location	Dimensions (ft)		
				L	W	D
Bu. 1	1983	Burial	276.8R90.3	3.6	2.6	2.4
Bu. 2	1983	Burial	279.3R85.8	3.1	2.6	2.1
Bu. 3	1983	Burial	282.7R89.1	4.4	3.2	3.0
Fea. 1	1983	Probable Burial	282.7R80.7	3.9	2.9	2.8
Fea. 2/Bu. 4	1984	Burial	293.5R76.5	3.2	2.2	2.1
Fea. 3/Bu. 5	1984	Burial	299.2R69.5	5.0	2.8	2.1
Fea. 4/Bu. 6	1984	Burial	300.6R75.7	5.6	4.0	2.3
Fea. 5/Bu. 7	1984	Burial	290.0R80.4	3.4	2.3	1.4
Fea. 6/Bu. 8	1984	Burial	306.5R61.7	4.0	2.5	2.5
Fea. 7/Bu. 9	1984	Burial	308.7R68.2	5.1	3.5	2.3
Fea. 8	1984	Tree Stump	290.0R58.0	2.4	2.2	2.3
Fea. 9	1984	Fire Pit	247.4R56.6	5.0	4.7	2.9
Fea. 10	1984	Storage Pit	251.6R70.0	2.6	2.3	3.1
Fea. 11	1984	Pit	249.5R77.4	3.0	2.4	1.5
Fea. 12	1984	Pit	264.0R85.5	3.4	3.2	1.1
Fea. 13	1984	Pit	254.0R85.7	2.8	2.4	1.5
Fea. 14/Bu. 11	1985	Burial	315.2R66.2	4.9	3.1	3.1
Fea. 15	1985	Tree Stump	318.8R69.3	2.6	1.5	1.4
Fea. 16	1985	Shallow Basin	253.0R96.6	1.3	1.1	0.2
Fea. 17	1985	Storage Pit	233.5R77.5	2.7	2.4	2.1
Fea. 18	1985	Pit	236.3R70.3	3.3	3.3	0.9
Fea. 19	1985	Storage Pit	234.5R87.6	2.7	2.6	2.4
Fea. 20	1985	Pit	224.0R71.5	3.0	2.8	1.5
Fea. 21	1985	Shallow Depression	248.9R91.1	1.2	1.1	0.1
Fea. 22	1985	Shallow Depression	251.1R93.7	0.8	0.7	0.2
Fea. 23	1985	Pit	291.1R20.0	2.2	1.9	1.5
Fea. 24	1985	Shallow Basin	286.0R28.5	4.3	2.2	0.5
Fea. 25	1985	Shallow Basin	252.2R48.5	2.3	2.3	0.6
Fea. 26/Bu. 13	1985	Burial	312.0R58.0	4.6	3.2	2.3
Fea. 27/Bu. 10	1985	Burial	316.5R53.2	3.5	2.8	2.9
Fea. 28	1985	Storage Pit	318.0R42.5	3.2	3.2	3.0
Fea. 29	1985	Storage Pit	324.7R40.7	3.0	2.8	3.4
Fea. 30	1985	Storage Pit	271.5R21.5	2.9	2.8	2.2
Fea. 31	1986	Probable Burial	267.5R16.0	3.1	2.2	2.0
Fea. 32	1985	Rodent Disturbance?	266.0R23.0	-Not	Excavated-	
Fea. 33	1985	Pit	281.5R25.9	3.0	2.6	1.7
Fea. 34	1985	Hearth	286.0R22.3	3.2	3.0	-
Fea. 35	1985	Cob-Filled Pit	307.8R36.6	0.9	0.8	0.6
Fea. 36	1985	Cob-Filled Pit	300.4R22.3	1.8	0.9	0.3
Fea. 37	1985	Shallow Basin	292.6R07.0	1.8	1.0	0.5
Fea. 38	1985	Shallow Basin	305.5R11.5	2.5	1.3	0.3
Fea. 39	1985	Shallow Basin	308.2R39.8	2.1	1.6	0.7
Fea. 40	1985	Shallow Basin	318.5R33.5	1.3	1.0	0.2
Fea. 41	1985	Storage Pit	288.5R05.0	3.5	3.2	1.9
Fea. 42	1986	Pit	198.0R73.0	3.0	3.0	1.8

Table 1 Continued.

Feature/Burial Number	Excav. Season	Feature Type	Center Location	Dimensions (ft)		
				L	W	D
Fea. 43	1986	Probable Hearth	209.5R80.5	2.0	1.5	-
Fea. 44	1986	Storage Pit	201.2R59.3	2.8	2.0	2.5
Fea. 45	1986	Pit	207.5R58.8	2.7	2.6	1.5
Fea. 46	1986	Storage Pit	211.5R34.5	2.6	2.4	2.0
Fea. 47	1986	Pit	203.8R62.5	2.7	2.6	1.6
Fea. 48	1986	Irregular Trench	-	-	-	-
Fea. 49	1986	Probable Burial	212.5R49.2	2.5	1.5	1.2
Fea. 50/Bu. 12	1986	Burial	212.9R11.3	2.4	2.0	1.1
Fea. 51	1986	Storage Pit	224.2R05.2	2.4	2.4	2.0
Fea. 52	1986	Shallow Basin	251.4L04.3	-Not	Excavated-	-
Fea. 53	1986	Storage Pit	216.0R19.0	2.9	2.7	2.1
Fea. 54/Bu. 14	1986	Burial	183.4R36.5	3.5	2.5	1.3
Fea. 55	1986	Pit	190.5R36.7	2.9	2.6	0.6
Fea. 56	1986	Storage Pit	252.5L09.0	2.9	2.8	3.3
Fea. 57	1986	Pit	215.9R26.3	2.4	2.3	1.3
Fea. 58	1986	Pit	195.3R36.3	2.6	2.2	0.8
Fea. 59	1986	Pit	235.0R00.6	3.6	2.5	1.7
Fea. 60	1986	Probable Pit	211.5R00.0	-Not	Excavated-	-
Fea. 61	1986	Probable Pit	223.8L03.8	3.7	3.2	2.1



Figure 8. Burial 12.



Figure 9. Burial 14.

interior margin of the palisade. In this burial, the loosely flexed remains of a 12 year old subadult were placed in the side chamber of a shaft-and-chamber pit with the head oriented to the east. Shell beads were strung around the neck and the right wrist. European trade artifacts consisted of a brass buckle and several pewter buttons in the waist area, brass rings on the fingers of both hands, and numerous white glass beads in the area of the right hip.

Probable Burial Pits (Figures 10-11)

Two features (Feature 31 and 49) possessed pit characteristics similar to other pits identified as human burials but contained no recognizable skeletal remains. Feature 31 was a rectangular, straight-sided pit (3.1-ft long by 2.2-ft wide by 2.0 ft deep) that contained a clayey fill with few artifacts and a dark organic stain at the bottom of the pit suggestive of a decomposed burial. This feature was positioned along the inside wall of Structure 10. Feature 49, situated just north of Structure 13, was a small shaft-and-chamber pit (2.5-ft long by 1.5-ft wide by 1.2-ft deep). This feature also contained a clayey upper fill containing few artifacts, and had a dark organic zone on the chamber floor that yielded a single brass thimble.

Storage Pits (Figures 12-15)

Five of the features excavated during 1986 (Features 44, 46, 51, 53, and 56) are interpreted as storage pits. These pits varied from 2.0-2.9 ft in plan dimension and ranged from 1.9 ft to 3.3 ft in depth. All were deep cylindrical pits with either straight or slightly bowed sides. Unlike several of the storage pits excavated in previous seasons, none had distinctive "bell-shaped" profiles. Fill within these



Figure 10. Feature 31.

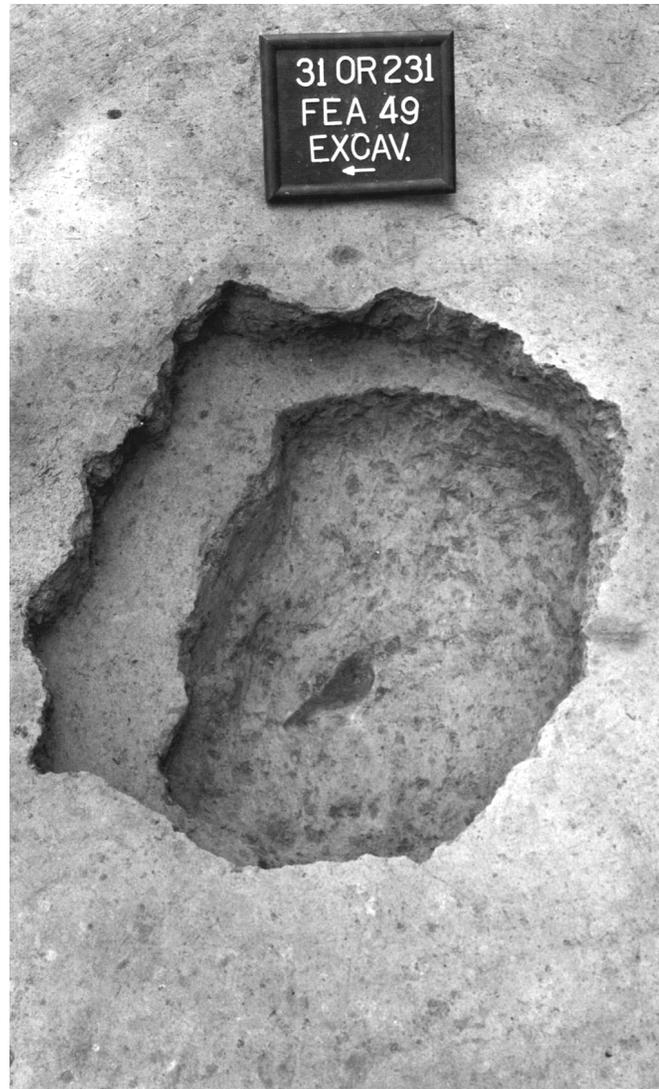


Figure 11. Feature 49.



Figure 12. Feature 46.



Figure 13. Feature 56.

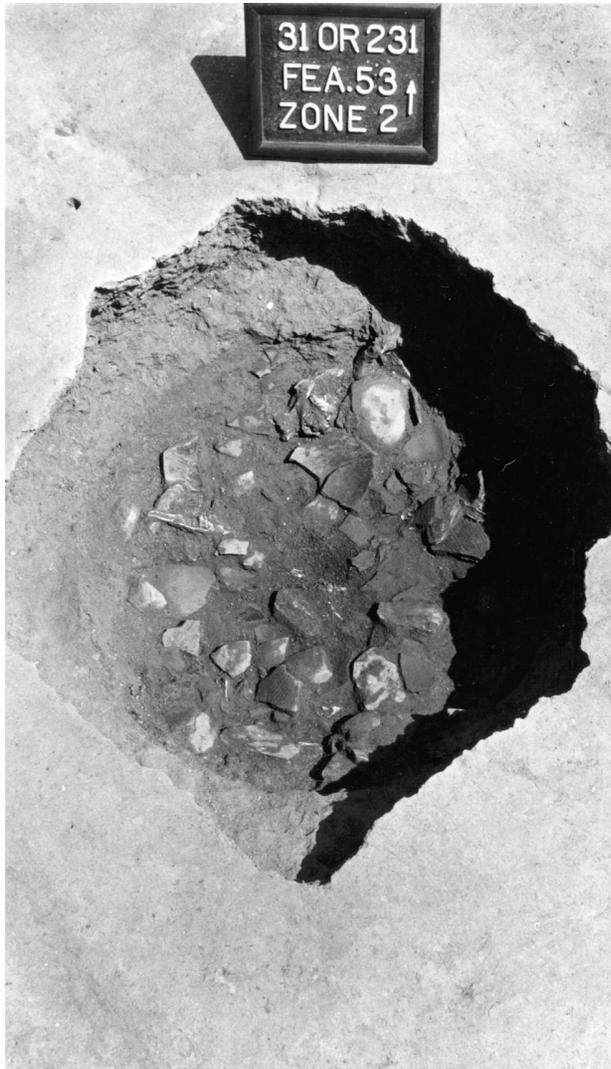


Figure 14. Feature 53, Fill
at Top of Zone 2.

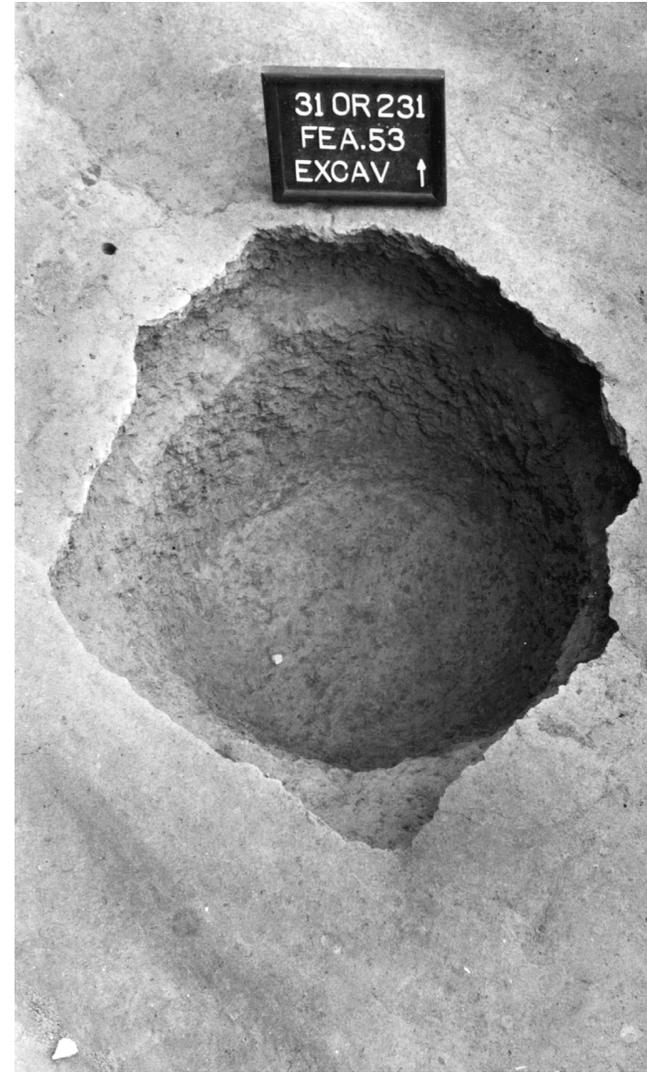


Figure 15. Feature 53, Excavated.

pits was generally rich in artifacts. All of these features are located in the vicinity of domestic structures. Feature 44 was clustered with two other pits (Features 45 and 47) just east of Structure 13 while Feature 46 was situated just northwest of this structure. Feature 51 was located within Structure 12. Feature 53 was located between Structures 12 and 13, and may be associated with an unidentified structure at that location. Finally, Feature 56 was situated between the west wall of Structure 11 and the palisade, and apparently is associated with that structure.

Pits (Figures 16-17)

In addition to storage pits, eight other pit features (Features 42, 45, 47, 55, 57, 58, 59, and 61) were excavated. An additional unexcavated feature (Feature 60) is probably also a pit. Several of these features (i.e., Features 42, 45, 47, 57, 59, and 61) may have served as storage pits; however, their shallow depth (ca. 1.3-2.1 ft) makes functional interpretation less certain. These pits were circular to oval in plan dimension (2.2-3.7 ft in diameter) and tended to be straight-sided to slightly "bell-shaped" in profile. While some of these features contained very few artifacts, most possessed fill characteristics similar to other storage pits. As with storage pits, these pit features all appeared to be associated with domestic structures. Feature 42 was situated inside the palisade between Structures 9 and 13, and may be associated with an unidentified structure at this location. Features 45 and 47 were clustered with Feature 44 just east of Structure 13 while Features 55 and 58 were situated along the southwest edge of this structure. Features 57 and 60 are probably associated with an unidentified domestic structure between



Figure 16. Feature 42.

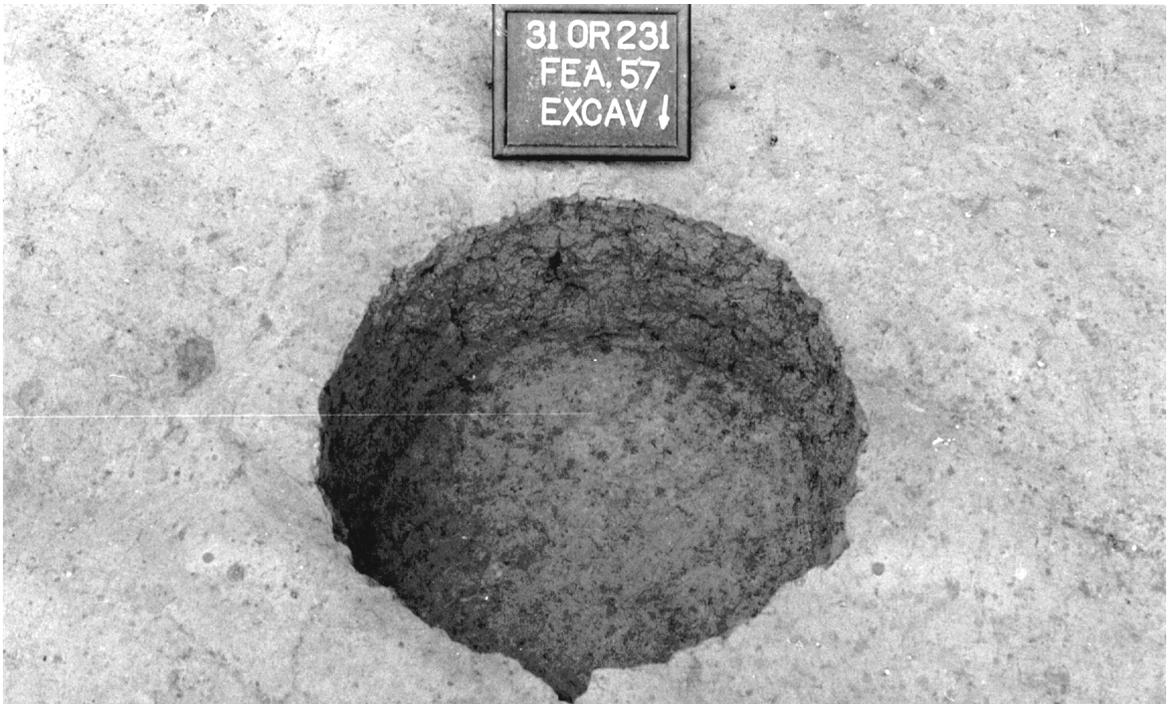


Figure 17. Feature 57.

Structures 12 and 13. Finally, Features 59 and 61 were associated with Structure 12.

Shallow Basin

One shallow basin (Feature 52) was identified during 1986 but was not excavated. This feature was oval in plan dimension, approximately 2.0 ft in diameter, and intruded the Structure 11 wall trench. Augering of the center indicated that it lacked any appreciable depth.

Probable Hearth

Feature 43, located between Structures 9 and 13, was a fire-reddened area at top of subsoil measuring approximately 1.5x2.0 ft in diameter. Augering of the center indicated that it was less than 0.3-ft deep.

Irregular Trench

Feature 48 was a long, irregular trench that ran in a north-south direction and intruded Structures 10 and 11. It was about 2.5 ft wide, approximately 0.3 ft deep, and contained small amounts of pottery, rock, and historic artifacts (mostly beads). Thin traces of this feature were observed at the north end of the excavation in 1985 but were not excavated. This earlier evidence, coupled with the 35-ft section excavated in 1986, indicate that the trench is at least 75 ft long. Although this feature certainly post-dates both structures, it does not appear to be associated with later Euroamerican activity in the site vicinity. This conclusion is based on the fact that no Euroamerican artifacts were found that post-date the Indian occupation of the site. The exact nature and function of this feature is unknown.

Structures

Before 1985, nine structures had been exposed at the Fredricks site. Four (Structures 1, 4, 5, and 6) were well-defined circular to oval wall-trench constructions. Two of these (Structures 1 and 4) probably represent nondomestic, ceremonial or special purpose building whereas the other two (Structures 5 and 6) probably served as houses. Except for Structure 7, the remaining structures (Structures 2, 3, 8, and 9) were represented by somewhat vague clusters of postholes and pit features, and probably represent the remains of houses. Structure 7 consisted of a well-defined circular alignment of wall posts. No features were associated with it.

During 1986, four additional structures (Structures 10, 11, 12, and 13) were uncovered. Two were constructed using wall trenches, and two were represented by posthole clusters.

Structure 10 was located adjacent to Structure 5 and was defined by a segment of a wall trench and several wall posts. It was oval in shape and measured roughly 18x15 ft. One pit feature (Feature 31) was located just inside the structure and another pit (Feature 30) was positioned immediately outside its northeast corner. The latter feature, however, appears to be associated with an earlier, prehistoric occupation of the site. The structure was intruded by a long shallow trench (Feature 48).

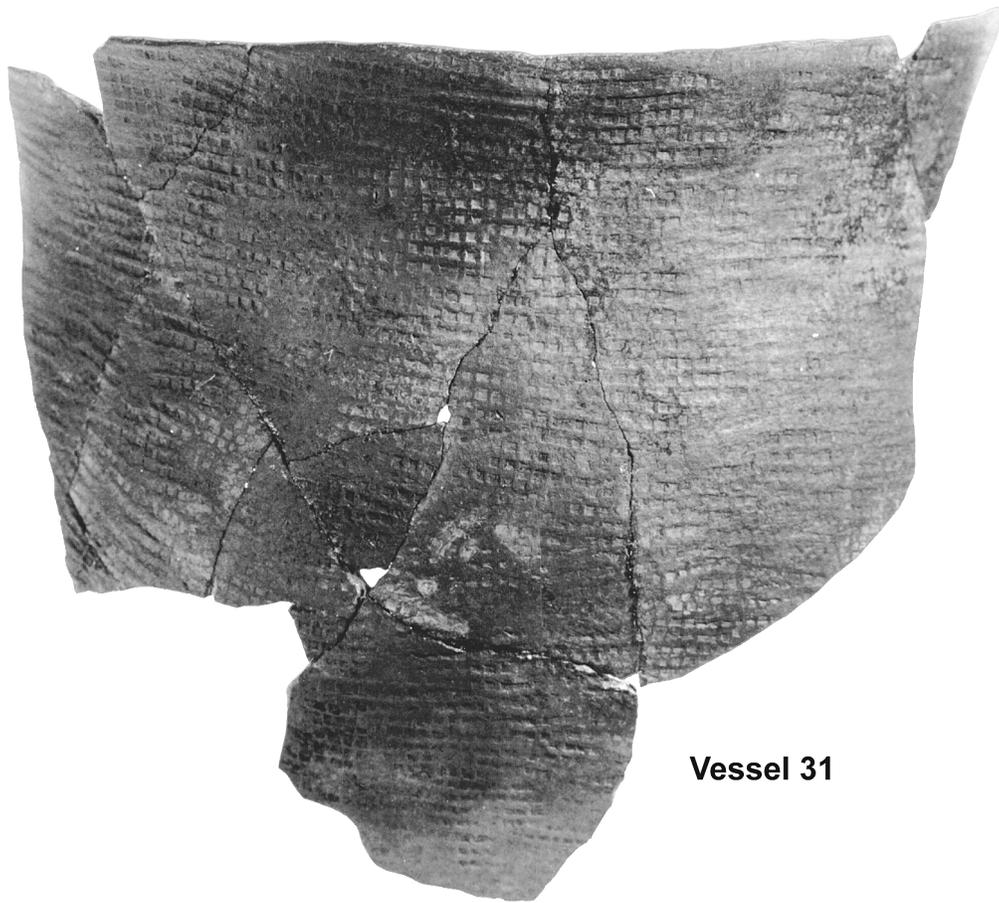
Structure 11 was adjacent to and south of Structure 10. Although a wall trench comprised most of its perimeter, individual wall posts were predominant along the southern and eastern walls. This structure was oval in outline and measured approximately 20x18 ft. It was intruded by Feature 52 and the long trench feature (Feature 48) that also intruded Structure 10. One pit (Feature 56) lay west of the structure near the palisade.

Structure 12 was an ill-defined wall-post structure located adjacent to and north of Structure 11. It was circular to slightly oval in outline and measured approximately 15 ft in diameter. Three large pits (Features 51, 59, and 61) were dug around the periphery of the structure.

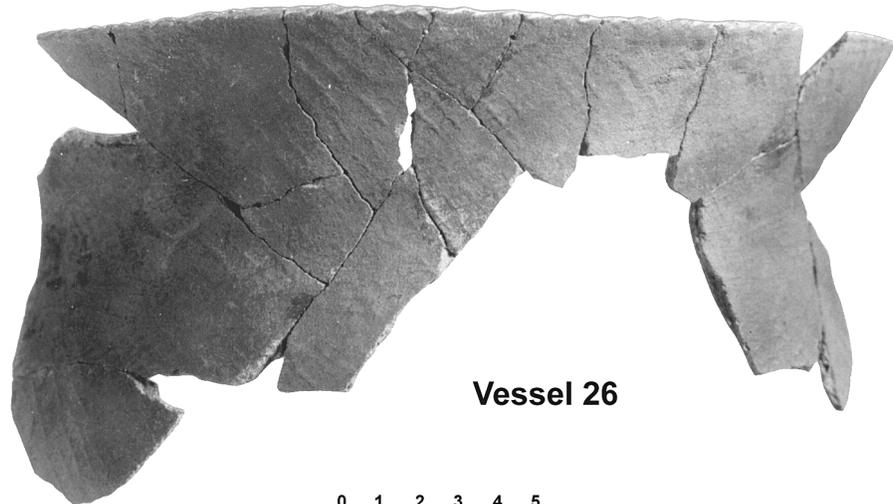
Structure 13 was the only structure defined along the southern perimeter of the site. Like Structure 12, it was somewhat vague but appeared to be represented by a circular cluster of postholes adjacent to the palisade and near the southern entrance. Two pit features (Features 55 and 58) were located inside the circle of postholes whereas several pits formed a line north of the structure, separating it from the remainder of the village. Burial 12 was located immediately to the south in the palisade entrance. Structure 13 measured roughly 20 ft in diameter.

Artifacts (Figures 18-22)

A large collection of artifacts and subsistence remains were recovered from both plowzone and feature contexts during 1986, and add appreciably to existing artifact assemblages from the site. Specific artifact categories for which substantial new collections were obtained include: aboriginal lithic artifacts, aboriginal ceramic artifacts, Euroamerican artifacts, faunal remains, and ethnobotanical remains. These materials have been cleaned and catalogued, and are summarized in Tables 2-4. Analyses of these artifact classes are in progress and, when coupled with similar analyses of samples from earlier excavations, should provide a comprehensive picture of Occaneechi material culture and subsistence.



Vessel 31



Vessel 26

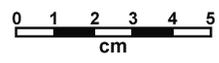


Figure 18. Reconstructed Check-Stamped Pots.

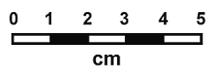
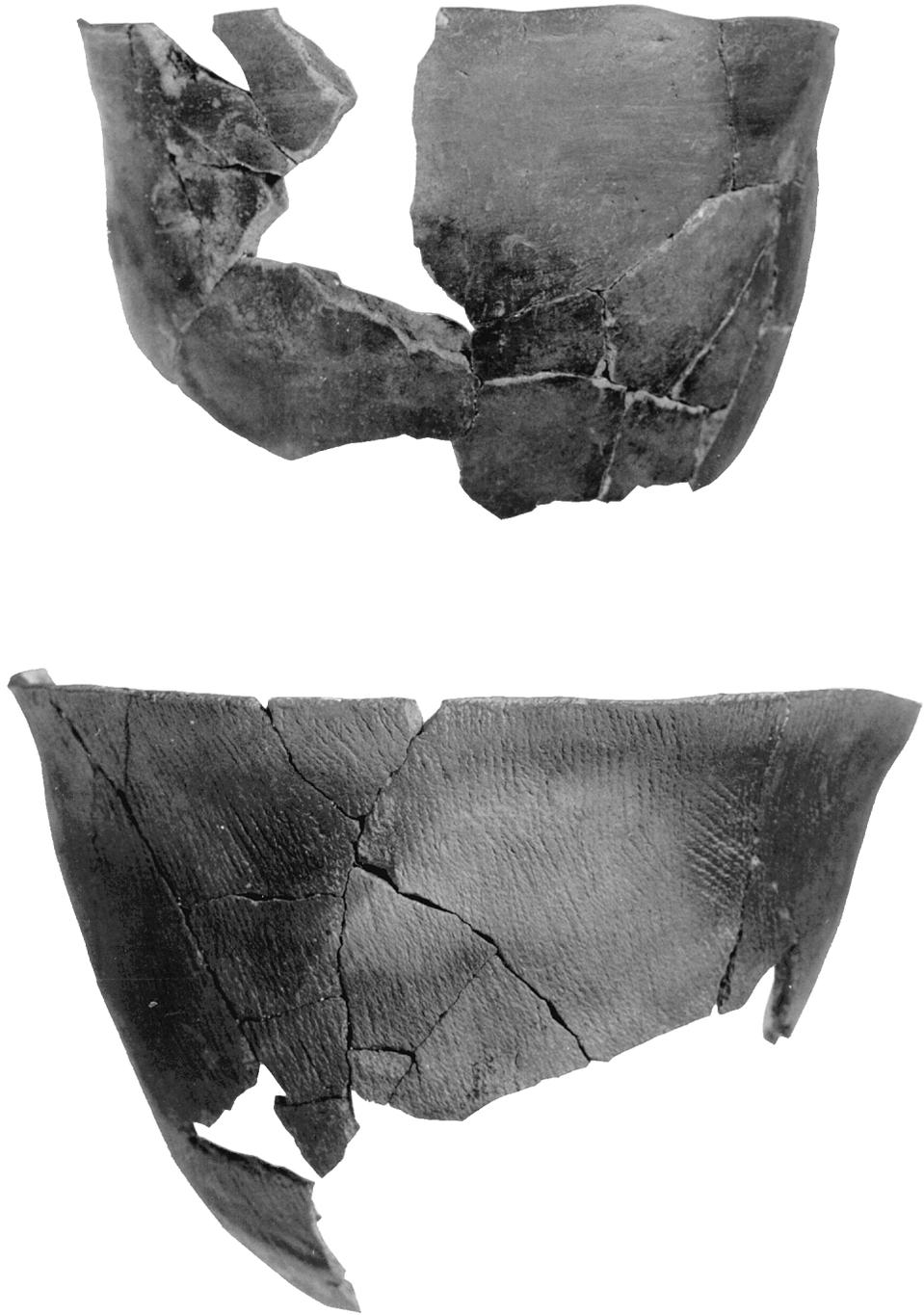
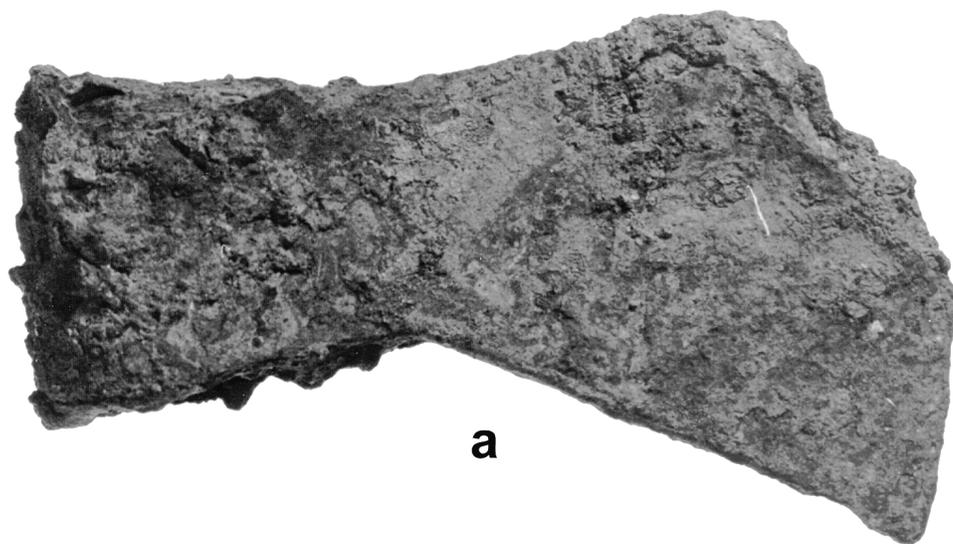
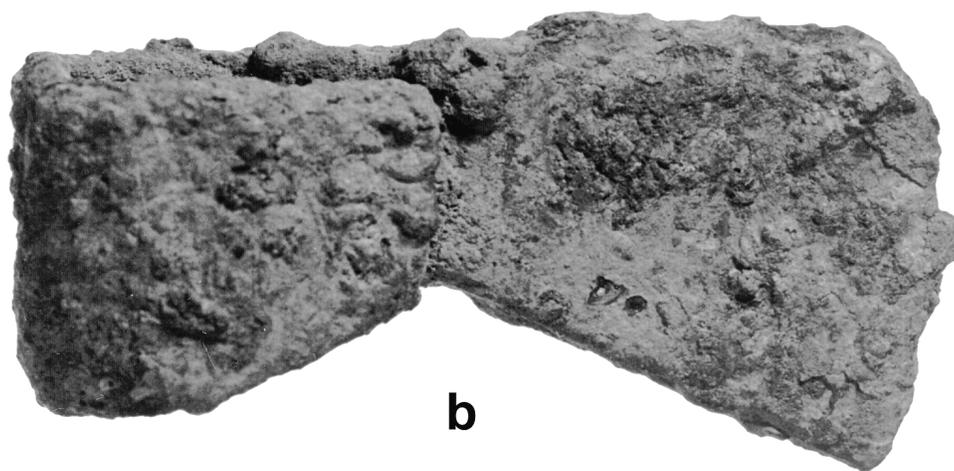


Figure 19. Reconstructed Plain and Cord-Marked Pots.



a



b



c

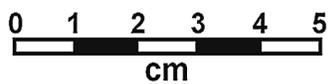


Figure 20. Iron Axes and Scissors.

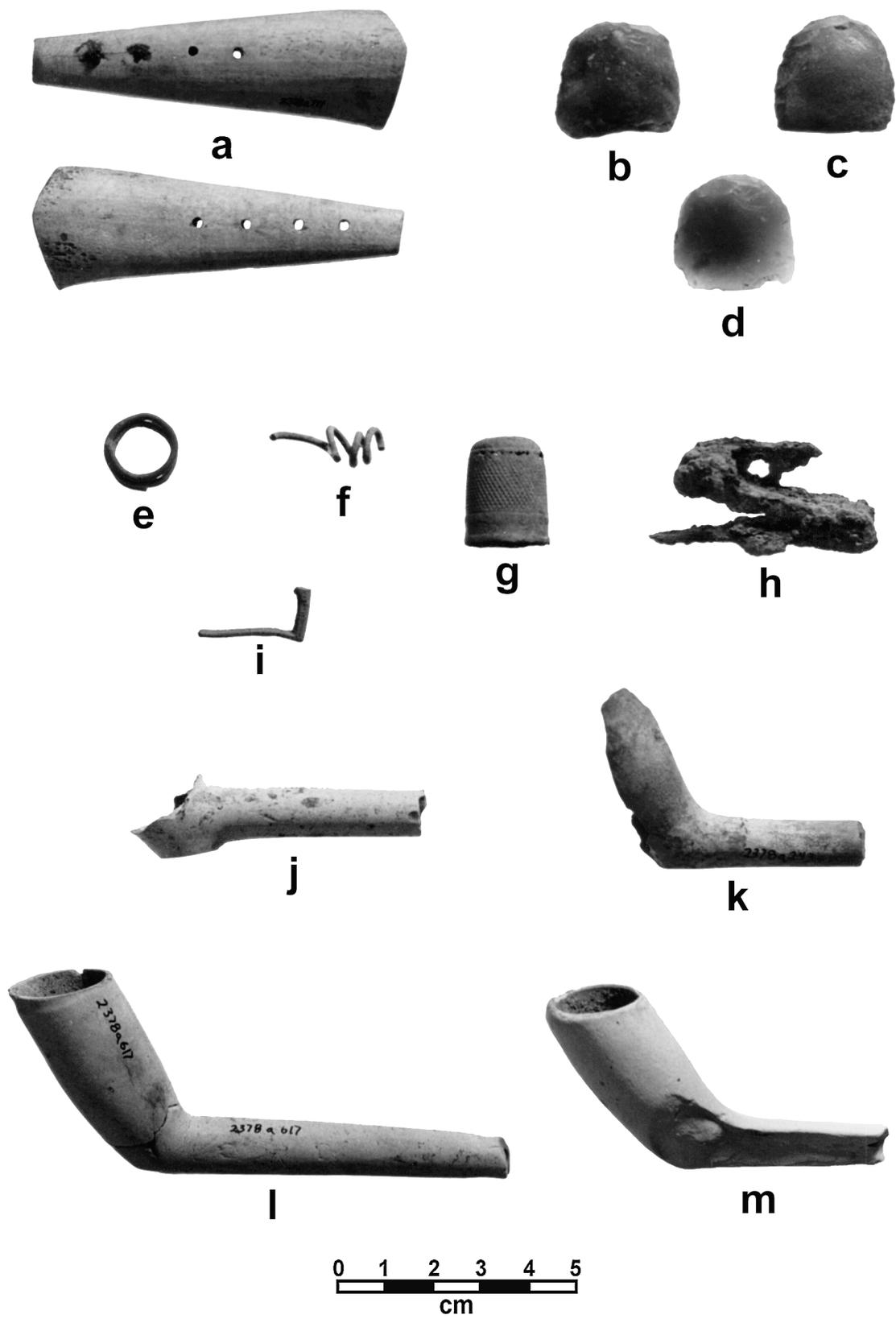


Figure 21. Small Euroamerican Artifacts.

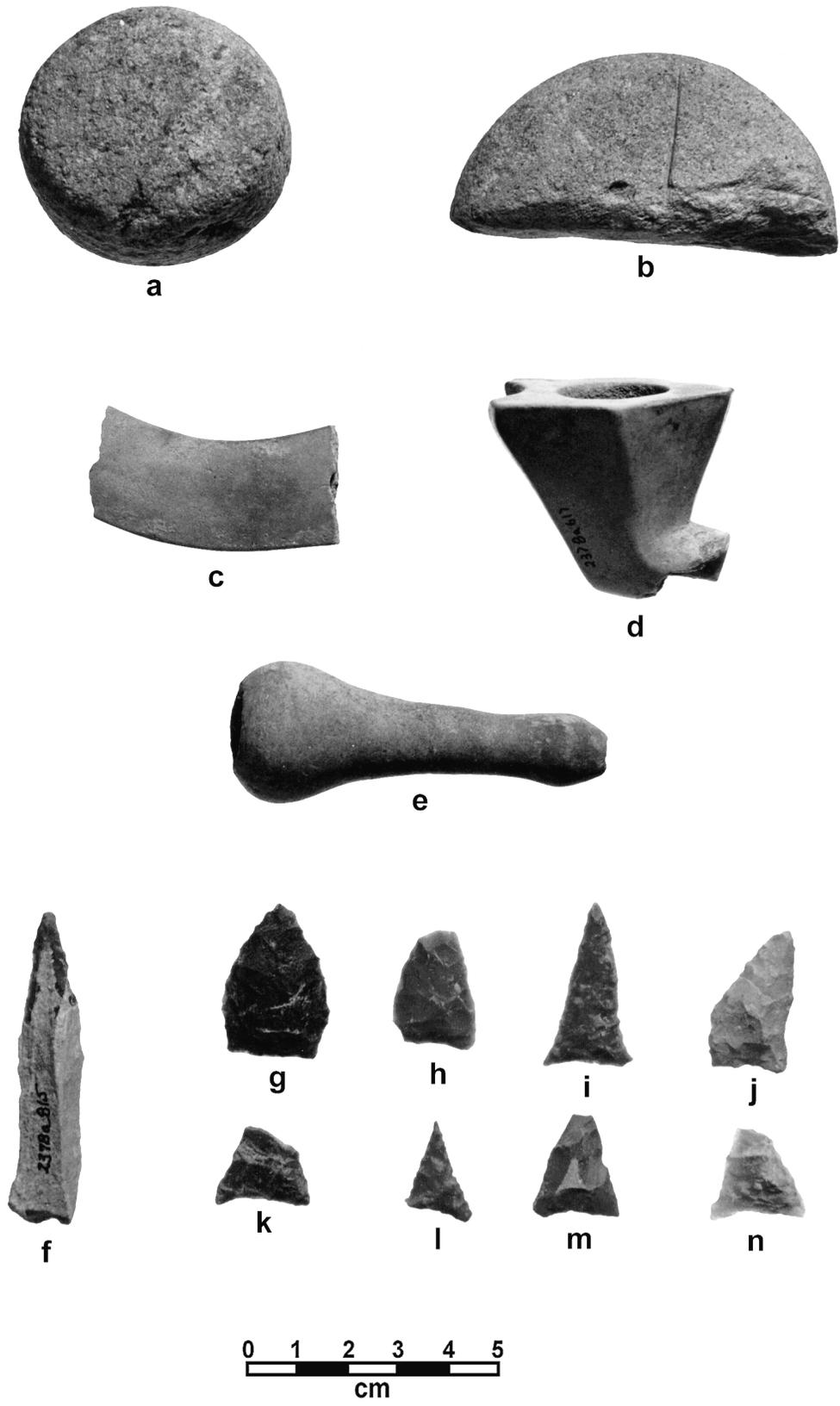


Figure 22. Aboriginal Artifacts.

Table 2. Summary of artifacts recovered from primary excavation at the Fredricks site, 1986.

CLASS			
	CATEGORY	NO	BAGS
Lithic Artifacts (Aboriginal)			
	Biface	83	-
	Celt	2	-
	Chipped Stone Disk	3	-
	Chipped Stone Hoe (?)	1	-
	Chipped Stone Tool (Large)	70	-
	Chipped Stone Tool (Small)	3	-
	Core	95	-
	Crystal Quartz	3	-
	Drill	3	-
	Flake	2031	-
	Fossil (crinoid stem)	1	-
	Graphite	1	-
	Grinding Stone	2	-
	Grinding-Hammerstone	20	-
	Ground Stone Chopper	1	-
	Ground Stone Disk	1	-
	Ground Stone Frag.	4	-
	Hammerstone	8	-
	Mano	1	-
	Mica (Raw Material)	2	-
	Pendent (Possible)	1	-
	Perforator on CSPP	1	-
	Pitted Cobble	6	-
	Projectile Point	242	-
	Quartz Crystal	1	-
	Retouched Flake	15	-
	Soapstone Frag.	10	-
	Soapstone Pipe Frag.	1	-
	Soapstone Sherd	26	-
	Spokeshave	2	-
	Stone Disk	3	-
	Stone Pipe Frag.	1	-
	Used Flake	142	-
	Sub-Total	2786	0
Ceramic Artifacts (Aboriginal)			
	Clay Effigy (bird beak)	1	-
	Clay Pipe Frag.	99	-
	Clay Sphere Frag.	2	-
	Potsherd	24537	-
	Sub-Total	24639	0

Table 2 Continued.

CLASS			
	CATEGORY	NO	BAGS
Euroamerican Artifacts			
	Belt Buckle Fragment?	1	-
	Bone Knife Handle	4	-
	Brass Bangle	1	-
	Brass Bell	2	-
	Brass Button	3	-
	Brass Fragment	4	-
	Brass Ring	1	-
	Brass Spoon Handle	1	-
	Brass Thimble	1	-
	Brick Fragment	439	-
	Ember Tender	1	-
	Glass Bead	74	-
	Glass Fragment	359	-
	Gun Frizzen	2	-
	Gun Shell	32	-
	Gun Side Plate Fragment	1	-
	Gun Sight	1	-
	Gun Trigger Guard (?)	2	-
	Gunflint	93	-
	Historic Sherd	215	-
	Horse Shoe	1	-
	Iron Axe	1	-
	Iron Axe Fragment	1	-
	Iron Fragment	166	-
	Iron Knife Blade	2	-
	Iron Nail	46	-
	Iron Spike	1	-
	Iron Tamping Rod (Possible)	1	-
	Kaolin Pipe Fragment	240	-
	Lead Fragment	1	-
	Lead Pipe	1	-
	Lead Shot	35	-
	Lead Sprue	2	-
	Marble	1	-
	Metal Button	1	-
	Misc. Metal Fragment	306	-
	Pewter Fragment	1	-
	Pewter Pipe Stem	1	-
	Sub-Total	2045	0
Faunal Remains			
	Animal Bone	284	1
	Shell	2	-
	Sub-Total	286	1

Table 2 Continued.

CLASS			
	CATEGORY	NO	BAGS
Ethnobotanical Remains			
	Charcoal	-	13
	Nutshell Fragment	6	-
	Sub-Total	6	13
Miscellaneous			
	Coal	9	-
	Fired Clay	1823	-
	Heavy Fraction	-	2
	Light Fraction	-	2
	Misc. Fractured Rock (Discarded)	4880	-
	Rock (Discarded)	45470	1
	Soil Sample	61	-
	Washings	63	-
	Sub-Total	52306	5
Total		82068	19

Table 3. Summary of artifacts recovered from features at the Fredricks site, 1986.

CLASS	CATEGORY	NO	BAGS	VIALS
Lithic Artifacts (Aboriginal)				
	Anvil Stone Fragment	1	-	-
	Biface	8	-	-
	Chopper	3	-	-
	Core	4	-	-
	Flake	402	-	-
	Grinding Stone	6	-	-
	Ground Stone Disk	4	-	-
	Ground Stone Fragment	4	-	-
	Hammerstone	7	-	-
	Mano	1	-	-
	Nutting Stone	1	-	-
	Perforator	1	-	-
	Pitted Cobble	1	-	-
	Projectile Point	27	-	-
	Quartz Crystal	1	-	-
	Retouched Flake	1	-	-
	Stone Disk	3	-	-
	Stone Pipe Fragment	1	-	-
	Used Flake	4	-	-
	Worked Pebble	1	-	-
	Worked Stone Fragment	1	-	-
	Sub-Total	482	0	0
Ceramic Artifacts (Aboriginal)				
	Clay Pipe Fragment	87	-	-
	Clay Pipe (Whole)	1	-	-
	Modeled Clay	2	-	-
	Potsherd	2744	-	1
	Pottery Disk	4	-	-
	Potter's Clay	-	-	1
	Sub-Total	2838	0	2
Euroamerican Artifacts				
	Bone Knife Handle Fragment	6	-	-
	Bone-Handled Iron Knife	2	-	-
	Brass Coil	1	-	-
	Brass Fragment	14	-	-
	Brass Thimble	1	-	-
	Coil (Wire)	1	-	-
	Cut Nail	1	-	-
	Glass Bead	2358	-	-
	Glass Fragment	10	-	-
	Glass (Worked)	1	-	-
	Gun Part	1	-	-
	Gunflint	21	-	-

Table 3 Continued.

CLASS	NO	BAGS	VIALS
CATEGORY			
Gunflint Flake	4	-	-
Historic Sherd	2	-	-
Iron Axe	1	-	-
Iron Blade	1	-	-
Iron Fragment	26	1	1
Iron Object	2	-	-
Ivory Bead	27	-	-
Kaolin Pipe Fragment	33	-	-
Lead Fragment	24	-	-
Lead Shot	159	-	-
Metal Staple	1	-	-
Mirror Fragment	1	-	-
Misc. Metal Fragment	4	-	-
Scissors	1	-	-
Sub-Total	2703	1	1
Faunal Remains			
Animal Bone	5549	26	45
Bone Awl	2	-	-
Perforated Bear Claw	1	-	-
Serrated Shell	2	-	-
Shell	6	2	12
Shell Bead	191	-	-
Turtle Carapace Fragments	135	-	-
Turtle Carapace (Broken)	1	-	-
Worked Bone	2	-	-
Sub-Total	5889	28	57
Ethnobotanical Remains			
Charcoal	-	24	37
Sub-Total	-	24	37
Miscellaneous			
Clay Hearth Fragment	1	8	-
Concretions	-	4	-
Fired Clay	120	41	14
Hearth Rock w/Fired Clay	1	-	-
Heavy Fraction	-	50	-
Light Fraction	-	51	-
Misc. Fractured Rock (Discarded)	5	-	-
Rocks (Discarded)	1961	41	-
Soil Sample	-	49	-
Washings	-	79	-
Sub-Total	2088	323	14
Total	14000	376	111

Table 4. Summary of artifacts recovered from miscellaneous contexts at the Fredricks site, 1986.

CLASS	NO
CATEGORY	
Lithic Artifacts (Aboriginal)	
Flake	10
Projectile Point	5
Sub-Total	15
Ceramic Artifacts (Aboriginal)	
Potsherd	8
Sub-Total	8
Euroamerican Artifacts	
Glass Frag.	2
Kaolin Pipe Frag.	3
Glass Bead	2
Historic Sherd	1
Lead Shot	1
Sub-Total	9
Faunal Remains	
Animal Bone	2
Sub-Total	2
Miscellaneous	
Fired Clay	1
Sub-Total	1
Total	35

CONCLUSIONS

The primary objective of the 1986 fieldwork at the Fredricks site was to excavate the remainder of the village area encompassed by the palisade. These excavations were designed to provide a complete plan of the structures and facilities within the compound and to allow distributional studies of various artifact classes across the site. By studying the habitation area in conjunction with the cemetery complex located immediately outside the palisade, questions concerning intra-site settlement patterns, subsistence, mortuary behavior, and ethnicity can be addressed within the larger context of late seventeenth century culture change on the North Carolina Piedmont.

Although analyses of the data recovered during 1986 are incomplete, some preliminary statements can be offered based on observations made in the field and laboratory. In general, the features excavated in 1986 were extremely rich in artifact content and displayed depositional characteristics that should shed significant light on the questions mentioned above. The ceramic inventory was greatly increased, particularly in terms of the domestic vessel assemblage. There now appears to be greater diversity along both stylistic and functional lines than was indicated by earlier research. Numerous lithic artifacts also were recovered, and a cursory examination suggests a much greater use of ground-stone tools than previously suspected. An analysis of the new subsistence data not only should increase the overall inventories of floral and faunal remains but, when coupled with a study of refuse disposal modes, also should crystallize important behavioral inferences. For example, the data suggest the possibility that refuse in some of the pit features may not simply reflect everyday domestic discard. It may

also have ritualistic implications that heretofore have not been obvious.

The presence of at least two additional burials located well away from the cemetery has important sociopolitical ramifications. Their segregation from the other burials and the fact that associated Euroamerican trade goods date them to roughly the same time period as the cemetery support the interpretation that different ethnic groups simultaneously occupied the site. The presence of a multi-ethnic occupation is further supported by the shaft-and-chamber form of the 1986 burials which stands in sharp contrast to the straight-sided, rectangular pits previously excavated. These shaft-and-chamber burials also lacked the distinct upper layer of refuse-laden soil that characterized most of the cemetery burials. The apparent differences in mortuary practices that are suggested by the burial data might be expected if different ethnic groups were living together in the village.

It was stated in an earlier report that the cemetery burials and their attendant evidence of ritual death feasting might reflect northern influences (see Dickens et al. [ed.] 1985). Certainly this pattern is not typical of the North Carolina Piedmont. On the other hand, the shaft-and-chamber pits found in 1986 are very similar to pit forms typically identified with Piedmont Siouan groups. The fact that they were located within the village rather than in a separate cemetery area also fits the Siouan mortuary pattern.

The size of the village compound, the number of houses contained within it, and the population estimates predicted at the end of the 1985 field season all seem to be accurate in light of the completed excavation (Figure 23). The palisade enclosed a little over a quarter of an acre on which at least 11 domestic structures were built. At any

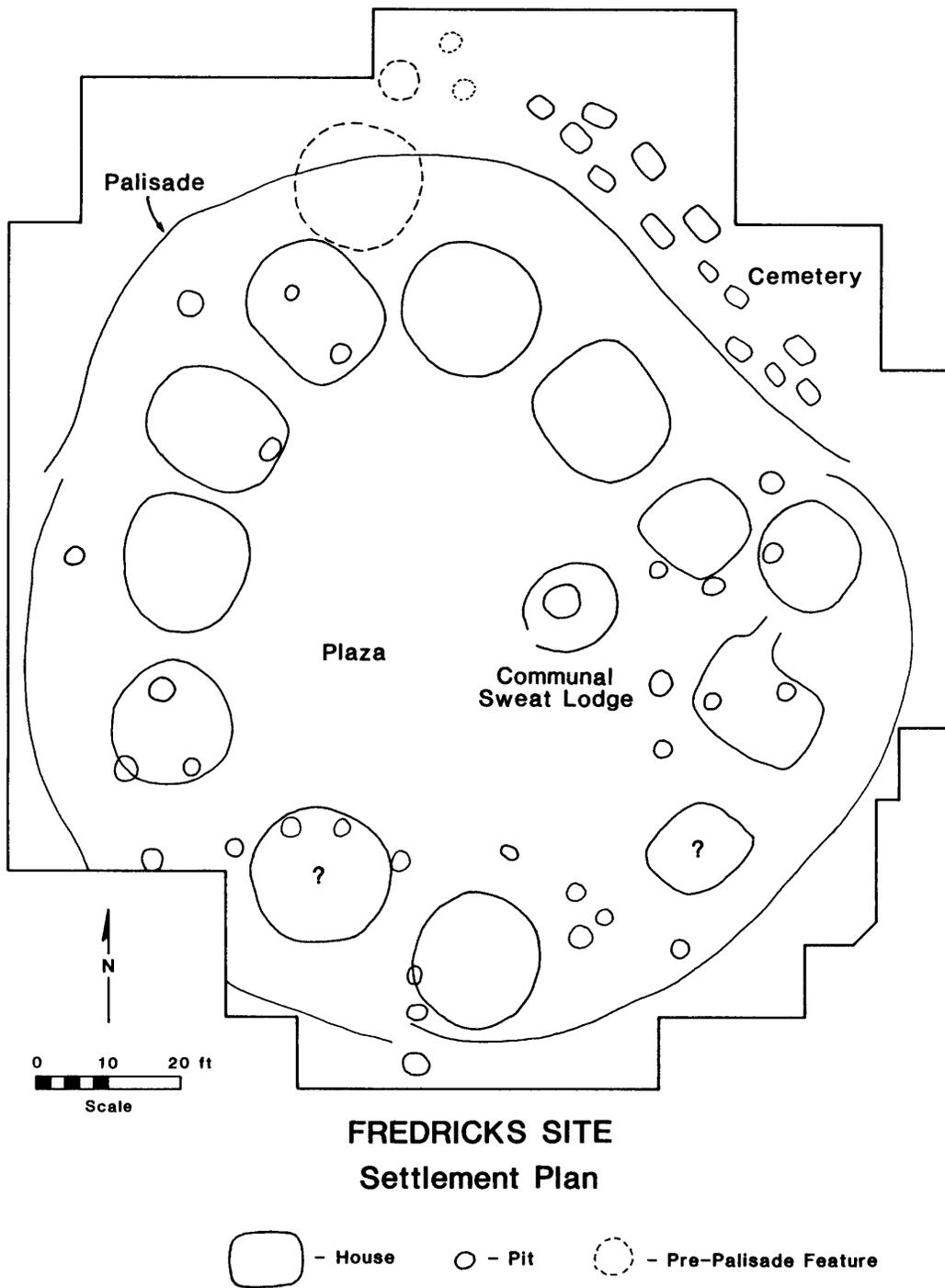


Figure 23. Settlement Plan of the Occaneechi Village.

given time, probably no more than 50-75 people inhabited the village compound and the occupation probably lasted no longer than five years. The size of the village and the population estimates support demographic models suggested by the ethnohistoric documents and contrast markedly with Late Prehistoric and Early Historic occupations on which there is adequate archaeological data for comparison.

Although the current phase of the Fredricks site research is complete, there are other avenues that should be explored through additional investigations. The question of the existence of other contemporary village compounds in the immediate vicinity has obvious and crucial significance not only in terms of clarifying the social and political standing of Occaneechi Town but also in regards to larger questions of culture change and stability. Inter-regional comparisons are also necessary to draw into sharp focus a complete picture of Indian life on the Piedmont during this most critical era.

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