

Archaeological Excavations



Mead's Tavern Basement (44CP0244)

Campbell County, Virginia

H&P PROJECT NO.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of Liberty University, Hurt & Proffitt, Inc. (H&P) has completed a full excavation of the basement at Mead's Tavern located in New London, Virginia. The Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed Mead's Tavern is one of Central Virginia's most significant examples of standing architecture. The 1763 tavern (VDHR #015-0120) lies at what was once the heart of the bustling Revolutionary Era town of New London. The tavern was situated on Lot 6, on the main road and directly across a side street from the county courthouse and jail complex. The tavern is the last of about 80 or more buildings that occupied New London during its Revolutionary heyday.

In 2015, Liberty University purchased the tavern with the goal of restoring it. This required extensive work to be done in the basement which would disturb the ground surface there. In order to test the archaeological potential of the basement and to also document the architectural evolution of the tavern and the lives of its inhabitants, 15 test units were excavated there in 2018. This led to the discovery of an end hearth which predates the ca. 1805 central chimney along with several other features and numerous artifacts.

Since the initial archaeological excavations showed the potential of the basement to yield important information, it was decided that the entire area should be excavated before any restoration work took place there. The excavations were conducted by a crew led by Dwayne Pickett from December 8, 2019, through January 31, 2020.

Excavations in the basement of Mead's Tavern uncovered numerous features as well as over 14,000 artifacts. Additional remains of the end hearth were uncovered along with several pit features. These features were typically small and shallow but there were two larger, deeper pits located near the hearth. In the utility room at the southeastern end of the basement, 74 small hole features were found which might indicate the presence of shelving or possibly furniture. In the main room, a possible sump and a trench were found in the northeastern section which appears to have been an attempt to keep the basement dry. Also, a possible trash pit and a trench for a possible support wall were discovered.

A majority of the artifacts uncovered date from the late 18th through early 19th centuries and are related to the use of the property as a tavern. These artifacts suggest the basement was occupied during this time period and might have been a place where people resided and/or worked. A number of personal items such as pipestem/bowl fragments, buttons, straight pins, marbles, a jaw harp and a needle case were found which demonstrates that people occupied the basement in some capacity during the time it operated as a tavern.

The results of the 2018 excavations suggested that people might have lived in the basement and the current excavations have not ruled that out. However, it is also possible that the basement was being used as a work area, possibly a scullery since cooking activities were taking place in a nearby kitchen outbuilding.

Little is known about the people who may have worked and lived at Mead's Tavern besides the owners. It is possible that the earliest tenants were tavernkeepers who rented the structure from William Mead.

Agnes Evans Gish, a Virginia tavern historian, records that in 1764 a license to operate an ordinary "at Mead's House" on lot 6 was issued to Robert Hairston and Richard Turner (Gish 2005). Turner subsequently obtained a license to operate an ordinary at his own house in New London in February 1765, though it may have been referring to Mead's Tavern, nonetheless. Hairston held licenses from Bedford County to operate an ordinary from 1766 through 1770 with no location referenced.

It is also possible that the tavernkeepers lived upstairs or even offsite and that free or enslaved laborers belonging either to them or to Mead may have occupied and/or worked in the basement. There is some potential, as well, that enslaved individuals accompanying affluent travelers may have been offered basement accommodations as opposed to sleeping outside or in one of the outbuildings.

The few 19th century artifacts found in the basement show that it was probably not occupied after the tavern ceased to operate but instead was likely used for storage. This corresponds to the period after the basement hearth was replaced with a new chimney which left hearths only on the first and second floors. A number of 19th century wine bottle glass shards were found in the utility room which suggests that wine was stored there. Also, in units 131-134, numerous coal fragments were found which suggests that coal was being stored in the basement.

Further examination of the artifact assemblage and comparisons with other areas excavated around the tavern may reveal more about how the tavern operated and the lives of those who worked and lived there. In addition, further documentary research may lead to additional insights regarding the occupants.

1. INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Liberty University, Hurt & Proffitt, Inc. (H&P) has completed a full excavation of the basement at Mead's Tavern (44CP0244) located in Campbell County, Virginia (Figure 1). The Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed Mead's Tavern is one of Central Virginia's most significant examples of standing architecture. The 1763 tavern (VDHR #015-0120) lies at what was once the heart of the bustling Revolutionary Era town of New London. The tavern was situated on Lot 6, on the main road and directly across a side street from the county courthouse and jail complex. The tavern is the last of some 80 or more buildings that occupied New London during its Revolutionary heyday.

In 2015, Liberty University purchased the tavern with the goal of restoring it. This required extensive work to be done in the basement which would disturb the ground surface there. In order to test the archaeological potential of the basement and also to document the lives of its inhabitants, 15 test units were excavated there in 2018. This led to the discovery of an end hearth which predates the ca. 1805 central chimney along with several other features and numerous artifacts. Since the initial archaeological excavations showed the potential of the basement to yield important information, it was decided that the entire area should be excavated before any restoration work took place there.

Prior to initiating the fieldwork for this project, H&P compiled historic and environmental data regarding the distribution of known and potential sites in the project vicinity. This research included a review of site files stored in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' (VDHR's) Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS), VDHR archives, Library of Congress digital map and photographic archives and local histories. A summary of that research follows, including information on all previously recorded cultural resources within a 1-mile radius of the Mead's Tavern site.

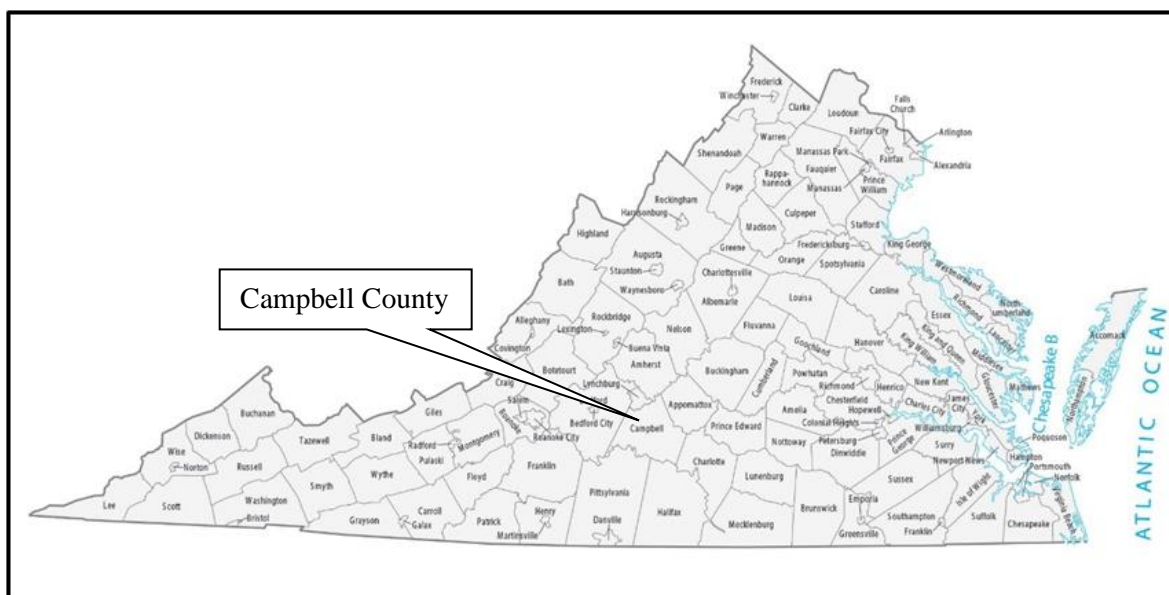


Figure 1. Project location.

The excavations were conducted by a crew led by Dwayne Pickett from December 8, 2019, through January 31, 2020. All work conducted as a part of this investigation was in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), the Archeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974, Executive Order 11593, and Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 60-66 and 800 (as revised). The field investigations and technical report meet the requirements specified in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation (Federal Register 48:190:44716-44742) and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Guidelines for Conducting Historic Resources Survey In Virginia (2011, rev. 2017). The Principal Investigator performing the cultural resource investigations meets or exceeds the qualifications described in the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (48 FR 44738-9).

2. SETTING

The Mead's Tavern Site is located in the unincorporated community of New London in northern Campbell County (Figure 2). It lies on the western side of the Piedmont physiographic province in the James River watershed. The Piedmont, Virginia's largest physiographic province, is bordered on the west by the nearby mountains of the Blue Ridge province and on the east by the Fall Zone which separates it from the Coastal Plain physiographic province. Gently rolling hills and deeply weathered metamorphic and igneous bedrock characterize the Piedmont province. As a result of this weathering, few outcrops occur outside the stream valleys. Kyanite and high quality slate are two of the economically important resources in the province (Bailey 2016).

The Mead's Tavern Site comprises a residential lot of 0.906 acres (Figure 3). The lot is bounded on the north by Alum Springs Road (Route 858), on the east by Town Fork Road (Route 623) and on the south and west by a mobile home park. The former Mead's Tavern sits at the historic crossroads on the northeast corner of the lot, as it has been for over 250 years. An aluminum carport/shed outbuilding lies to the southwest of the tavern. It is connected by an asphalt driveway to Town Fork Road on the east. The site is fairly level from Alum Springs Road southward to the paved driveway and then slopes moderately to the south from that point. Few trees are located on the site. A thick, overgrown boxwood circle lies near the center of the lawn to the tavern's southwest. The southeast property corner is marked by a large maple tree, but the entire yard south of the driveway consists of an open grassy lawn.

Soils at the site are mapped entirely as Cullen Loam (CuB)(Figure 4). This soil type is typically found on summits and hillslopes of 2 to 6 percent slope. It is a well-drained soil with low runoff that is classified as prime farmland. The uppermost layer is comprised of 0 to 5 inches of loam underlain by clay for a depth of up to 36 inches (NRCS 2024).



Figure 2. Mead's Tavern Site depicted on 2022 USGS Forest 1:24000 Topographic Quadrangle Map.



Figure 3. Mead's Tavern Site depicted on aerial image (Google Earth 2024).



Figure 4. Mead's Tavern Site depicted on Campbell County Soil Map (NRCS 2024)

3. HISTORY

Founded in 1754, New London was the first county seat of Bedford County. The village of New London was located near the crossroads of the Great Wagon Road and the Wilderness Road, which made this area a prime location for a new town. By the beginning of the Revolutionary War, the town of New London contained the Bedford County Courthouse, Mead's Tavern, and numerous other commercial buildings. Documentary evidence suggests that Mead's Tavern was constructed in 1763 and has remained intact and at its present location ever since. The former wagon road became the Lynchburg–Salem Turnpike, which in turn became today's Alum Springs Road (Figure 5). New London remained the county seat of Bedford County until the formation of Campbell County in 1781. In 2021, Mead's Tavern was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The property is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement and Commerce for trends in history related to the Colonial and Early National history of New London and the exploration and settlement of frontier Virginia. Mead's Tavern is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture because it possesses significant characteristics of Colonial and Early National period methods of construction. The tavern is also locally significant under Criterion D in the area of Archaeology – Historic – Non-Aboriginal for its potential to yield significant information through future study related to archaeology.

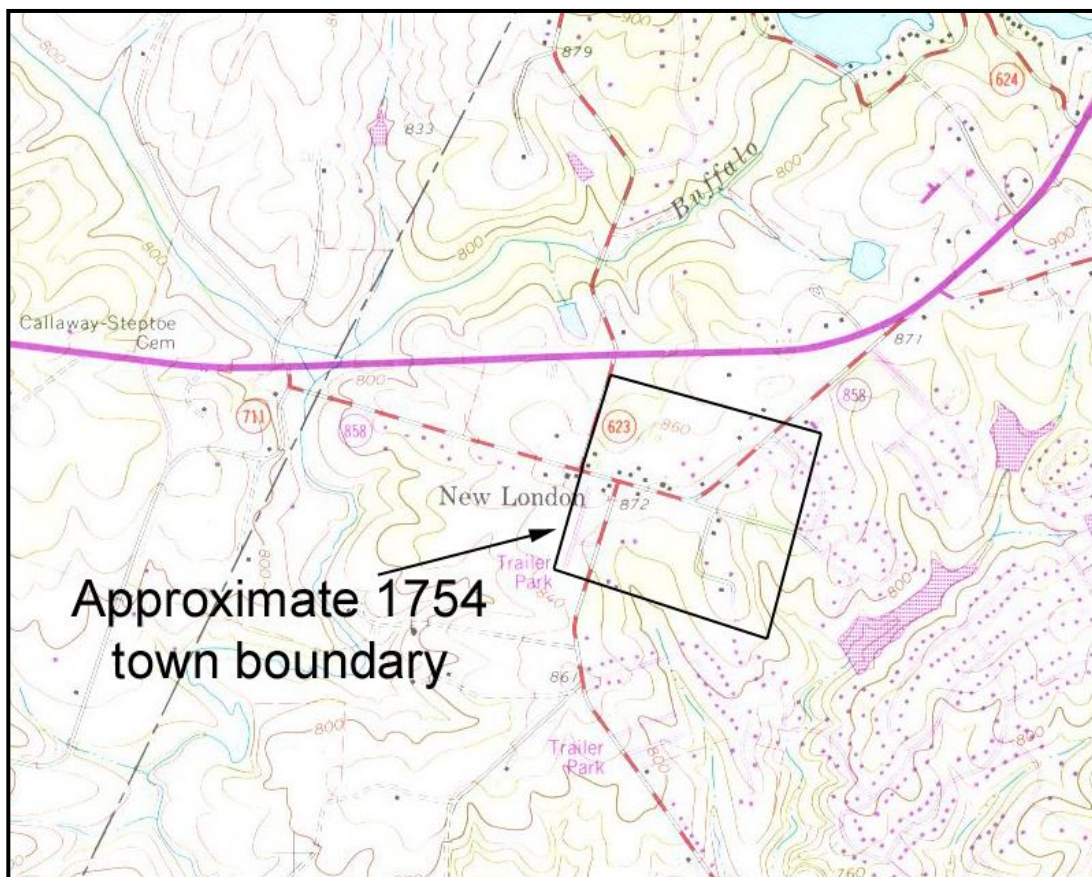


Figure 5. Town boundary of New London depicted on a current topographic map.

In 1761, William Mead and his business partner, Benjamin Howard, both trustees of the fledgling town, became the first owners of Lot 6 and several contiguous properties (Figure 6). Altogether, these comprised more than six acres at the southwest corner of town. At that time, it was common for the board of trustees to require that the purchaser erect a building of a certain size within one year and a brick or stone chimney within four years. This requirement was the basis for a Chancery Court suit that was brought against Mead and Howard by Mr. Fitzpatrick in 1767. Benjamin Howard's testimony from that case provides the construction date of Mead's Tavern. Howard stated that he had "a very magnificent house erected on the said lot 6 in the year 1763 (Bedford County Chancery Court Records 1767)." The case also reveals that Howard and Mead had erected a temporary structure on the lot prior to 1763. That building was sold to a neighbor, William Inglis, who rolled the structure down the main street on logs to his own lot.

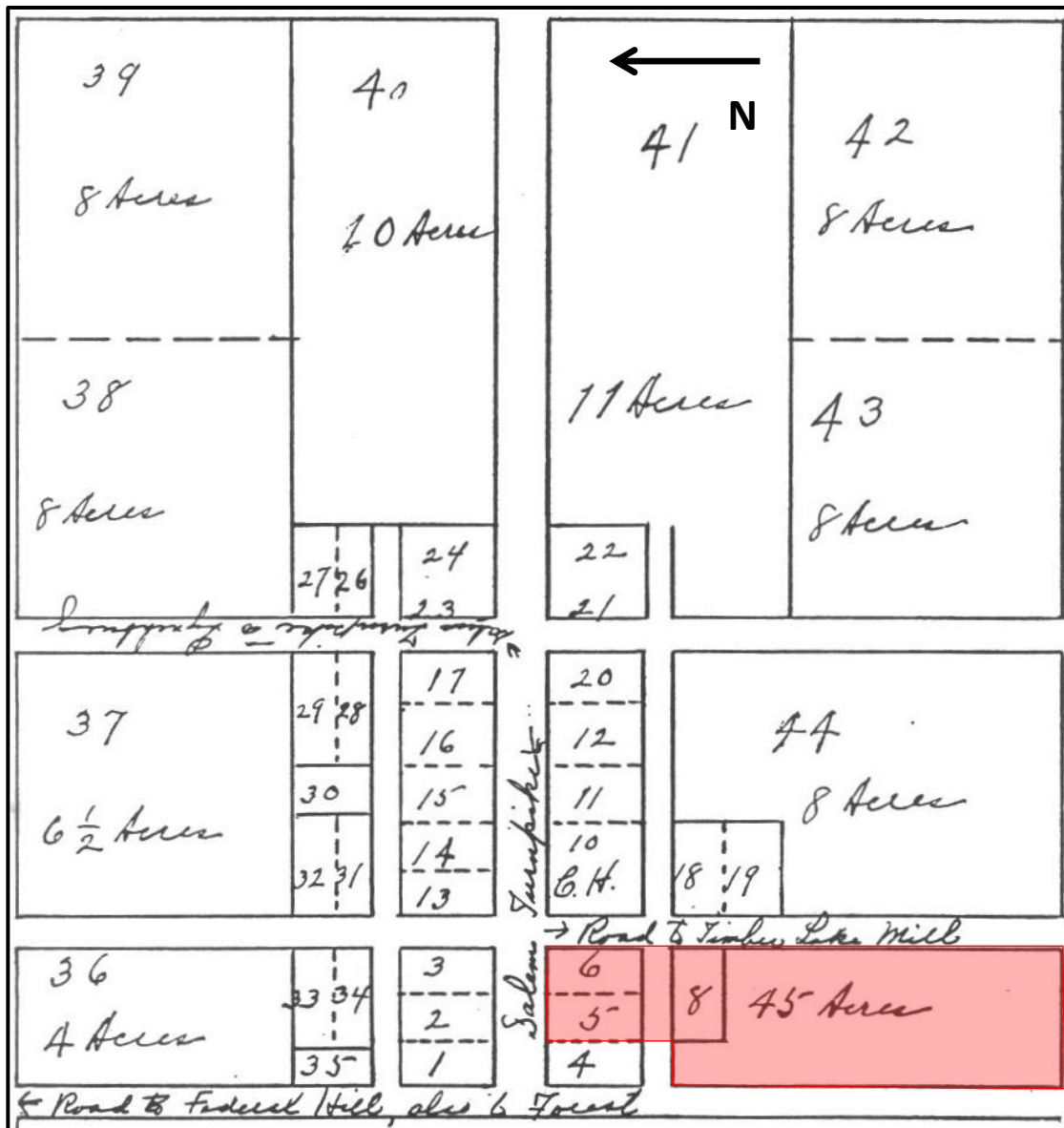


Figure 6. Annotated original plat of New London (Read 1950:29).

Mead acquired Howard's interest in the tavern and lot in 1765 and retained ownership of lots 6, 5, 8 and 45 until 1784 when he sold them to William Harris of Bedford County (Campbell County Deed Book 2 P91). The group of lots was then sold to John Mead in 1785 (Campbell County Deed Book 2 P82). John was William's son, but John would own the land for just a short time. In 1786 he and his wife, Elizabeth, sold the parcels to James Buford. It was under Buford's tenure that the land began to be divided. In 1797 Buford sold lot 5 and two acres of the 5-acre lot 45 to Thomas Reid (Campbell County Deed Book 4 P391). It was also during the Buford era that the first known depiction of the tavern was made.

A Mutual Assurance Society (MAS) insurance plat dated 1803 depicts the tavern and an outbuilding. The tavern is described as "a Wooden Dwelling 30 by 30 feet with a Porch and Portico on North Side 30 by 6 feet underpinned 3 feet above the earth." The other structure is described as "a Wooden Stable one story 32 by 22 feet one story high (University of Mary Washington 2013; Figure 7)." The policy describes the property simply as "my tenement" without indicating lot numbers or distance between the two structures. Curiously, the insurance policy was taken out by John Thompson, not James Buford. Since MAS policies were typically purchased by property owners, this suggests that Thompson had a controlling interest in lot 6. As a wealthy landowner and businessman, John Thompson may have loaned money to Buford with the tavern serving as collateral. To date no deed of trust or other documentary evidence of this relationship has been found.

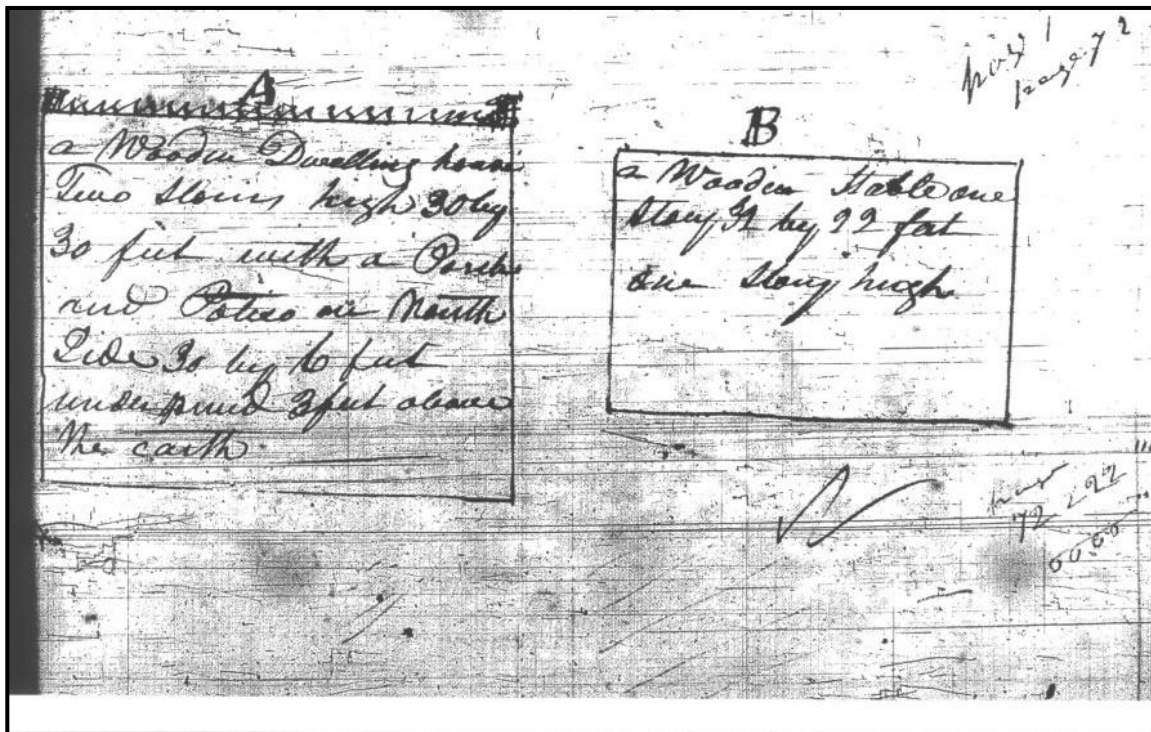


Figure 7. Excerpt of 1803 Mutual Assurance Society Plat.

In 1805 James and Betty Buford, County of Bourbon and State of Kentucky, sold to Robert Snoddy of Campbell County for 300 pounds, “three lots or parcels of ground in the town of New London and known in a plan of the Town by the figures following, viz., No. 6 being one half acre on which stands a large two storey house called Meads Tavern, No. 8 being one half acre and lying back of the lott aforesaid, and also three acres of ground being a part of the lott No. 45 which originally contained five acres, it being the part of said lott not conveyed by me to Thomas Reid (Campbell County Deed Book 7 P62).”

Apparently, Thompson's interest in the property was left intact by the 1805 transfer because in that same year, he asked for a revaluation of the policy he took out in 1803. This time he took out separate policies on the stable and the tavern. The stable is described as being on “my Lot No. 8 situated on the Back Street N London now occupied by David Hambilton(?) (Figure 8).” The plat depicts the stable as a wooden structure one story high covered with wood measuring 32 by 20 feet. It is depicted as lying immediately on the “back street leading from north to south 30 feet wide.” The orientation and relationship to “the main street leading east to west 60 feet wide” makes it clear that the back street refers to today's Town Fork Road.

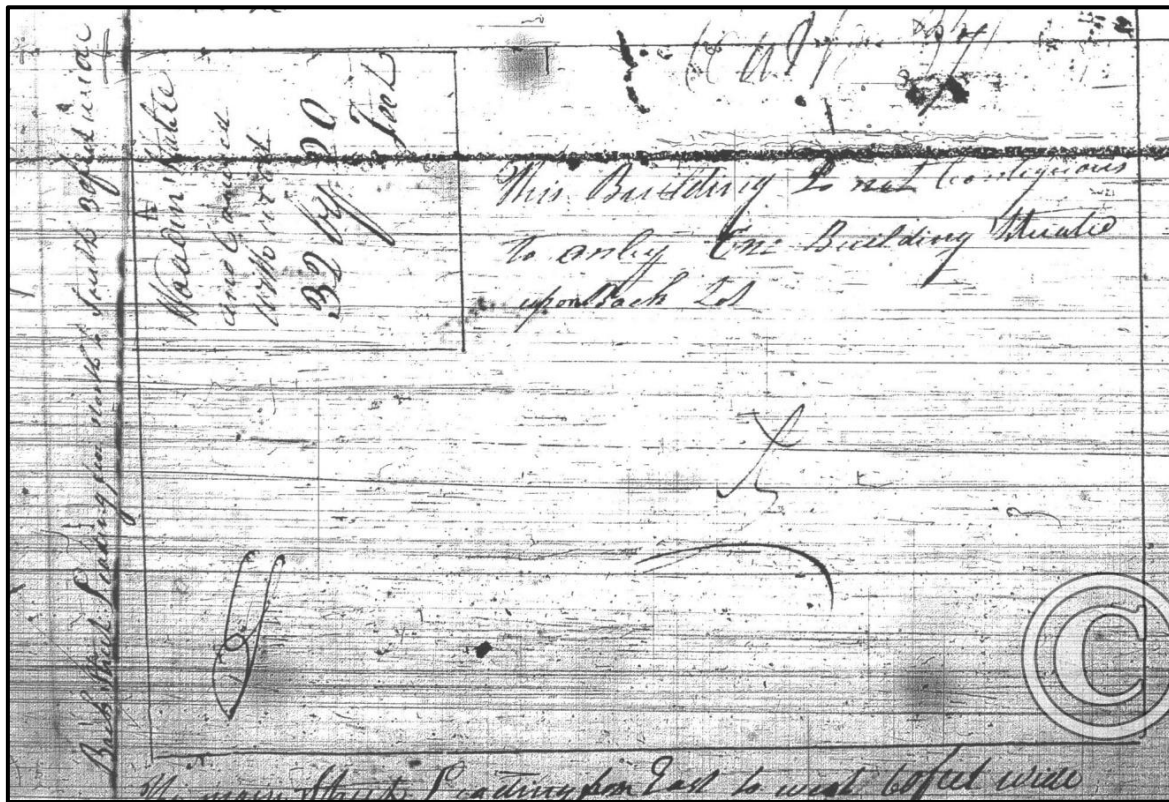


Figure 8. Excerpt of 1805 Mutual Assurance Society Plat of Thompson Lot 8.

The policy for the tavern describes it as being “on my Lot No. 6 situated on the south side of the street in New London now occupied by David Hambilton(?) (Figure 9).” The tavern is depicted with the label “wooden dwelling house 2 stories high and covered with wood” measuring 30 by 30 feet. It also features a two-story wooden portico measuring 30 by 7 feet, an end chimney and an apparent central chimney.

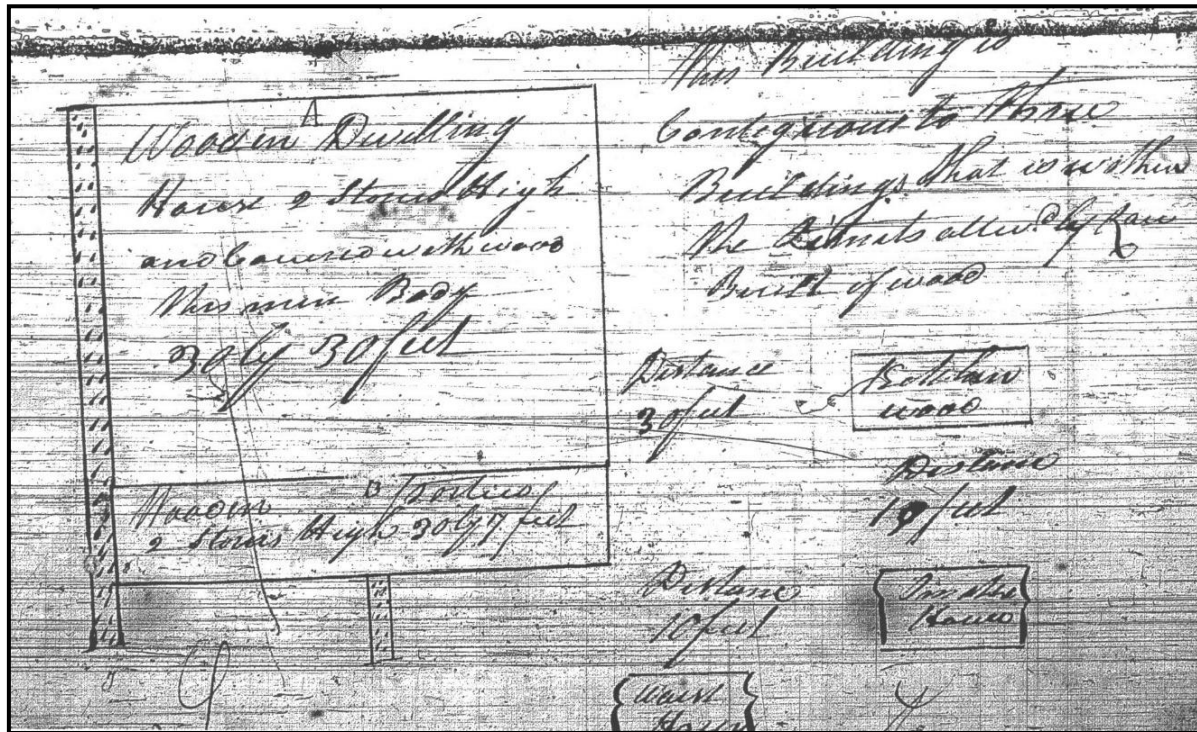


Figure 9. Excerpt of 1805 Mutual Assurance Society Plat of Thompson Lot 6.

The plat offers the first glimpse of outbuildings on lot 6. A note states that “this building is contiguous to three buildings that is within the limits allowed by law built of wood.” The buildings do not appear to be drawn to scale but are simply labeled as a kitchen located 30 feet away, a smoke house 19 feet away, and a wash house 10 feet away. The end chimney on the plat is depicted on the opposite side of the tavern from the outbuildings. However, the surviving end chimney on the tavern is on the same (west) side of the lot where the yard is located, which would be the only possible location of outbuildings. This suggests that the actual configuration of buildings, other than distances apart, was different from what is depicted on the plat. For example, the smoke house is shown lying between the kitchen and wash house, but this should not be assumed to be correct without other evidence.

Robert Snoddy owned the property for only two years before selling it to John Thompson in 1807. The land was described as “...one half acre lot number six whereon stands a two story house formerly called Meads Tavern; also one other half acre lot lying south of it and in the same position with it, being a part of lots numbered eight and forty-five...(Campbell County Deed Book 7 P610).” This newly defined lot 8 would have been comprised of the eastern half of original town lot 8, which ran east to west lengthwise, and a quarter acre of the northeast corner of Lot 45 as depicted in Figure 10. It’s unclear at present why the lot would have changed orientation. One

theory involves the fact that since William Mead's initial ownership, lots 8 and 45 had always been transferred together. So, although initially designated in the town plan with an east-west orientation, lot 8 was never defined on the ground for practical reasons. Perhaps the stable was actually constructed on the northeast corner of lot 45 and needed to be carved out of that lot to travel with the tavern it had always served. Another theory is that Buford had accidentally sold the west half of original lot 8 to Thomas Reid in 1797 when he attempted to sell him two acres of lot 45. This would make sense because the west half of original lot 8 would have covered the entire southern property line of lot 5, preventing Reid from having direct access to his newly acquired land. That would make the 1807 reconfiguration necessary to restore the full size of Thompson's lot 8.

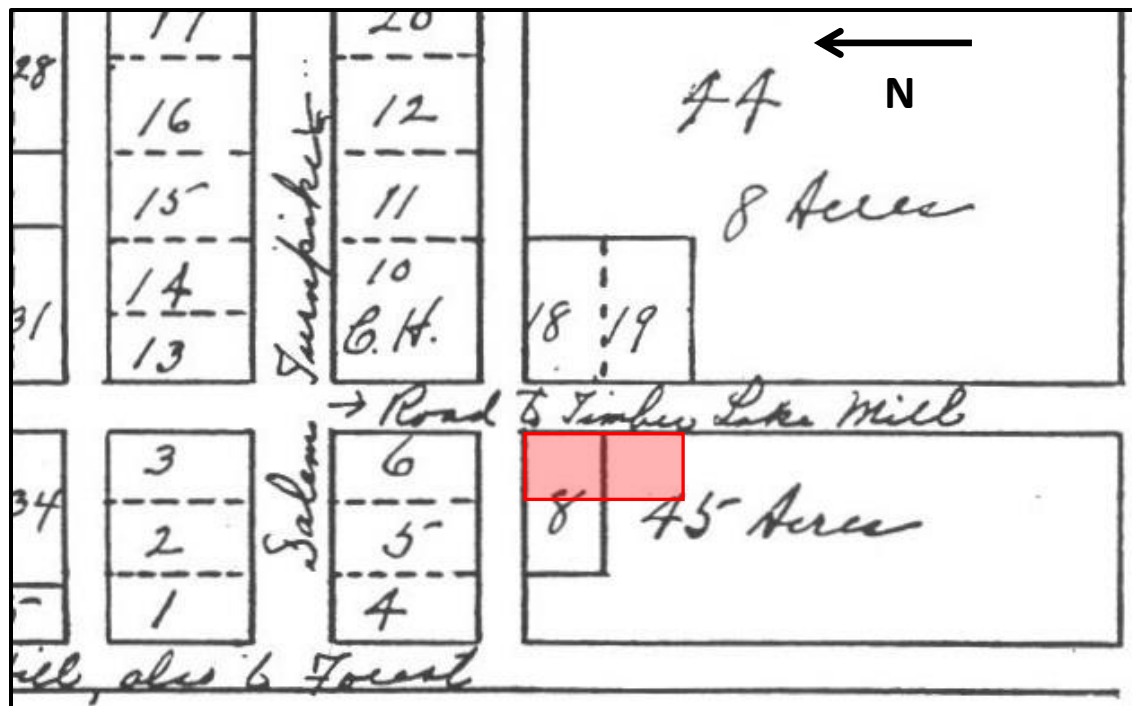


Figure 10. Excerpt from annotated original plat of New London depicting the 1807 stable lot (Read 1950:29).

In 1812 John Thompson and his wife, Syddy, sold lots 6 and 8 to James Penn (Campbell County Deed Book 9 P408). The land was described in the deed as "...two lots of land in the Town of New London "...one number (6), six in the plan of the town the other immediately back of the former on which a large stable is erected both of them half acre lots as will appear by deed from Robert Snoddy and wife to said Thompson and recorded in Campbell County."

James Penn held the property until 1815 when he sold it along with his plantation, The Grove, and other parcels to Christopher Clark of Bedford County (Campbell County Deed Book 10 P575). That deed refers to the tavern as "...one tenement in the town of New London occupied as a female academy and conveyed to him by John Thompson..."

It was during Thompson's or Penn's ownership that the former tavern became the Roland Academy for Girls. Advertisements for this boarding academy can be found in the Lynchburg

newspaper. The Historical Society of Western Virginia holds several letters written to and from the Roland Academy, including an 1817 account statement and receipt for tuition (History Museum of Western Virginia 2016). The academy presents an interesting avenue for future research and interpretation.

The Clark period was marked with confusion over ownership and was only finally settled in 1834 after a protracted lawsuit. Part of the confusion stems from a deed of trust Clark entered with James Moorman, Harvey Clark and James Bullock in 1820 (Campbell County Deed Book 12 P450). Clark was securing debts during this period and the deed of trust includes his Sandusky and Grove properties as well as "...one house and lot in the Town of New London purchased by the said Clark of James Penn." This appears to refer to the tavern lot.

In 1822 Clark took out a Mutual Assurance Society policy on the tavern through a revaluation of the policy taken out by Thompson in 1805. The 1822 plat depicts the tavern, now with a portico on the south as well as the north side (University of Mary Washington 2013; Figure 11). It also depicts the surrounding roads, with today's Town Fork Road noted as the "street by the old court house" rather than being called the Back Street as it had been on the 1805 policy. A "backstreet" which no longer exists is shown on the south end of the lot. It corresponds to an alley depicted on the original town plat. Also of note, the policy states that the property was then occupied by Sackville King. Perhaps the Roland Academy ceased to occupy the tavern that year and that was what prompted Clark to take out the policy.

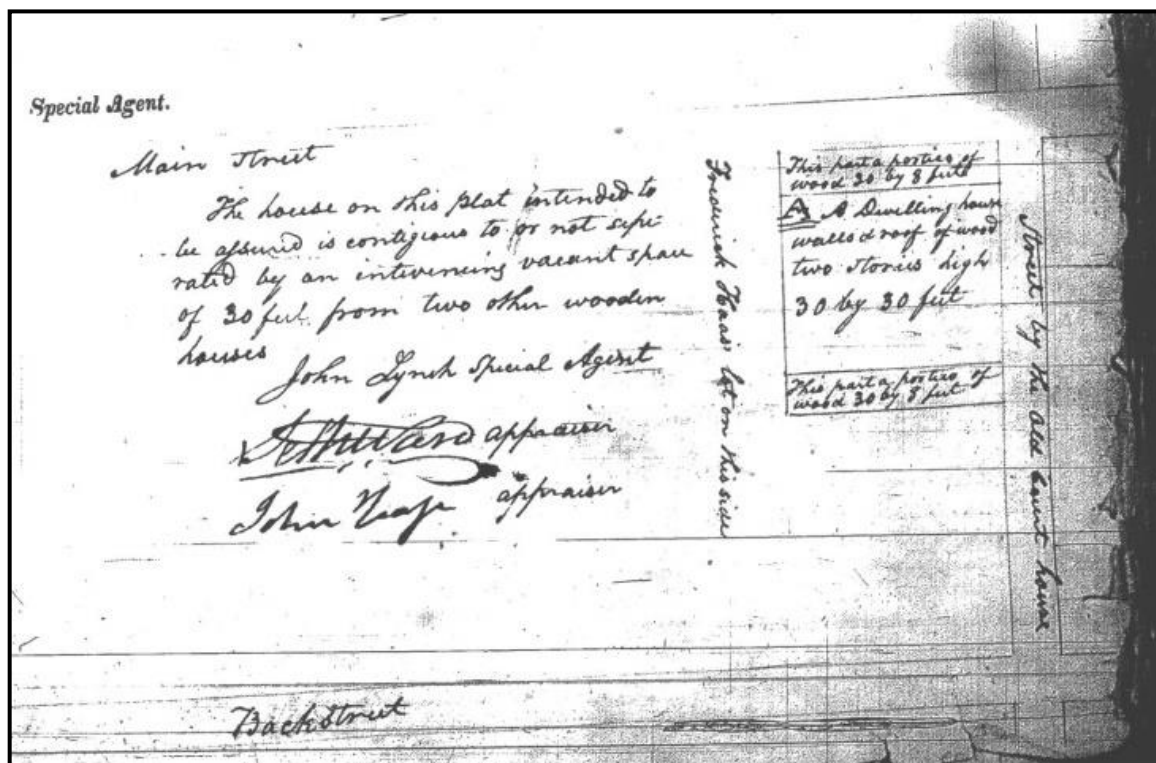


Figure 11. Excerpt of 1822 Mutual Assurance Society Plat.

The 1822 Mutual Assurance policy was the basis for the lawsuit initiated in the mid-1820s by the Mutual Assurance Society against Christopher Clark, James Bullock, Jane Wood and the executors of John Thompson (Lynchburg Chancery Court Records 1833). At some point the policy taken out by Clark went unpaid and the MAS filed suit because it was unclear who owned the property. A review of the case files at the Library of Virginia revealed that Christopher Clark had attempted to sell the property to Jane Wood. Wood made a partial payment, but when she realized there were encumbrances on the property she stopped payments and Clarke sued her.

According to Wood's statement made in 1828, she had no knowledge of the MAS policy originally taken out by Thompson. Also, because she never paid Clark in full she had no title to the property. Wood claimed that a gentleman from MAS told her that she did not have to pay on the policy because she did not own the property.

The MAS finally prevailed in 1833 and was awarded \$168.98 plus 6% interest plus court costs. The court costs amounted to several times the amount of the premiums owed and the court determined that the property should be sold to recoup the money. On June 2, 1834, a deed was recorded whereby Jane Wood sold to John H. Bailey for \$120, "land in New London bounded as follows, to wit, two one half acre lots lying on the south side of the main street known as #6 and #8, making in aggregate one acre... (Campbell County Deed Book 19 P310)."

It appears that the June 2 deed was superseded by a decree recorded later in June 1834 in which Thomas Harvey, late Sheriff of Campbell County sold to John H. Bailey by decree of the Circuit Supreme Court of law and chancery held for the Town of Lynchburg 13 June 1832 in a cause between the Mutual Assurance Society against fire on buildings in the State of Virginia, Plaintiffs, and David S. Thompson, Henry Brown, Sr., William W. Austin, executors of John Thompson, dec'd., Jane Wood and other defendants (Campbell County Deed Book 19 P319). It was determined that the sheriff should auction the following properties: sold to Bailey on 23 February 1833 to wit, one two story tavern wooden house situate on main street in the town of New London, Campbell Co. then lately in the occupancy of Mrs. Jane Wood, also a wooden stable situated on the back street and on Lot #8 of said town, Bailey being the highest bidder at \$80. In any event, Bailey would retain ownership of the property for the next two decades.

The property was sold again in 1854, 1859 and 1872 (Campbell County Deed Book 30 P333; 36 P93, and 36 P95. As the result of an 1892 Chancery Court case, lot 6 was sold to H.B. Zernow, a pastor at the New London Academy Church (Campbell County Deed Book 58 P543). The deed stated that the intent was to use the house on lot 6 as a parsonage.

An 1892 topographic map depicts a cluster of structures at New London, including one at the intersection of Alum Springs and Town Fork Roads (Figure 12). The small scale of the map, however, calls into question the accuracy of its depiction of structures. These "structures" were often simply drawn as representative of what was in a village to show its general size and shape.

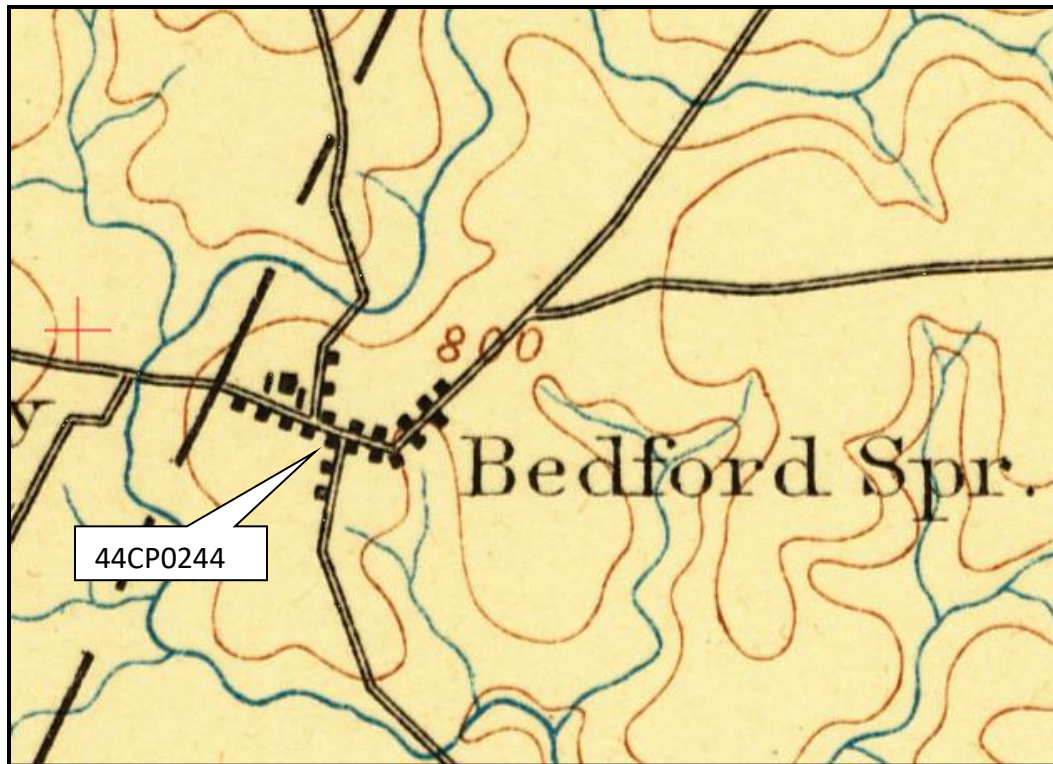


Figure 12. Mead's Tavern Site depicted on 1892 USGS Lynchburg 1:125000 Topographic Quadrangle Map.

In 1897 the trustees of the Presbyterian Church conveyed the rights to the property to Nicholas Kabler, who immediately conveyed title to his wife, G.F. Kabler (Campbell County Deed Book 65 P94). Nicholas Kabler, and his father, Thaddeus, were New London residents and physicians who used the former tavern as their office for a number of years. Only after they had built a new office on the north side of Alum Springs Road did the Kablers sell the tavern property to a Mr. R.W. Adams (Campbell County Deed Book 72 P215). This was on November 10, 1902. Adams sold the property again just ten days later to Mrs. Sallie R. Abbott (Campbell County Deed Book 72 P223). Sallie R. Abbott died intestate and her husband predeceased her, so the property then went to her six children. In 1950, Abbott's children sold the parcel to C.C. and Pansie T. Farris (Campbell County Deed Book 231 P102).

The 1950 USGS topographic map of New London presents an accurate picture of development in the village at that time (USGS 2015; Figure 13). Mead's Tavern is depicted at its present location while only a single structure remained on the block to its immediate east. By the time the USGS updated its map in 1965, even fewer structures remained (USGS 2015; Figure 14). By this point, the former town had assumed the shape of a small residential area that it exhibits today.

The Farris family retained ownership of Mead's Tavern until 1970 when the land was sold to Margaret P. Yankowski (Campbell County Deed Book 423 P492). In 1982 it was sold again to Ruby L. and Julian D. Johnson (Campbell County Deed Book 579 P 642). In 2012 the Johnsons sold the property to the Friends of New London, Virginia, Inc., a not-for-profit group. Finally, in 2015 the Friends sold the parcel to its current owner, Liberty University.



Figure 13. Mead's Tavern Site depicted on 1950 USGS Goode 1:62500 Topographic Quadrangle Map.



Figure 14. Mead's Tavern Site depicted on 1965 USGS Forest 1:24000 Topographic Quadrangle Map.

Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

H&P reviewed the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' (VDHR) Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS) for previously recorded cultural resources in the vicinity of Mead's Tavern. A review of these resources within 1 mile of the tavern identified ten archaeological sites and seven architectural resources (Tables 1-2).

Archaeological site 44BE0071 is an informant reported pre-contact scatter that has not been field checked and site 44BE0153 is an unknown pre-contact site. Sites 44CP0128, 0129, 0130, 0131, 0134, 0135 and 0143 were all recorded during a survey conducted by James Madison University in advance of construction of the new Route 460 bypass (Geier 1983). None of these sites have been evaluated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Site 44CP0295 is the Bedford Alum Springs Hotel where excavations to date have produced thousands of artifacts dating from the mid-18th century through the 20th century. It is potentially eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

In 2018, 15 test units were excavated in the basement of Mead's Tavern. This led to the discovery of an end hearth which predates the ca. 1805 central chimney. In addition, several other features were also discovered along with numerous artifacts (Lichtenberger 2019).

Site	Type	Temporal Affiliation	NR Eligibility
44BE0071		Early Archaic	Not Evaluated
44BE0153	Temporary camp	Prehistoric unknown	Not Evaluated
44CP0128	Dwelling, single	Prehistoric unknown/ Historic 1900-1999	Not Evaluated
44CP0129	Dwelling, single	Prehistoric Unknown	Not Evaluated
44CP0130		Prehistoric unknown/ Historic 1900- 1999	Not Evaluated
44CP0131	Dwelling, single	Prehistoric unknown/ Historic 1900-1999	Not Evaluated
44CP0134	Temporary camp	Prehistoric unknown	Not Evaluated
44CP0135	Dam, Mill, Raceway	Historic unknown	Not Evaluated
44CP0143	Family cemetery	Historic unknown	Not Evaluated
44CP0295	Military base/facility, Resort facility, bath/spa, Store	1750-1930	Potentially Eligible

Table 1. Archaeological sites recorded within 1 mile of Mead's Tavern.

Among the several New London area buildings recorded in V-CRIS, the most directly relevant to the Mead's Tavern Site is the New London Ordinary (015-0118). Unfortunately, this c. 1790 building has been razed to construct an apartment complex. Due to the level of ground disturbance, there are unlikely to be intact archaeological deposits on this lot. No other 18th-century structures have been recorded in the former town, although Federal Hill, the 1782 plantation and former seat of County Clerk James Steptoe, lies about a mile north of Mead's Tavern.

Structure	Name	Type	Temporal Affiliation	NR Eligibility
015-0003	Federal Hill	Domestic, single dwelling, outbuildings	c. 1782	NRHP Listing VLR Listing
015-0118	New London Ordinary	Tavern/Ordinary	c. 1790	Demolished prior to 2002
015-0119	New London Methodist Church	Church/chapel	c. 1850	Not Evaluated
015-0220	The Grove	Domestic, single dwelling	c. 1828	NRHP Listing VLR Listing
015-0221	The Grove Kitchen	Domestic, kitchen	c. 1828	Eligible
015-5007	Bridge, Timberlake Spillway Route 624	Bridge	Historic unknown	Not Eligible
015-5205	Bedford Alum Springs Hotel	Domestic, Hotel/Inn	c. 1870	Not Evaluated

Table 2. Architectural resources recorded within 1 mile of Mead's Tavern.

4. FIELD METHODS

The test units in the basement were excavated stratigraphically to the depth of sterile subsoil. All soil from the excavations was screened through 0.25-inch mesh to facilitate artifact recovery. Cultural materials were collected and bagged according to their provenience. All provenience data and a preliminary artifact inventory were recorded in the field. H&P produced digital photographs, plan views and profile views of each unit. Cultural features were mapped and photographed. Features were bisected, where appropriate, and profiled in drawings and photographs. None of the features warranted removal of flotation or other samples for future use. Soil color and texture were recorded using Munsell Soil Color Charts and standard soils nomenclature (Kollmorgen Instruments Corporation 1992). All units and features were recorded on a field map referenced to the previously established architectural plan view of the tavern basement. H&P standard excavation unit forms were used to record detailed field data.

Laboratory processing and the curation of artifacts were carried out at the H&P Archaeological Materials Laboratory in accordance with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources State Curation Standards (VDHR 2011). All recovered artifacts were cataloged using a Microsoft Access database. See digital media included with this report for the full artifact catalog.

5. RESULTS

A total of 20 test units were excavated in the basement of Mead's Tavern during the current excavations. Additionally, three test units from the 2018 excavations that were not fully excavated were completed. The layout of the basement includes a main room to the north and a utility room to the south. Because of this layout, the excavations were divided between those two areas (Figure 15).

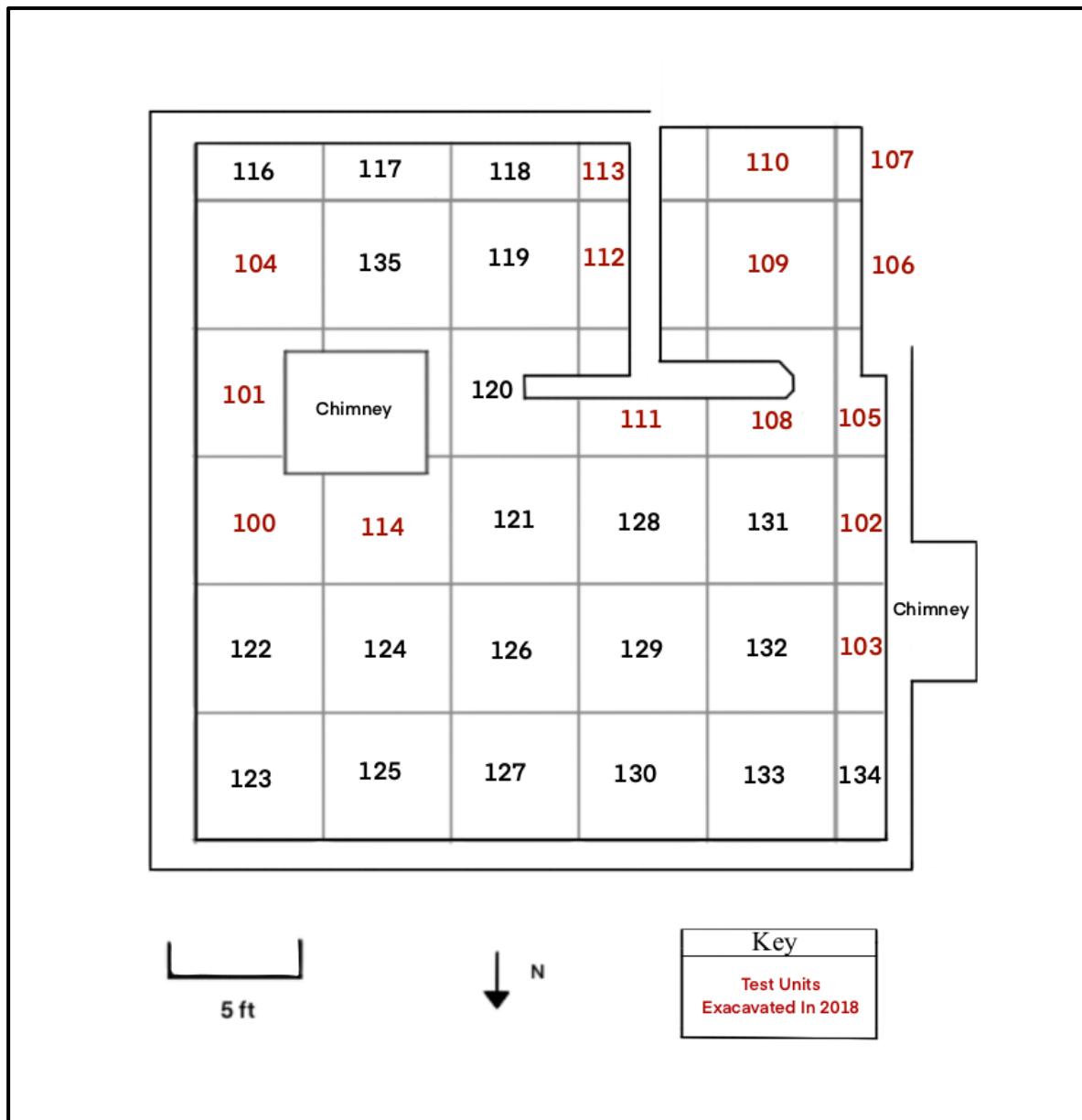


Figure 15. Test unit location map.

Utility Room

Five test units were excavated inside the utility room. All of the test units in this area contained features and numerous artifacts. Three of the units measured 3ft X 5ft (116-118) and two were 5ft X 5ft (119 and 135). Two additional units (111 and 120) were located partially inside the utility room and partially in the main room. Some disturbance has occurred in this room with the installation of a utility pipe along the southern wall, a furnace on top of unit 135 and a water heater on top of units 117 and 118. Two test units were previously excavated in this area (112, 113) with a third unit (104) not being fully excavated which was completed during the current project.

Most of the utility room was covered in gravel which was partially removed during the previous excavations and the rest during the current project. Also, a cement pad was located in the entryway to the utility room which was removed (Figure 16).

The stratigraphy in the utility room typically consisted of a top layer, context A, which was a red (2.5YR 4/6) clay loam that averaged between .19-.61ft thick. It contained a mixture of modern and historic artifacts. The next layer, context B, was a reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4) clay loam which averaged between .11-.65ft thick. Just like the layer above, this layer also contained a mix of modern and historic artifacts. Context C was a reddish brown (5YR 4/4) silty clay loam that averaged between .14-.27ft thick and contained mostly late 18th and 19th century artifacts. Several units also had thin soil lenses which were excavated separately from the soil layers (Figure 17).



Figure 16. Gravel layer in utility room looking southwest. Photo by Randy Lichtenberger.

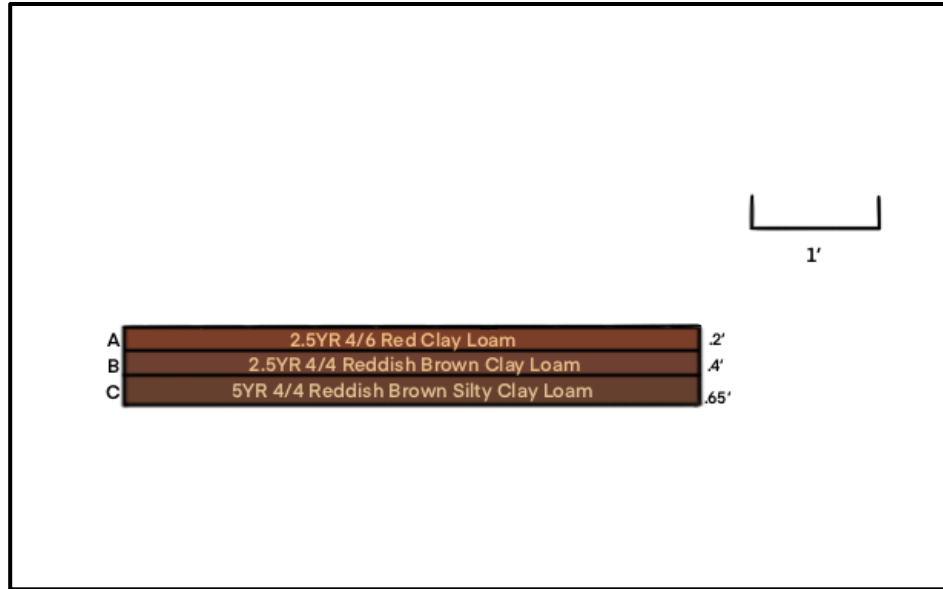


Figure 17. Representative soil profile in the utility room.

The most common feature encountered in the utility room were numerous small holes which were either round or square in shape (Figures 18-19). The round holes measured .1-.15ft in diameter while the square holes measured approximately .1ft x.2ft. These holes contained either a reddish brown (5YR 4/4) or a dark reddish brown (5YR3/4) clay loam. The exception being feature 63 in unit 119 which was a round hole that measured .4ft in diameter and was over .7ft deep with the bottom never being reached. This hole was filled with a pale brown (10YR 6/3) fine silt (Figure 20).

A total of 74 small holes were discovered in subsoil with an additional 21 being found during the previous excavations bringing the total to 95. Out of the 74 discovered during the current project 40 were round, 33 square and one was amorphous. These holes varied in depth from .02ft to over .7ft with the average depth being .24ft. Most of the holes were uniform in shape but some tapered down and were narrower at the bottom. These holes were mainly concentrated close to the walls in the utility room with a majority of them not extending out more than five feet.

Only nine of the holes contained artifacts. Two holes next to each other in unit 116 contained artifacts; one a flat glass fragment and the other five animal bone fragments. Also, two holes close to each other in unit 117 contained artifacts which were one animal bone fragment and three kaolin pipe bowl fragments. In unit 119 five holes contained mortar, plaster, fish scales and eggshell fragments.

What these holes represent is not entirely clear since they form no discernable pattern. One possibility is that they might have been made by the legs of tables or other furniture or they could be the remnants of shelving or a combination of both. A high concentration of hand wrought nails was recovered from the utility room which might have been used to construct shelves.

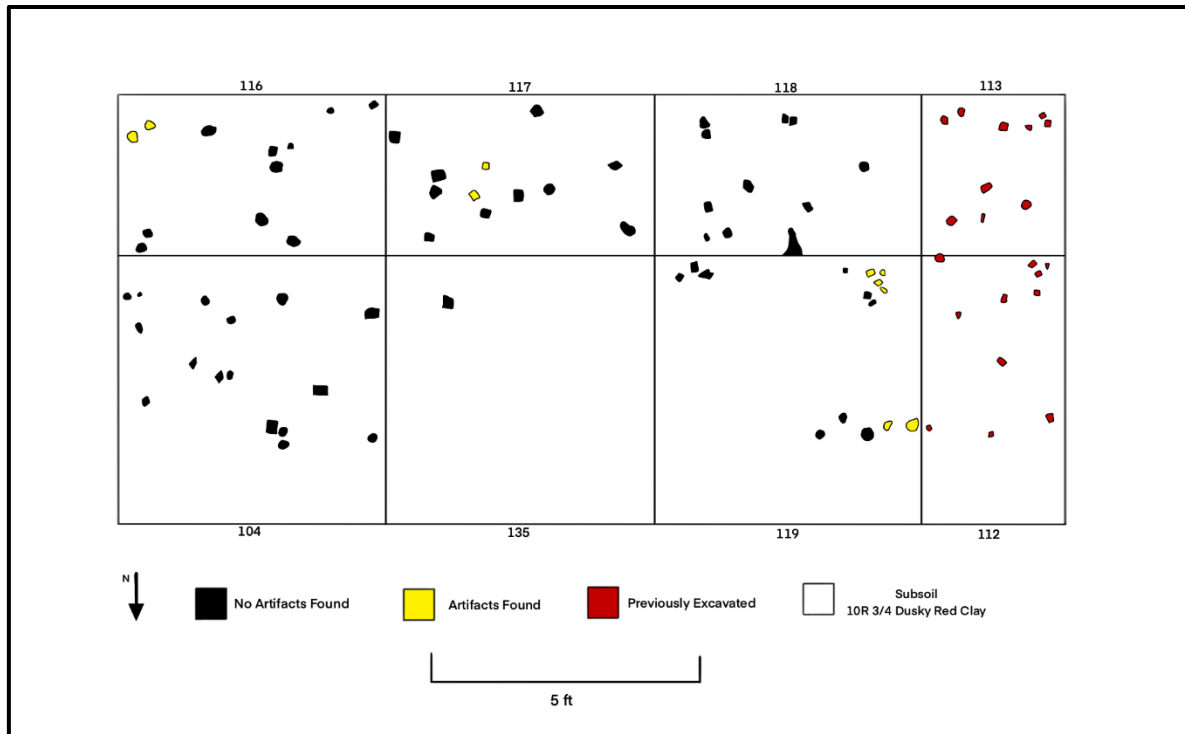


Figure 18. Planview of small hole features in utility room.



Figure 19. Small hole features (83) in unit 116 looking east. Photo by author.

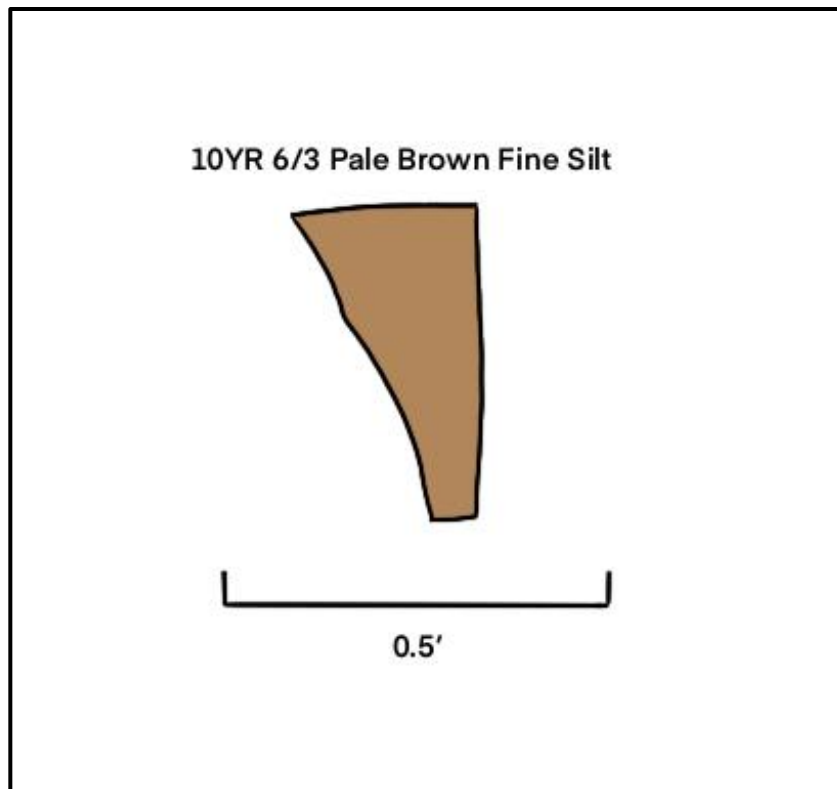


Figure 20. South profile of feature 63 in unit 119.

Besides the small holes, there were 13 other notable features discovered in the utility room. Most of the features were pits that were generally characterized by their round or oblong shape and the presence of charcoal and artifacts.

In unit 116 there was a rectangular shaped feature (28) that measured 1.8ft x 1.4ft which had the remnants of decayed wood outlining its north and west edges. This feature was only .19ft deep and was filled with a reddish brown (5YR 4/4) clay loam mottled with a brown (7.5YR 5/4) silty clay loam. This rectangular depression, which had a flat bottom, might be from a wooden trunk or crate that was placed on the ground in this area and because of its weight sunk down into the clay floor (Figure 21). Evidence that there might have been a trunk in this area comes from iron handles that were discovered in the layer above which might have belonged to the trunk.



Figure 21. Feature 28 removed in unit 116 looking east. Photo by author.

There were four features located in unit 119 besides the small holes. Appearing in the bottom of layer E, feature 60 was oblong in shape and measured .7ft X .6ft. It contained a brown (7.5YR 5/3) silty loam with charcoal and brick flecking. This shallow pit was only .14ft deep and artifacts recovered were three mammal bones, two bird bones and one hand wrought nail (Figures 22-24).

The other three features were discovered at the base of layers F and G. Feature 64 was an amorphous shaped feature that measured 1.2ft X .7ft. It contained charcoal and a brown (7.5YR 4/4) silty loam mottled with a reddish brown (5YR 4/4) silty loam. This pit measured between .20-.36ft deep and had an uneven base. Six artifacts were found which included one mammal bone, one eggshell fragment and one fish scale. In addition, two pipe stem fragments and a plain pearlware sherd were recovered which dates the filling in of this feature to after 1775.

Feature 67, which was located just to the east of feature 64, was oblong in shape and measured 1.8ft X 1.6ft. It contained a brown (7.5YR 4/3) silty loam and was .12ft deep. The bottom of this pit was flat with a slight downward slope to the west. Artifacts recovered from this feature included two mammal bones and one fish scale. In addition, 150 eggshell fragments were found.

Located to the west of feature 67 was feature 68 which was a round pit that measured .5ft in diameter. This feature was only .15ft deep and contained a brown (7.5YR 4/4) silty loam. The bottom sloped to the west where it was rounded. No artifacts were recovered (Figures 25-26).

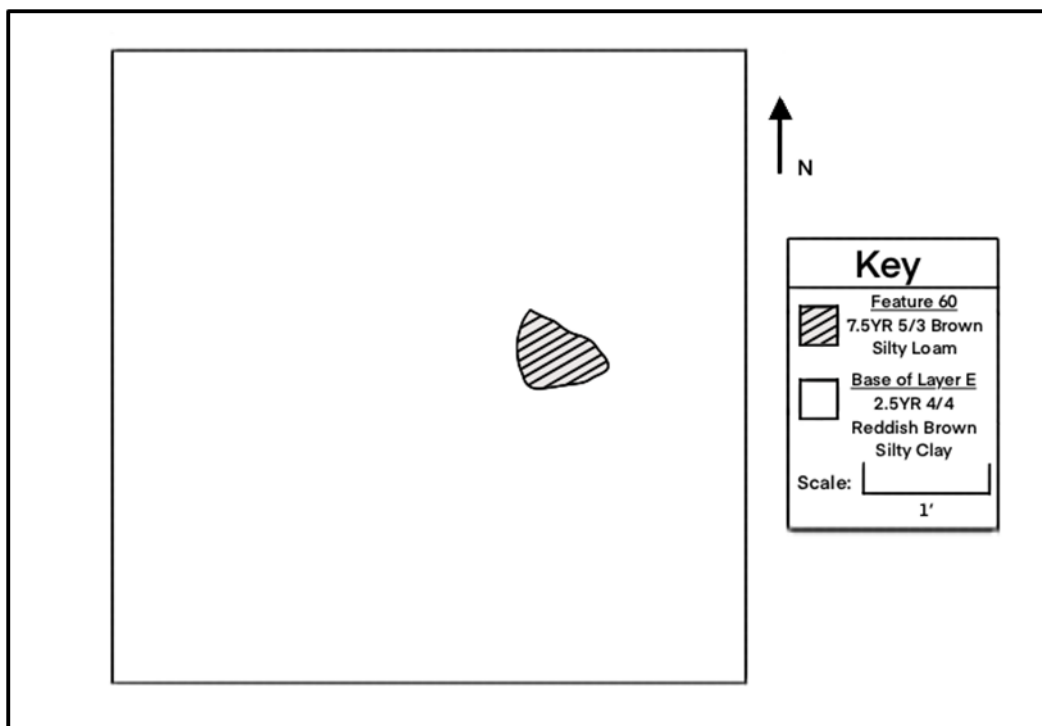


Figure 22. Planview of feature 60 in unit 119.



Figure 23. Feature 60 removed in unit 119 looking north. Photo by author.



Figure 24. West profile of feature 60 in unit 119.

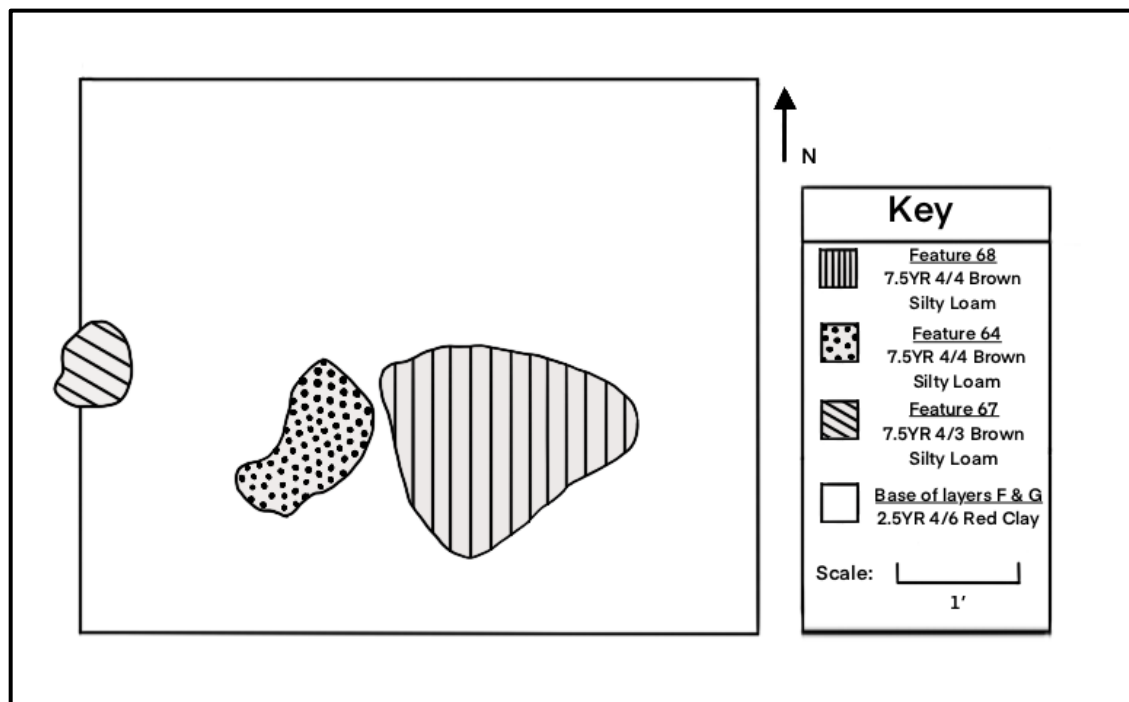


Figure 25. Planview of features 64, 67, and 68 in unit 119.



Figure 26. Features 63-68 in unit 119 looking south. Photo by author.

In unit 135 four additional features were discovered besides the small holes (Figure 27). Feature 79 was an oblong shaped pit feature that measured 1.5ft X .8ft. It contained a reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4) silty clay loam mottled with a red (2.5YR 4/6) silty clay loam. The base was uneven, and it was between .3-.65ft deep. Charcoal flecking was noted throughout the feature along with brick and mortar. A total of 22 artifacts were recovered from this feature which include ten mammal bones along with two European hard paste porcelain sherds, two pearlware sherds with one being hand painted in brown, one creamware sherd, one straight pin and three bottle glass shards. The presence of brown, hand painted pearlware dates the fill in this pit to after 1795.

Feature 77 was another amorphous shaped pit feature that measured 1.8ft X 1.1ft. This feature also contained charcoal flecking and was filled with a reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4) silty clay loam. It measured between .1-.2ft deep and had a flat bottom that sloped toward the east. At the deepest part of the feature was a rectangular concentration of charcoal. Seven artifacts were recovered which include two animal bone fragments, two whiteware sherds, one cut nail, one kaolin pipe stem fragment and an ivory needle case. The presence of whiteware dates the filling of the feature to after 1820.

In the northeastern section of the unit, a linear feature (101) was discovered that contained brick and stone which extended east into unit 104. Some of the bricks were in course while others were loose. This is a continuation of the end hearth that was uncovered during the 2018 excavations. The intact brick section was 2.7ft wide and extended east 2ft into unit 104 (Figures 28-29).

Perhaps the most interesting feature in the unit was feature 78. This feature measured 3.1ft X 2.6ft and contained two layers (Figures 30-31). The first, layer A, was a brown (7.5YR 4/4) silty loam with charcoal flecking while layer B was a brown (7.5YR 5/4) silty loam that also had charcoal flecking. Layer A was approximately .25ft deep and contained 62 artifacts along with a moderate amount of brick and stone that was located at the bottom of the layer. Almost half of the artifacts were iron fragments from a possible strap with the others consisting of nine mammal bones, nine flat glass shards, six creamware sherds, three pearlware sherds, two kaolin pipestems, and one vessel glass shard. One of the pearlware sherds contained a green shell edge which dates the filling in of this layer to after 1785.

Layer B was also approximately .25ft deep and contained 37 artifacts. These include in part 14 animal bones, nine hand wrought nails, five creamware sherds, three clear glass shards, one Chinese porcelain sherd, one delft sherd, one pearlware sherd and one cut nail. The presence of the cut nail dates the filling of this layer to after 1790. The presence of brick and stone rubble at the bottom of layer A suggests that it was filled in during destruction and construction activities associated with the building of the central chimney around 1805.

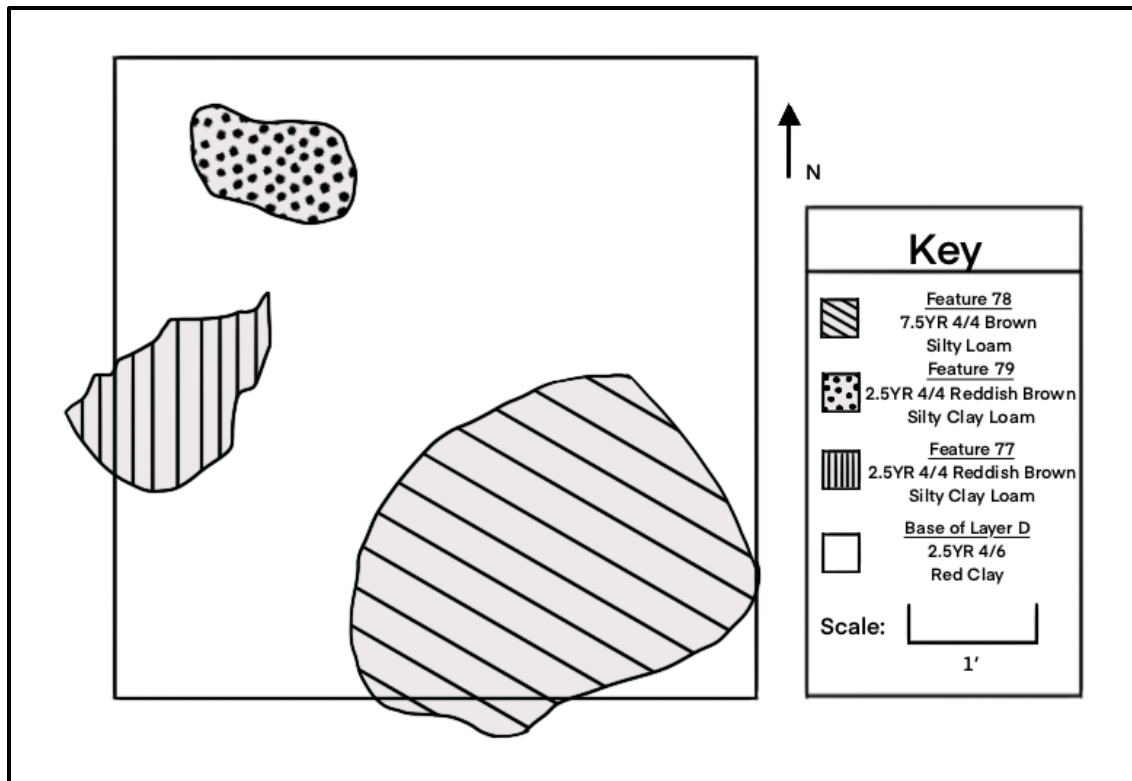


Figure 27. Planview of features 77, 78 and 79 in unit 135.

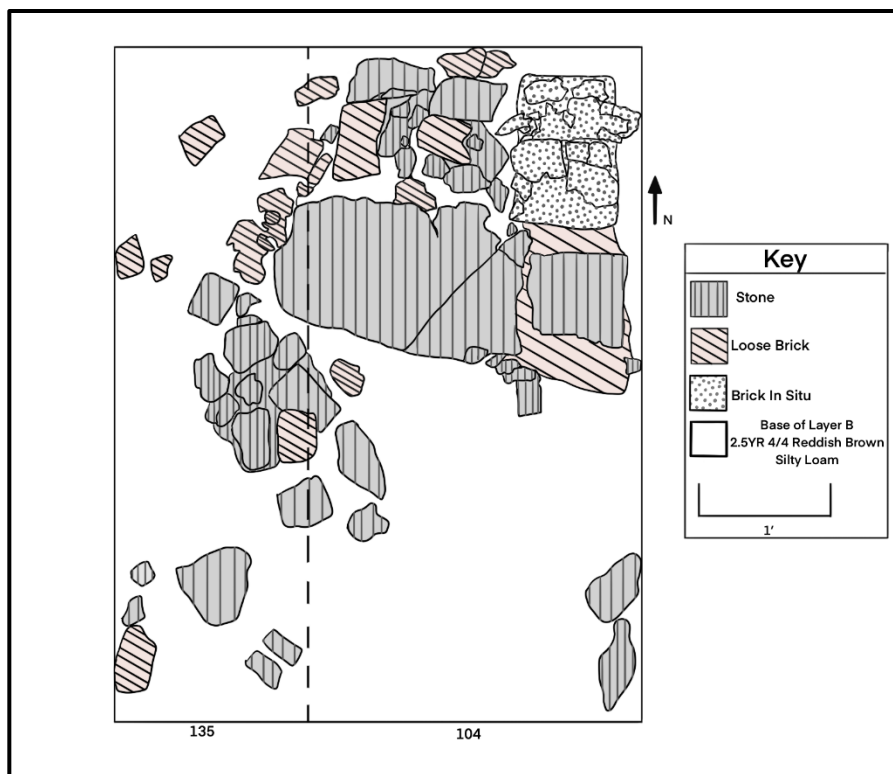


Figure 28. Planview of feature 101 in units 104 and 135.



Figure 29. Feature 101 in units 104 and 135 looking north. Photo by Eric Taylor.



Figure 30. Feature 78 profile in unit 135 looking east. Photo by author.

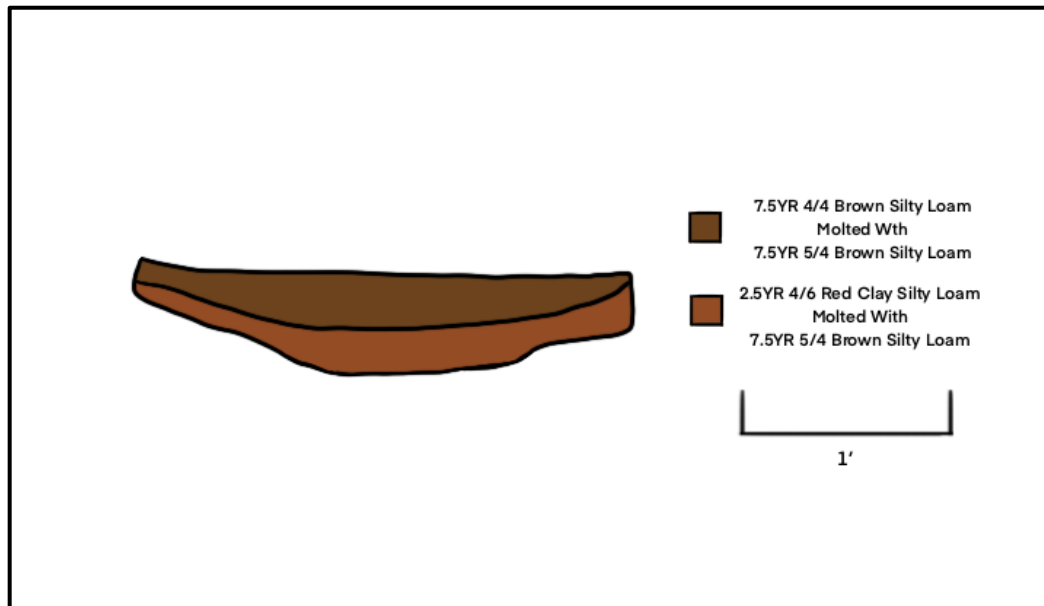


Figure 31. East profile of feature 78 in unit 135.

Unit 111 was located in both the main room and the utility room. The portion of this unit located in the utility room had one notable feature. Feature 85 was a shallow pit that was possibly oval in shape. It extended under a modern wall and a concrete pillar. The feature was only .14ft deep and the exposed area measured 2.6ft X 1.2ft. It was filled with a yellowish red (5YR 4/6) silty clay loam that contained charcoal flecking (Figures 32-33). Despite being shallow this feature contained 29 artifacts which included 11 mammal bones, seven unidentifiable nails, five creamware sherds, one pearlware and one ironstone sherd. The presence of ironstone dates the fill of this feature to after 1840.

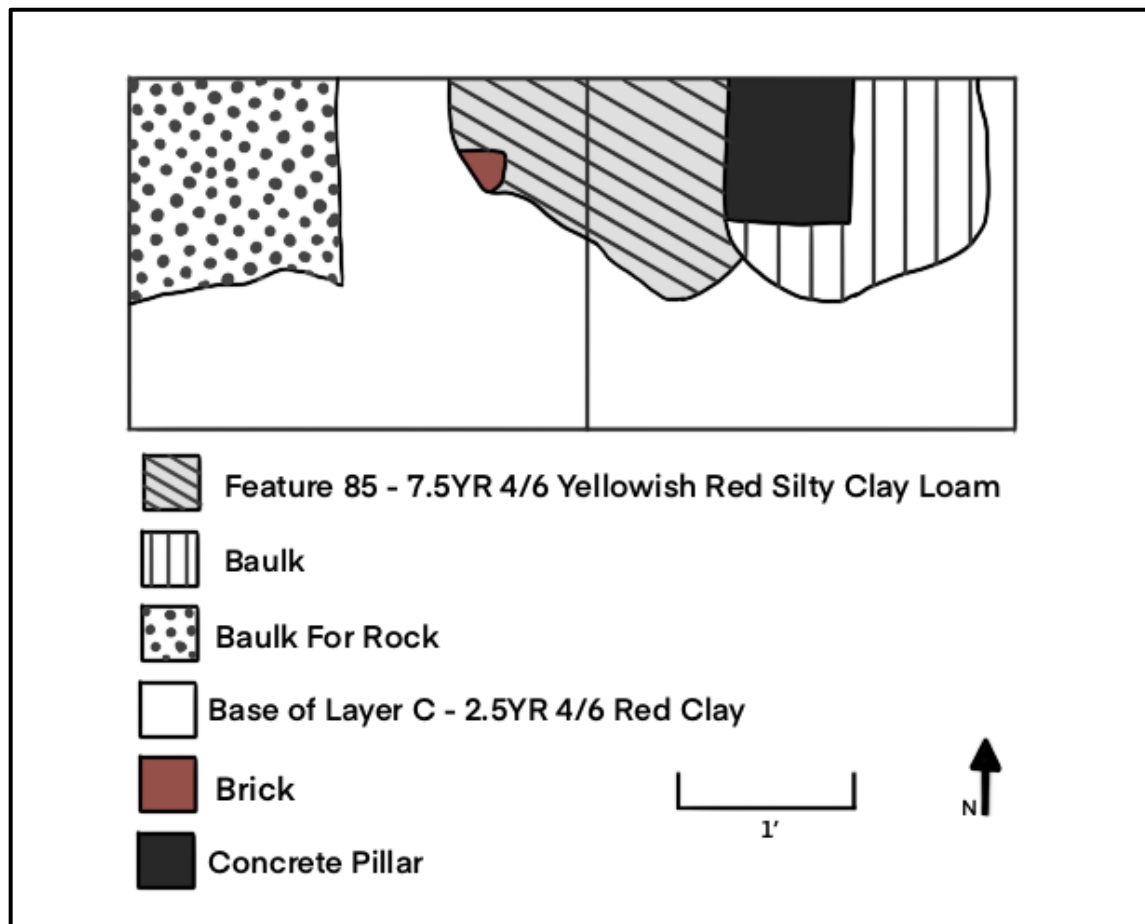


Figure 32. Planview of feature 85 in unit 111.



Figure 33. Feature 85 in unit 111 looking north. Photo by author.

Unit 120 was located in the entryway to the utility room. This unit was adjacent to the central chimney and contained three relevant features. Feature 87 was an amorphous shaped pit that measured 1.5ft X .6ft. It contained a brown (7.5YR 5/4) silty loam with charcoal (Figures 34-35). This shallow feature was only .15ft deep but contained 22 artifacts including ten mammal bones, four dark green bottle glass shards, three pearlware sherds, two flat glass shards, one clear bottle glass shard and one pipe bowl fragment. One of the pearlware sherds had a blue, shell edge which dates the fill of this feature to after 1785.

Feature 88 was a linear trench that abutted the west side of the central chimney. It measured 4.4ft X .7ft and was between .15-.25ft deep. It contained a reddish brown (5YR 5/4) silty clay loam with charcoal and brick flecks. The trench had a flat bottom and might represent a builder's trench for the central chimney (Figure 36). A total of 68 artifacts were recovered which include in part 18 creamware sherds, 14 animal bones, 11 hand wrought nails, ten dark green bottle glass shards, and two hand painted and one transfer print pearlware sherds. The transfer print pearlware dates the fill to after 1784.

The other notable feature was feature 89 which was oblong in shape and was located directly west of feature 88. This pit feature measured 3ft X 1.5ft and was .37ft deep. The fill consisted of a brown (7.5YR 4/4) silty loam. A large amount of brick and mortar came from this feature along with a very large stone that weighed over 37 lbs. (Figure 37). The rubble in this feature might

represent debris from the construction of the central chimney. A total of 27 artifacts were recovered from this feature and include in part six mammal bones, five creamware sherds, four hand wrought nails and one fragment each of Chinese porcelain, fine lead glazed earthenware and hand painted pearlware. In addition, an 1811 large cent coin was discovered indicating that it was filled in after that date.

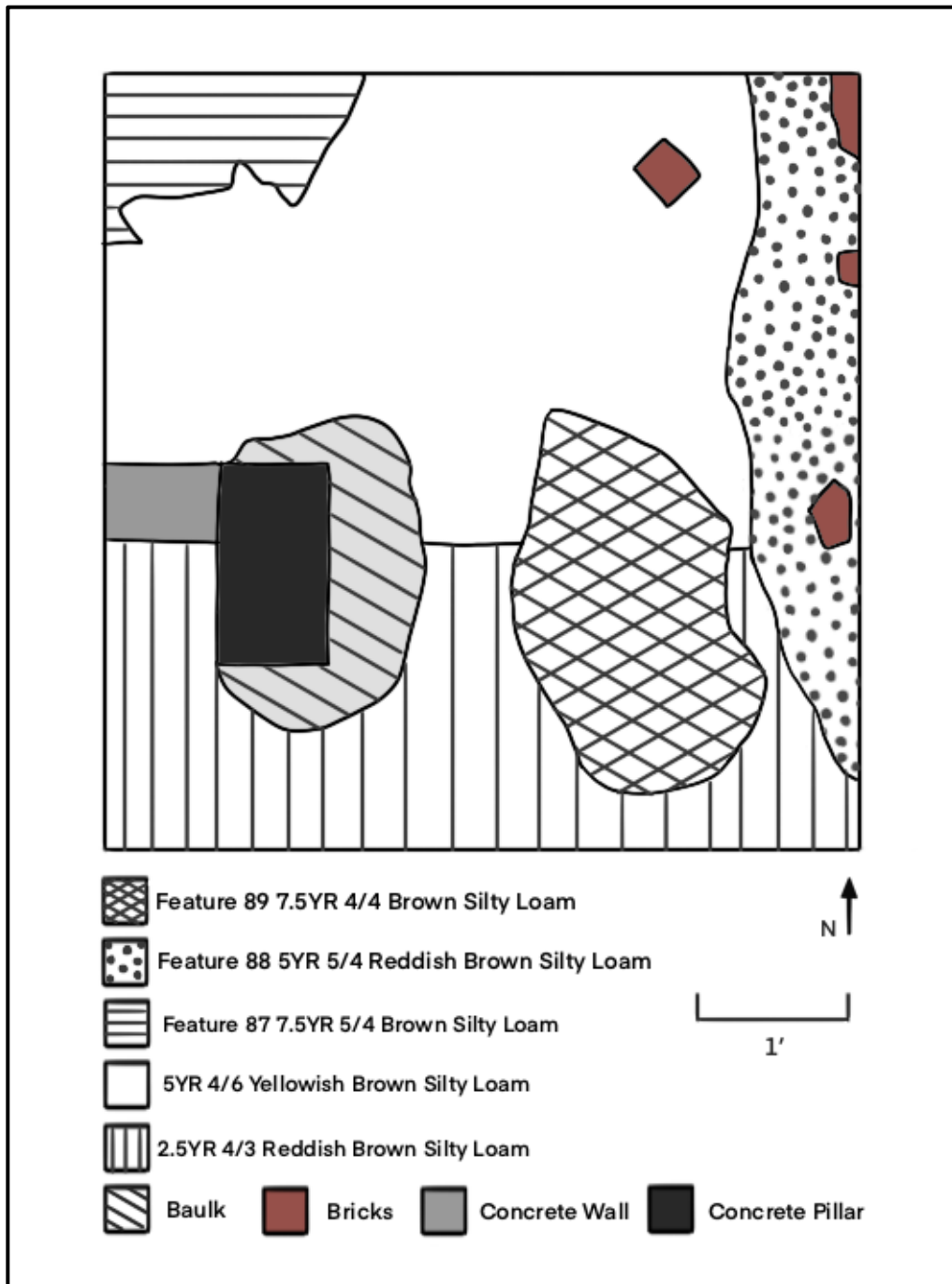


Figure 34. Planview of features 87-89 in unit 120.



Figure 35. Feature 87 removed in unit 120 looking south. Photo by author.

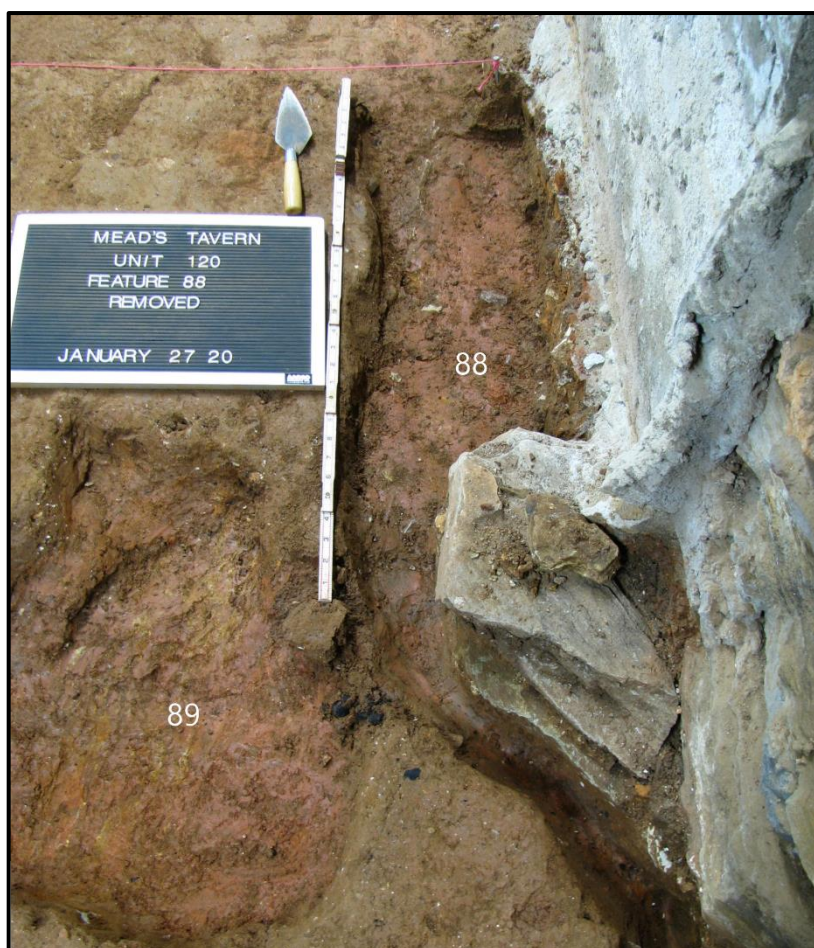


Figure 36. Features 88 and 89 removed in unit 120 looking north. Photo by author.



Figure 37. Feature 89 profile in unit 120 looking north. Photo by author.

Main Room

A total of 14 test units were excavated in the main room and one additional unit from the previous project that was not fully excavated was taken down to subsoil. Thirteen of the 14 test units measured 5ft X 5ft and one unit (134) measured 3ft X 3ft.

Covering the majority of the basement was a fill layer that sloped downward from east to west (Figure 38). Designated unit 115, context A, this layer consisted of a reddish brown (2.5YR 4/6) clay loam that measured between .7-3.65ft deep with the deeper end being located along the east wall (Figure 39). This layer contained a mix of artifacts ranging in date from the 18th century to the late 20th century. The fill appears to have been placed in the basement, particularly against the east wall, in an attempt to stop it from leaking. This layer was not present in part of units 120, 121, 128 and 131 since a cement pad covered sections of those units.

Context B was a transitional layer between the fill layer and context C and was characterized by an increase in artifacts. This layer measured between .05-.1ft thick and consisted of the same soil type as context A. This transition layer was not present in units in the northwest section of the basement. Instead, context B in units 131-134 was a black (10YR 2/1) clay loam layer with large amounts of small coal fragments. This thin layer measured between .1-.3ft thick (Figure 40). Context B in the rest of the units in the western half of the basement consisted of a yellowish red (5YR 4/6) silty clay loam (Figure 41).

The bottom layer, which was labeled context C in most of the units, consisted of a dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/4) clay loam that was between .4-.6ft thick. It contained mostly late 18th and 19th century artifacts. Some units also had several thin soil lenses which were excavated separately from the soil layers.



**Figure 38. Main room in basement before excavations looking northeast.
Photo by Randy Lichtenberger.**

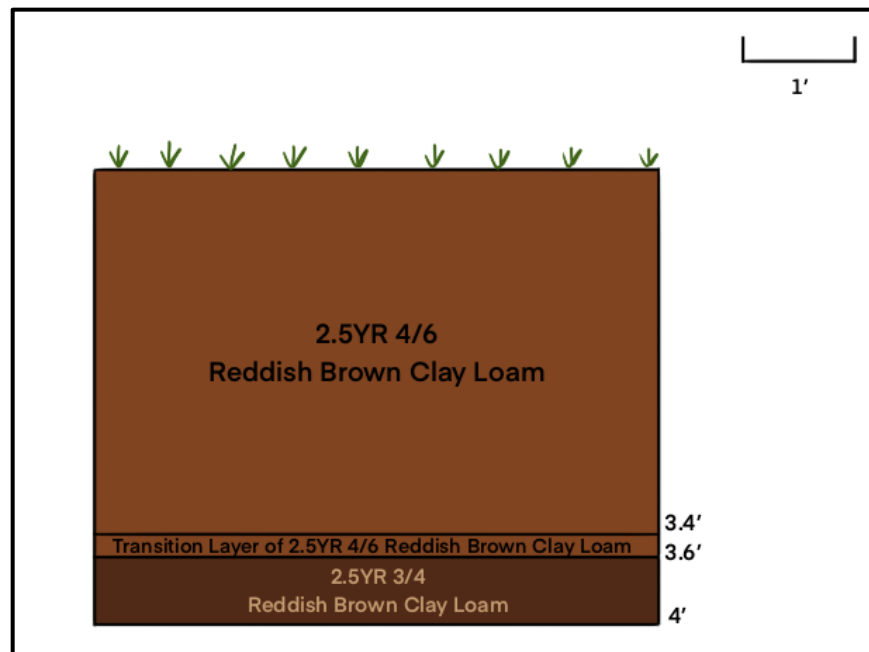


Figure 39. North profile of unit 123.



Figure 40. Layer B in unit 132 looking north. Photo by author.

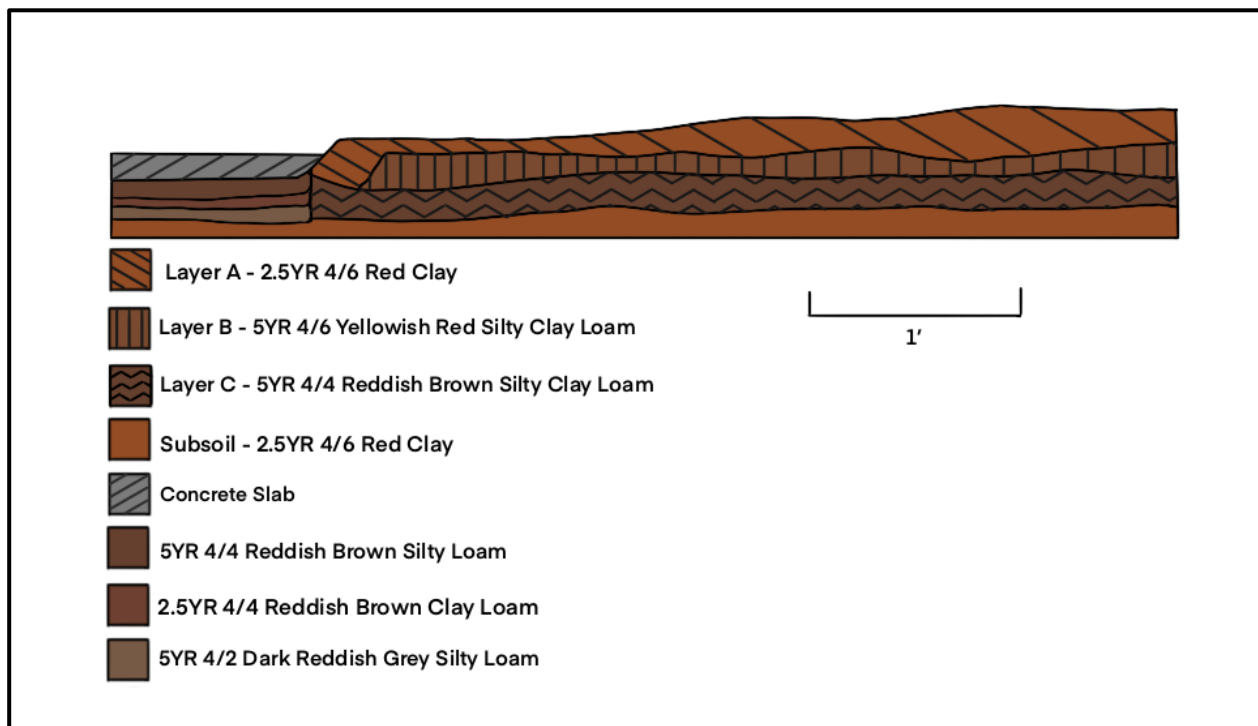


Figure 41. West profile of unit 121.

There were 27 notable features discovered in the main room. Ten of those features were small holes similar to the ones found in the utility room. All but three were located close to the walls of the basement. The other features were pits and shallow depressions. Like in the utility room, the pits were generally characterized by their round or oblong shape and the presence of charcoal and artifacts while the shallow depressions usually contained no artifacts.

Unit 100 was partially excavated during the previous project and not finished due to the presence of bricks from the end hearth. This unit was fully excavated during the current project except for an area around the in-situ bricks. Three features were discovered in this unit. Feature 80 was oblong in shape and measured 2.3ft X 1.5ft. It consisted of a dark reddish brown (2.5YR 2.5/4) clay loam with some charcoal flecks. Part of a rodent burrow was discovered at the bottom of the feature. This pit feature was only .1ft deep and contained five artifacts which included two transfer print pearlware sherds, one hand wrought nail, one dark green bottle glass shard and an unknown metal object. The presence of blue, transfer print pearlware dates the fill to after 1784.

Two small holes, similar to the ones found in the utility room, were discovered just to the east of feature 80. Designated feature 81-1 and 81-2, these round holes measured .15ft in diameter and were between .35-.37ft deep. These holes tapered down and were smaller at the bottom. The soil in the holes consisted of a dark reddish brown (5YR 3/3) clay loam which contained no artifacts.

During the previous excavation, a trench feature was discovered in test unit 114 that extended east into unit 100. This feature, which was designated feature 13, did continue into unit 100 and contained bricks in course related to the end hearth. At the western end of the feature there were five bricks in situ, one course thick and two bricks in situ in the eastern portion of the unit. In the middle of the feature was a high area of subsoil that formed a hump that appears to have been purposely left there. Probing indicated there were no bricks or soil changes under this hump. What purpose the hump served is unclear since its surface showed no signs of being used (Figures 42-43).

The bricks in the western end of the unit were just below the stone foundation for the central chimney and ran underneath it. This feature contained a dark reddish brown (5YR 3/4) clay loam mottled with a yellowish red (5YR 4/6) clay loam. At its deepest the feature measured .65ft at the western end and .05ft at the eastern end. A total of 26 artifacts were recovered from the trench and include in part nine dark green bottle glass shards, eight hand wrought nails, three clear bottle glass shards, one hand painted pearlware sherd, and part of an ox shoe. The presence of blue, hand painted pearlware dates the fill to after 1775.

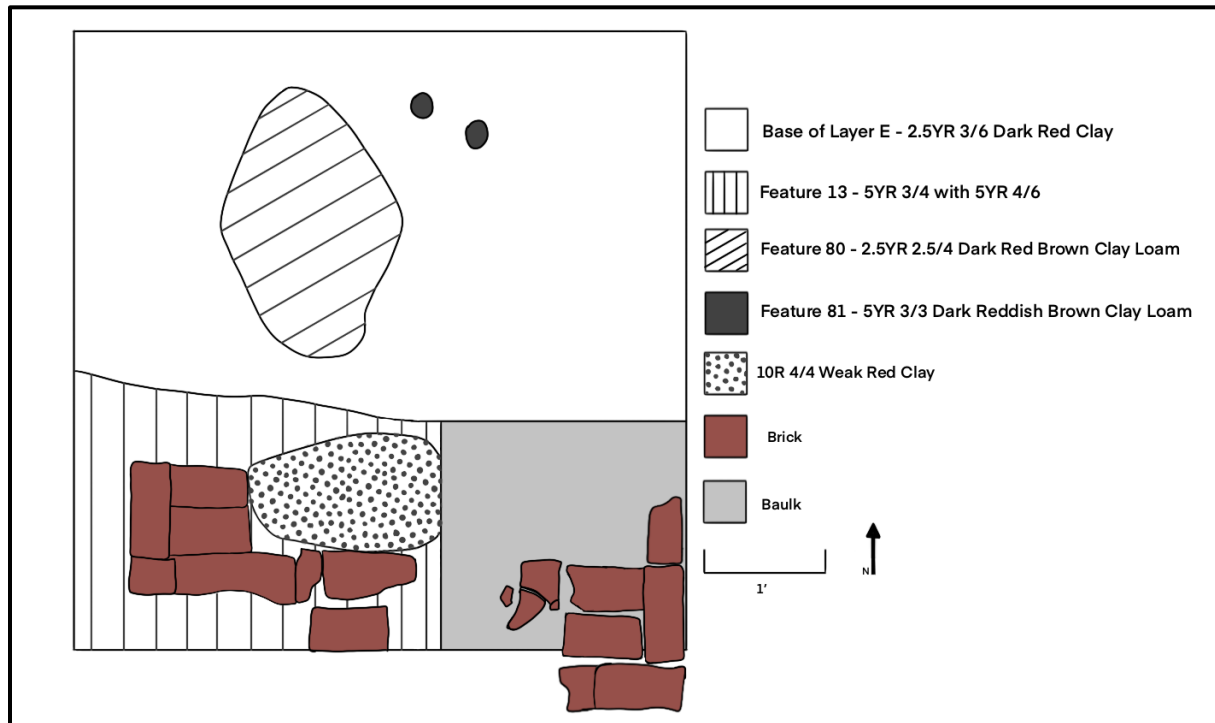


Figure 42. Planview of features 13, 80 and 81 in unit 100.



Figure 43. Features 13, 80 and 81 removed in unit 100 looking east. Photo by author.

In test unit 121 three small holes were discovered that were like the ones found in the utility room. Designated features 49-51 these round holes were in a row running north/south (Figures 44-45). They contained a dark reddish (2.5YR 4/3) silty clay loam that had no artifacts. Unlike the utility room, these holes were not close to a wall. Interestingly, they were located at the end of a rodent tunnel (feature 46) that ran east/west through the unit and into unit 128 to the west. What relationship if any these holes have to the rodent tunnel is unknown.

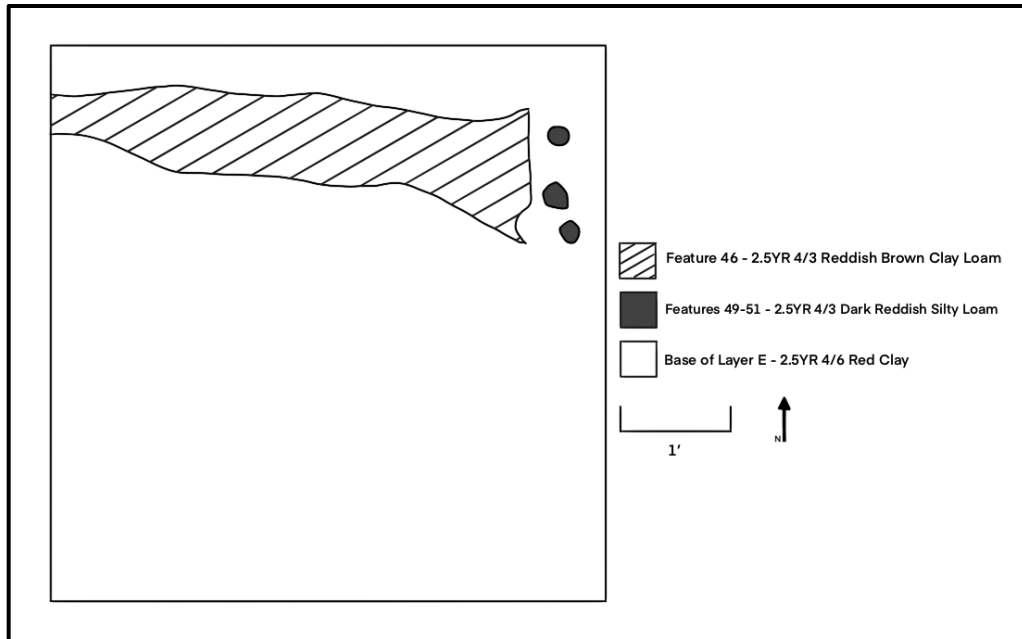


Figure 44. Planview of features 46 and 49-51 in unit 121.



Figure 45. Features 46 and 49-51 removed in unit 121 looking east. Photo by author.

Test unit 122 contained two notable features. The first, feature 27, started off as a darker area of soil in context C but then turned into an oval. This feature measured 1.1ft X .8ft and tapered in to form a smaller circle towards the bottom which had a diameter of .3ft (Figures 46-48). It contained a dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/3) clay loam with charcoal and the deepest part of the feature was .5ft in depth. A total of 39 artifacts were recovered from this feature which include in part 18 light aqua, flat glass shards, eight pearlware sherds, five unidentified nails, three cut nails, one redware and one creamware sherd. The presence of cut nails dates the filling in of this feature to after 1790.

Just to the north was feature 31 which was a linear trench that measured 4.3ft X 1ft. This feature extended into unit 123 to the north and ran parallel to the east wall of the tavern. It contained a reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4) clay loam with charcoal along with three pearlware sherds, one bottle glass shard and one flat glass shard. One of the pearlware fragments contained a transfer print design which dates to after 1784.

The trench was .07ft in depth and might represent an attempt to collect water from the leaky wall which would then drain into feature 27. After feature 31 was fully excavated it was noted that it filled up with water when the wall leaked suggesting that this could have been its intended purpose.

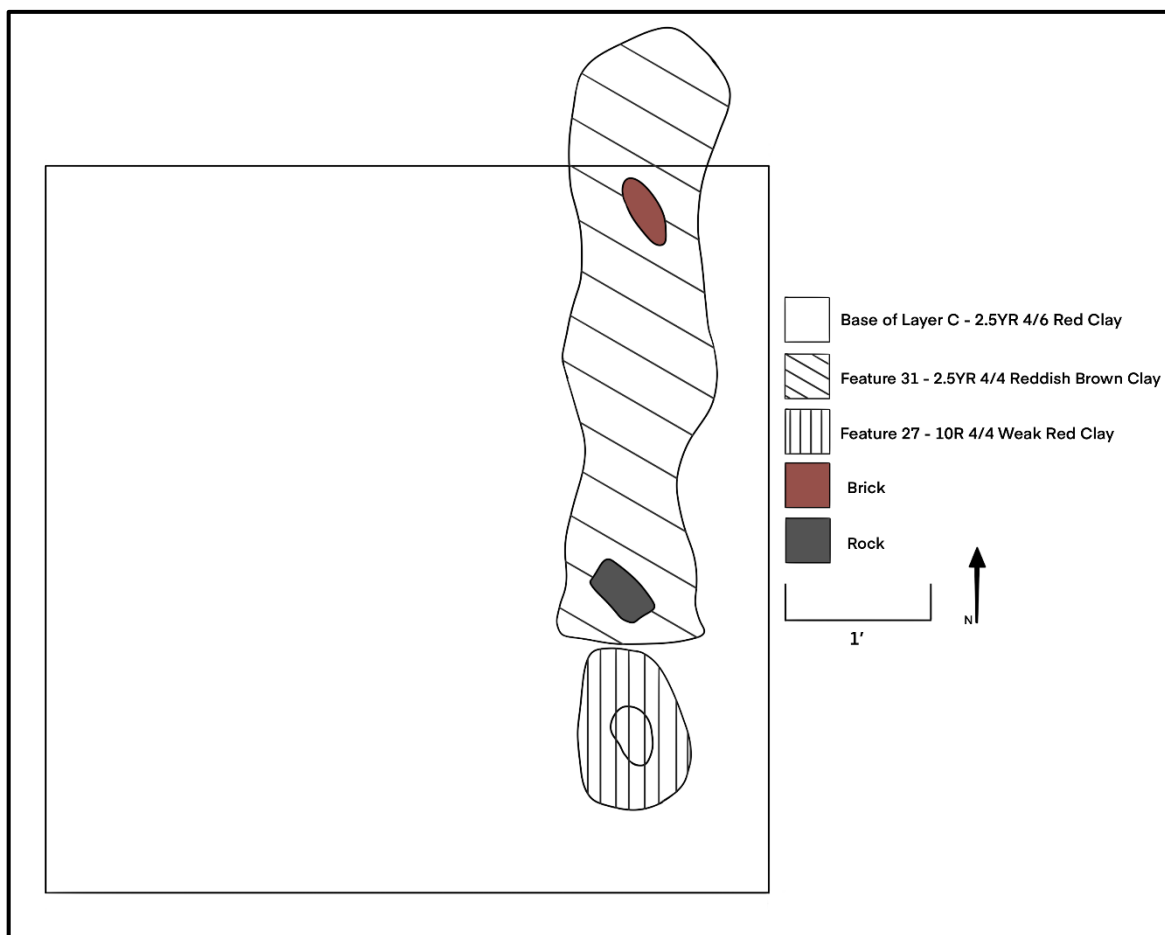


Figure 46. Planview of features 27 and 31 in unit 122.

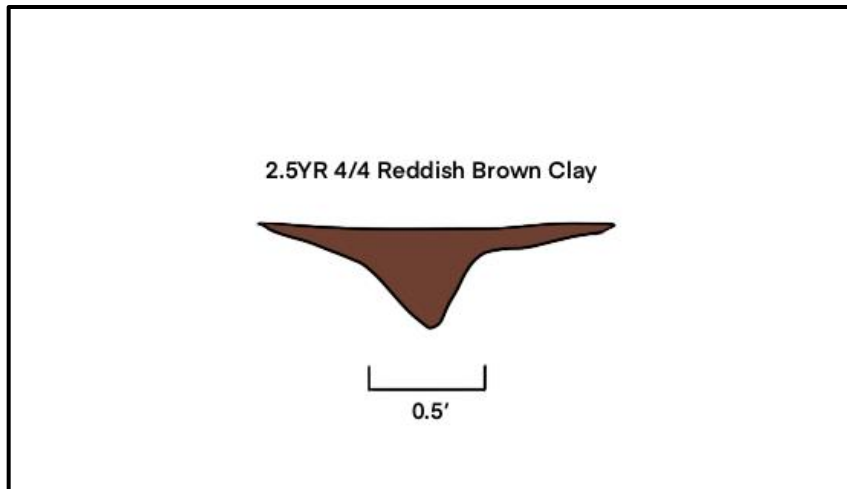


Figure 47. South profile of feature 31 in unit 122.



Figure 48. Features 27 and 31 removed in unit 122 looking north. Photo by author.

Straddling units 123 and 125 was feature 30. This round feature had a diameter of 2.6ft and contained two layers (Figure 49-51). Layer A consisted of a dark brown (7.5YR 3/4) silty loam with charcoal flecking. It was .53ft deep and contained 85 artifacts which included in part 24 creamware sherds, 21 unknown nails, 18 pearlware sherds and 16 animal bones. The presence of one whiteware sherd dates this layer to after 1820.

Layer B was .3ft deep and consisted of a dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/4) silty loam with 19 artifacts which included animal bone and kaolin pipe stem fragments (Figure). The feature sloped inward and became narrower towards the bottom where its diameter was 1.5ft. Given the area where this feature was located tends to leak and also given its shape, it is probable that this feature was dug in order to place a barrel that would act as a sump.

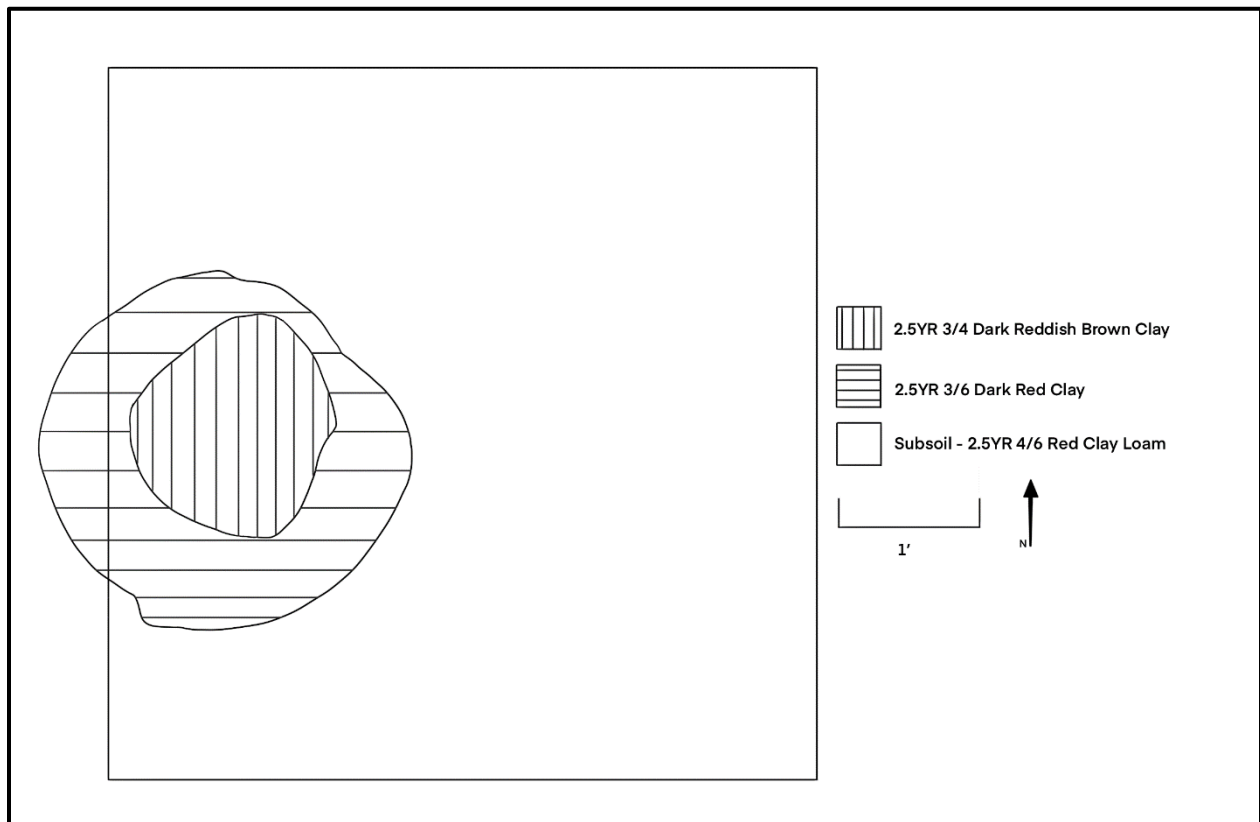


Figure 49. Planview of feature 30 in unit 123.

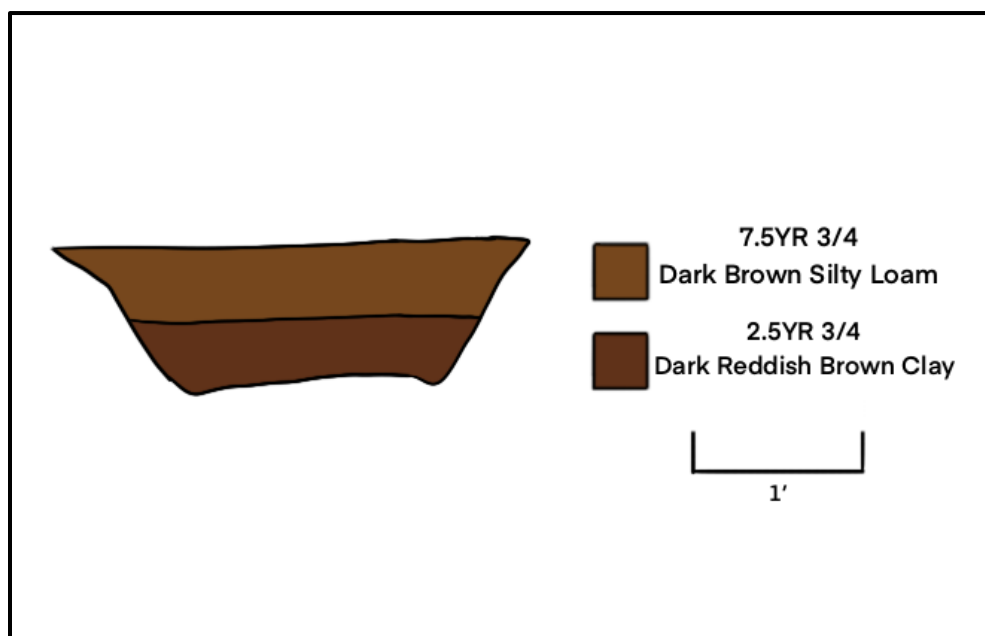


Figure 50. West profile of feature 30 in unit 123.



Figure 51. Feature 30 removed in unit 123 looking east. Photo by author.

Test unit 124 contained one notable feature. Feature 32 was oval in shape and measured .1ft in diameter and contained a reddish brown (5YR 4/4) silty clay loam with charcoal and brick flecks. It was .2ft deep and had a flat bottom (Figures 52-54). Only 34 grams of lime mortar was recovered from this feature.

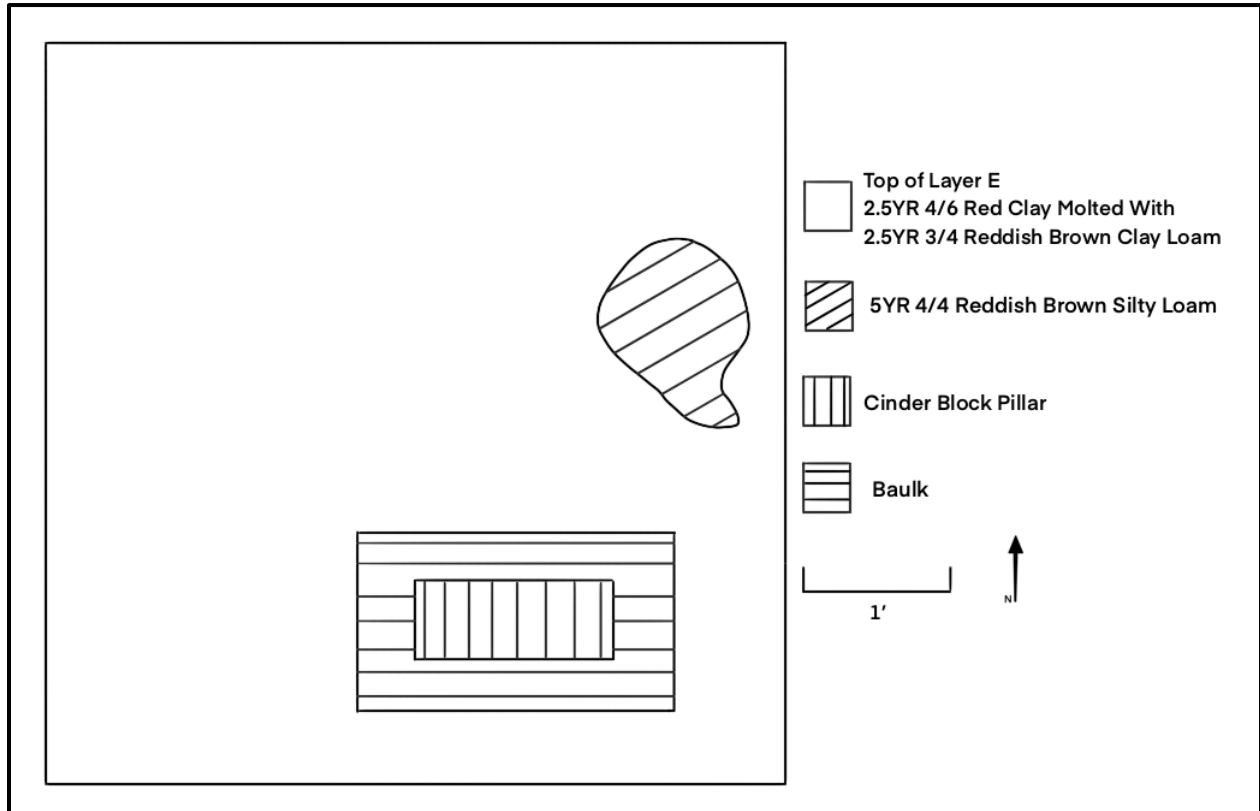


Figure 52. Planview of feature 32 in unit 124.

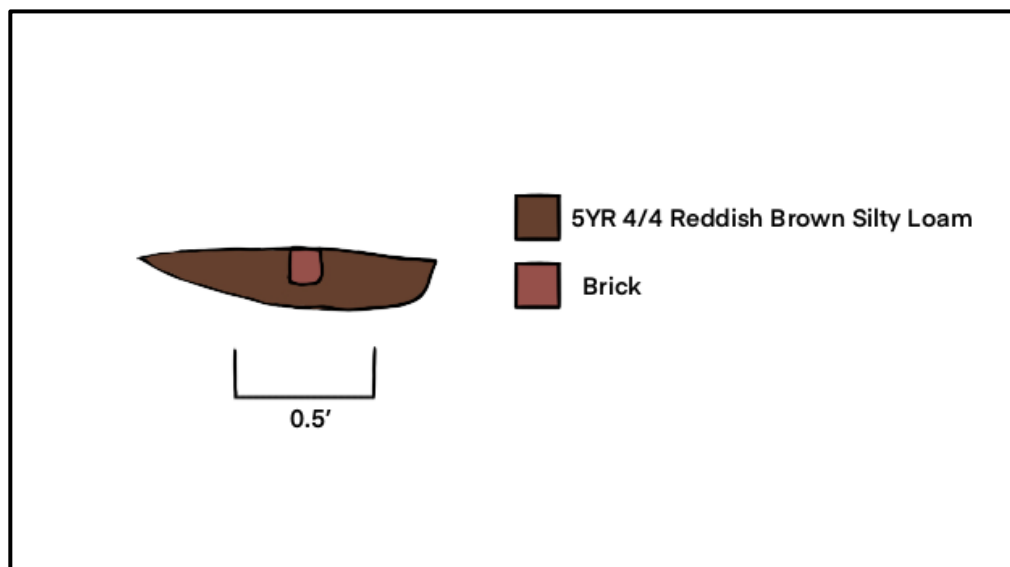


Figure 53. North profile of feature 32 in unit 124.



Figure 54. Feature 32 removed in unit 124 looking west. Photo by author.

Just to the north of unit 124 was test unit 125. This unit had one feature (29) which was oblong in shape and measured 2.2ft X 1.7ft (Figures 55-57). It extended partially into unit 124 to the south and was .16ft deep. The feature was filled with a dark brown (7.5YR 3/4) silt loam with charcoal. At the bottom of the feature was a small round hole similar to the ones discovered in the utility room. This hole was filled with the same soil as feature 29 and contained no artifacts. The hole extended to a depth of .35ft. A total of 21 artifacts were recovered and included 11 mammal bones, four unidentified nails, two clear bottle glass shards, two whiteware sherds, one pearlware sherd and one European hard paste porcelain sherd. The presence of whiteware dates the filling in of this feature to after 1820.

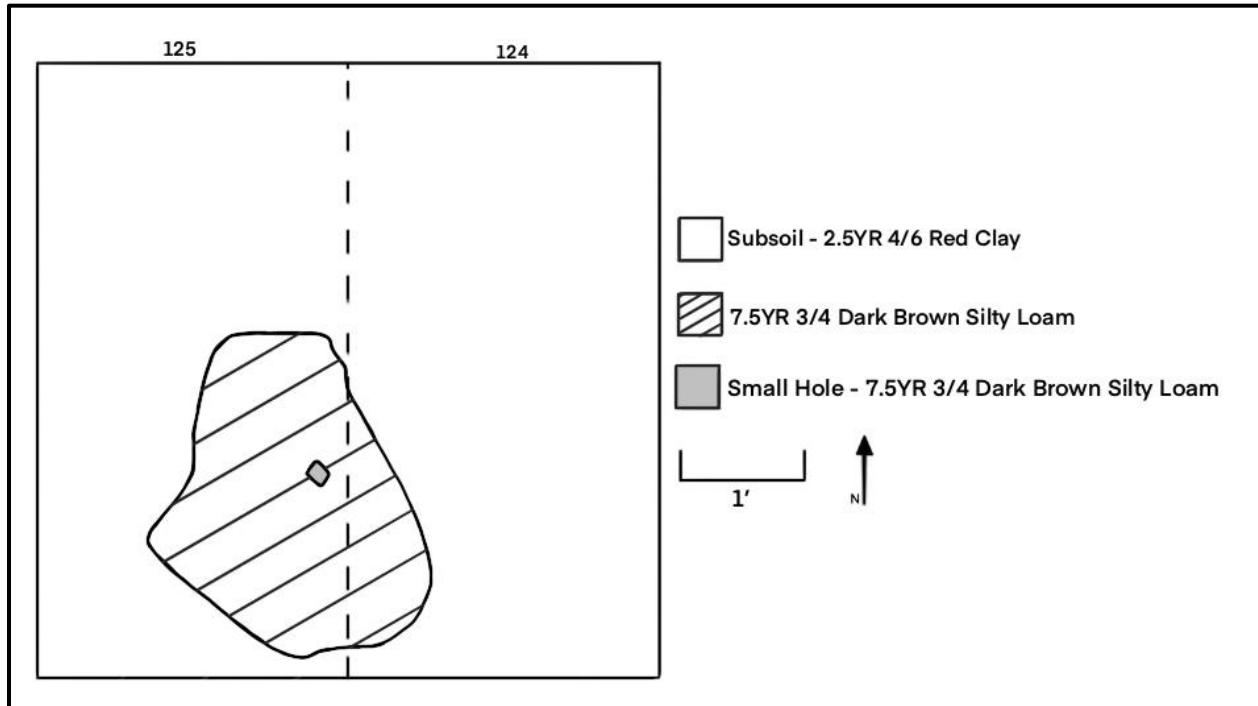


Figure 55. Planview of feature 29 in units 125/124.

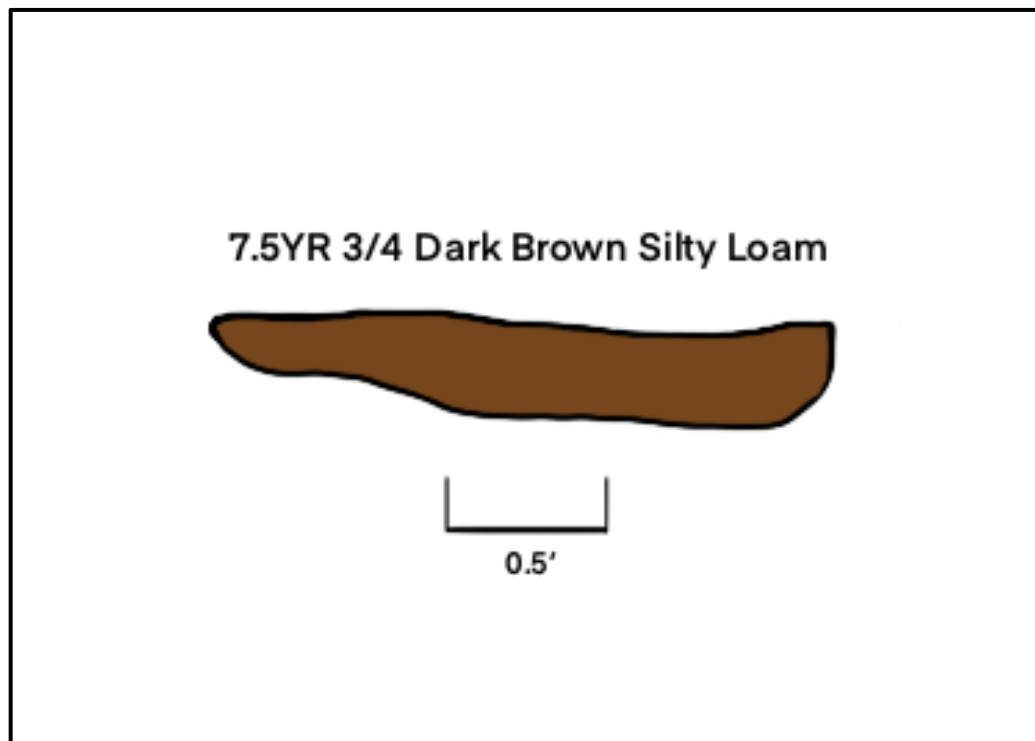


Figure 56. East profile of feature 29 in units 125/124.



Figure 57. Feature 29 bisected in units 125/124 looking east. Photo by author.

Covering units 122, 124 and 125 was a soil lens that was recorded as lens D (Figures 58-59). It was originally discovered in unit 122 and appeared to be very thin and grittier in texture than the surrounding soil. The lens contained a dark reddish brown (5YR 3/4) clay loam with a large amount of charcoal at the bottom. When fully exposed it was amorphous in shape and measured 2.6ft X 2.3ft. Most of the lens was shallow, only measuring .05ft deep. However, a 1.5ft X 1.2ft area in the northern section of the feature was deeper, going down .25ft. It was in this area that a majority of the charcoal was located along with a large number of animal bones. A total of 80 artifacts were recovered with 45 of them being animal bones. Other artifacts found include 18 hand wrought nails, two delftware sherds, two pearlware sherds, one Chinese porcelain sherd and one whiteware sherd. The presence of whiteware dates the filling in of this feature to after 1820. Given the large number of animal bones in this feature, it might have been used as a trash pit.

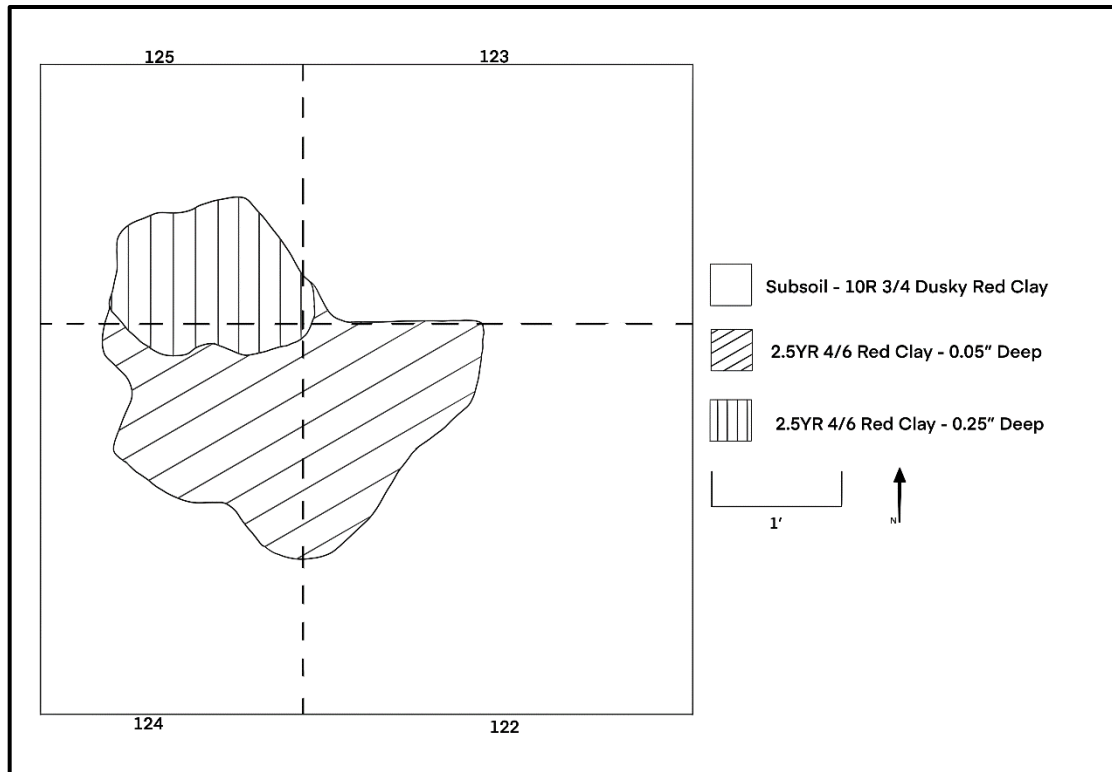


Figure 58. Planview of lens D in units 122-125.



Figure 59. Lens D in units 122-125 looking north. Photo by author.

Running through units 126 and 127 was an irregular shaped linear feature that ran north/south (Figures 60-61). This feature continued to the south into an unexcavated area around a cinderblock support post. The exposed area measured 5ft long and it was between .3-1.3ft in width. Its depth was between .27-.38ft and it contained the same reddish brown (5YR 4/3) silty clay loam soil that characterized context D in this unit and thus was excavated along with that layer. The bottom was uneven except for an approximately 2.5ft long section in unit 127 that had a flatter bottom and was deeper than the section in unit 126. Most of the 28 animal bones and 14 straight pins found in layer D came from the trench.

Given the uneven shape of the feature along with its mostly uneven bottom, it is possible that it might be a rodent tunnel. Another interpretation of this feature is that it might represent the remnant of a small wall or similar barrier. It runs perpendicular to a linear trench feature (42) in test unit 129 just to the west and might connect with it under the unexcavated area around the cinderblock support post.

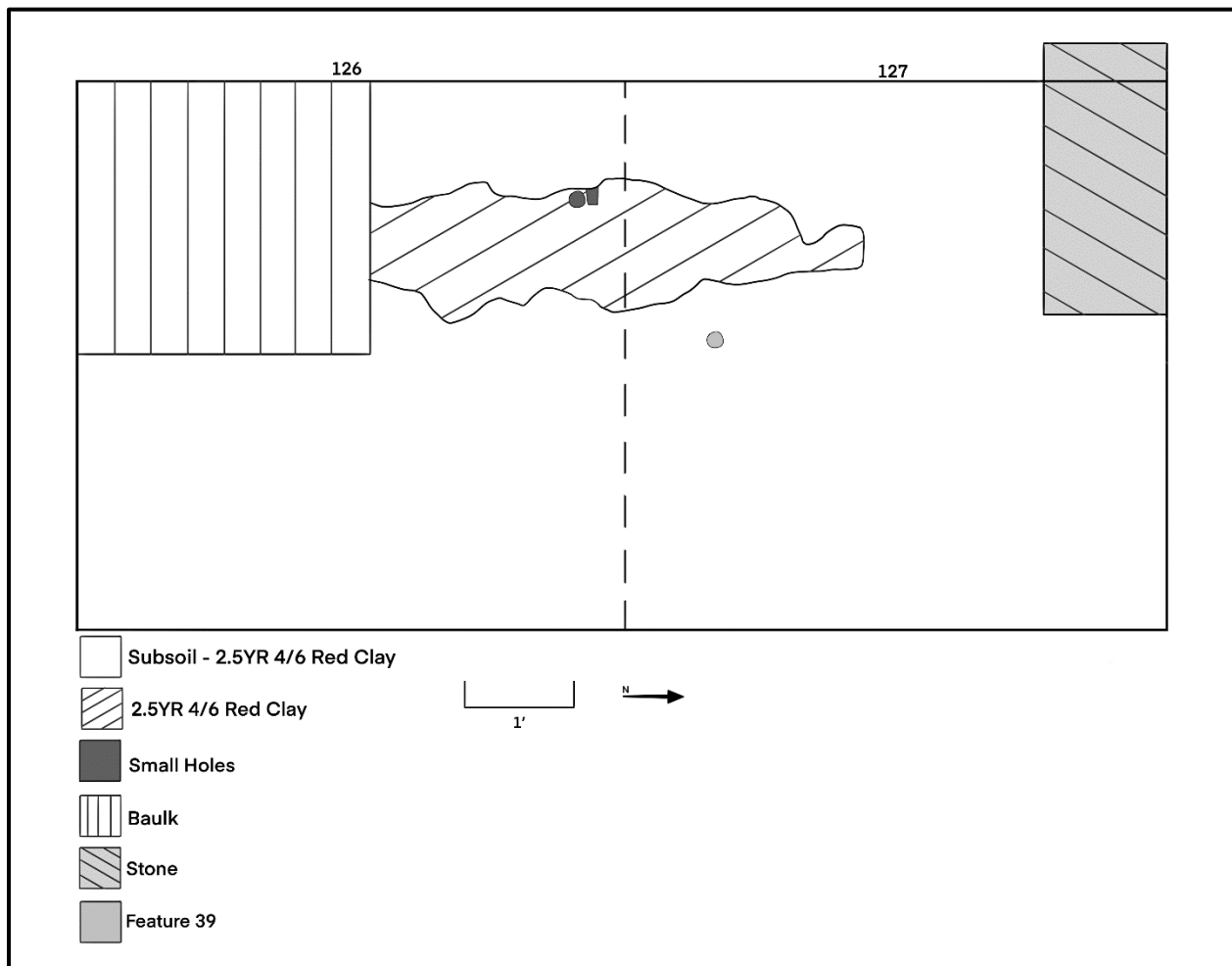


Figure 60. Planview trench, small holes and feature 39 in units 126-127.

Discovered on the west side of the feature in unit 126 were two small holes similar to the ones found in the utility room. Both holes were located next to each other with one being round and the other being rectangular. The round hole was .1ft in diameter and the rectangular one measured .15ft X .1ft. Both holes were .2ft deep and contained the same soil type as context D. No artifacts were discovered in these holes. In unit 127 another round, small hole (39) was discovered that was .15ft deep and .1ft in diameter.



**Figure 61. Trench, small holes and feature 39 in units 126-127 looking east.
Photo by author.**

In test unit 128 there were numerous features including a modern posthole and mold (59) that was discovered in context B. In the next layer, context C, two shallow depressions were found. Feature 61 was round and had a diameter of .3ft. It was .15ft deep and contained a red (2.5YR 4/8) clay loam with no artifacts. The other feature (62) was oblong in shape and had a diameter of .6ft. Three animal bone fragments were discovered in this feature which contained a dark reddish brown (5YR 3/2) clay loam (Figure 62-63).

Two more shallow depressions were found in subsoil. Feature 71 was oblong in shape and measured .7ft X .7ft and was .24ft deep. It contained a dark reddish brown (5YR 3/4) clay loam and one pipe bowl fragment. The other feature (72) extended south into unit 111 and was rectangular in shape with rounded ends. It measured .7ft X .6ft and contained a reddish brown (5YR 4/4) silty clay loam (Figures 64-67). This feature was .2ft deep and one creamware sherd was recovered from it.

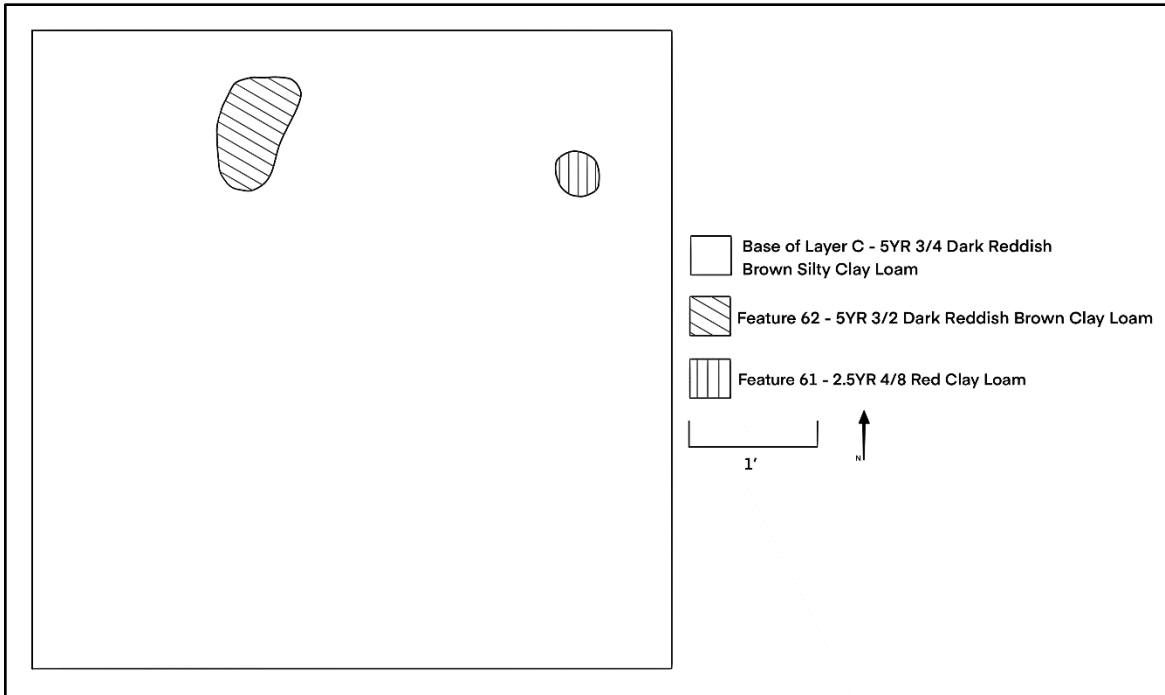


Figure 62. Planview of features 61-62 in unit 128.



Figure 63. Features 59, 61-62 removed in unit 128 looking north. Photo by author.

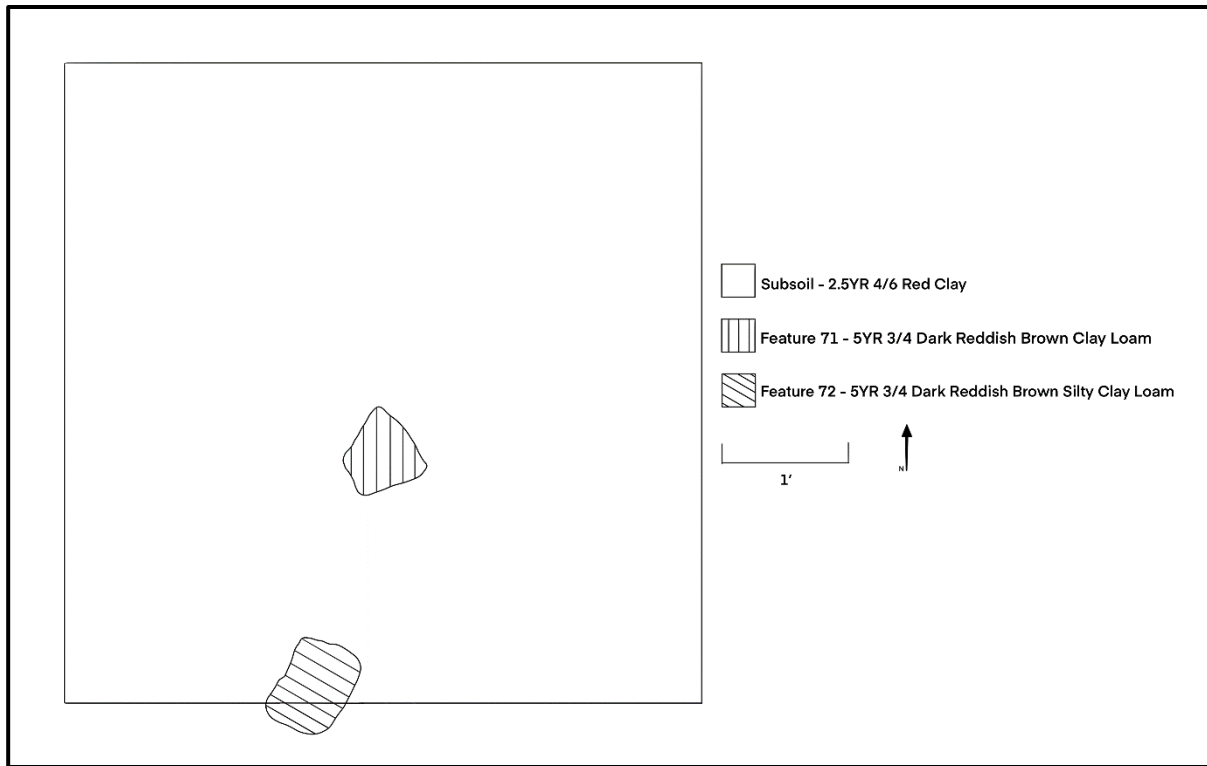


Figure 64. Planview of features 71-72 in unit 128.

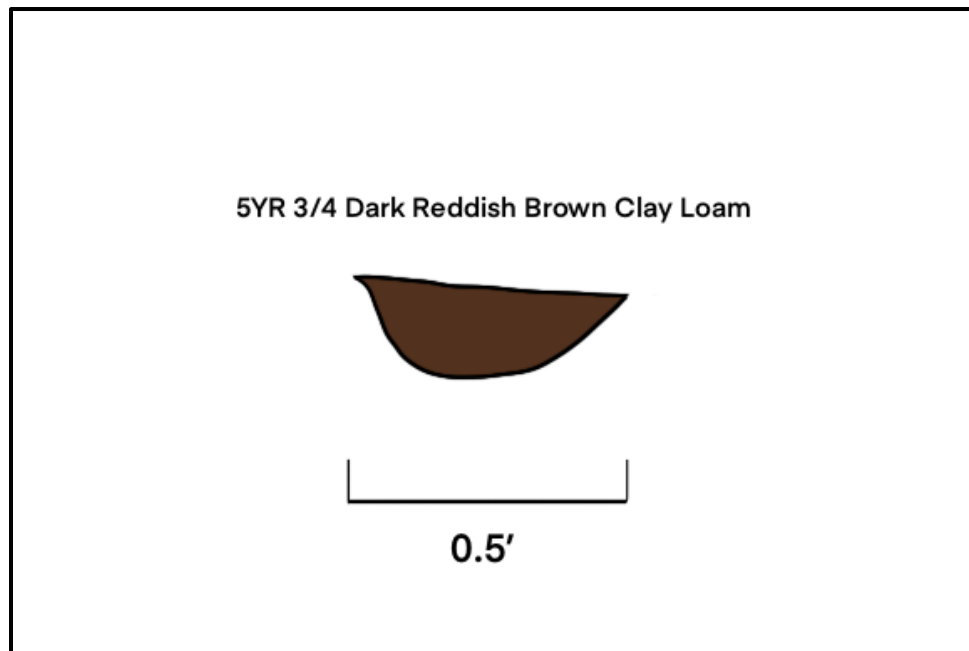


Figure 65. North profile of feature 71 in unit 128.

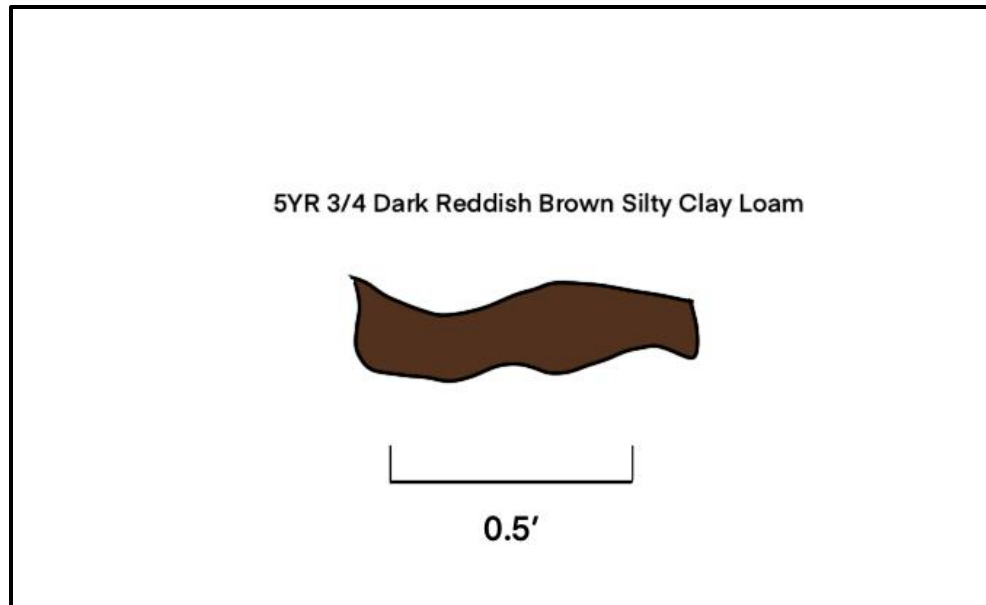


Figure 66. East profile of feature 72 in unit 128.



Figure 67. Features 71-72 in unit 128 looking north. Photo by author.

In test units 129 and 130 layer A consisted of a modern trench and a large mound of soil that was dug out of the trench in an apparent attempt to alleviate water leaking into the basement. This disturbed an approximately 2.5ft wide area in the northern section of unit 129. In the northeast section of the unit was a 2.2ft X 1.8ft area related to the modern trench that was labeled feature 40. This area was deeper than the other part of the trench and might relate to a bucket being placed in the ground to act as a sump (Figure 68).



Figure 68. Modern trench and soil mound in unit 129 looking north. Photo by author.

Located along the southern end of unit 129 was feature 42. This feature was a linear trench that ran east/west and was possibly 10.1ft long and 1ft wide (Figures 69-71). It extended west into unit 132 and went under a cinderblock support post located in that unit but emerged on the other side of it. To the east, it extended into unit 126 where it also went under a cinderblock support post. In unit 126 feature 36 was discovered partially extending out from the cinderblock post. This feature was thought to possibly be a posthole for a support post but it might be part of feature 42 instead of a separate feature.

Two stratigraphic layers were recorded in feature 42. Layer A contained a dark reddish brown (5YR 3/4) silty clay loam with charcoal. It was .15ft deep and contained 16 artifacts. These include five creamware sherds, one pearlware sherd, a jaw harp, a straight pin and a thimble. The presence of a plain pearlware sherd dates this layer to after 1775.

Layer B was .26ft deep and contained a reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4) clay loam with charcoal. A total of 15 artifacts were recovered and include in part eight animal bones, one sherd each of delftware, creamware and pearlware along with a cut nail. The cut nail dates this layer to after 1790.

Feature 42 runs directly under a joist that was supported by the cinder block posts. Given its location, this feature might represent an area where a support wall was located.

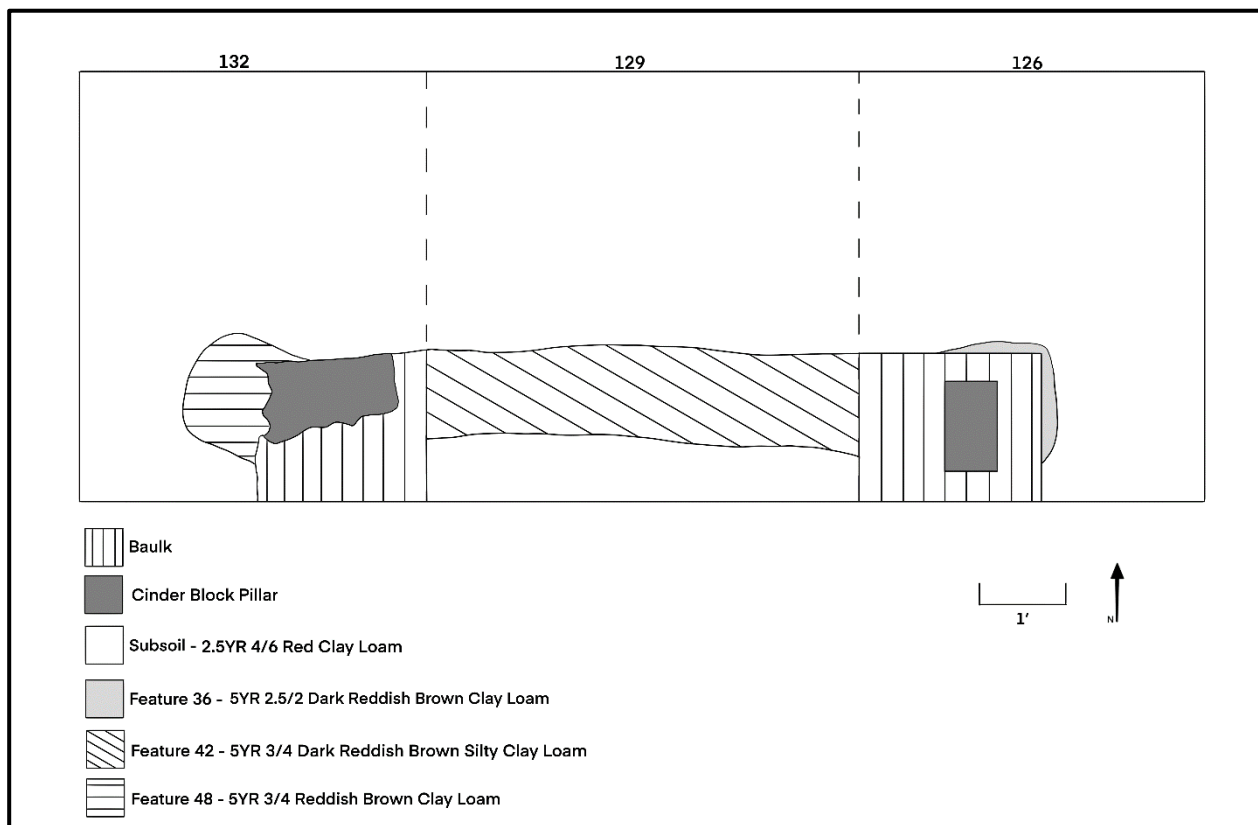


Figure 69. Planview of features, 36, 42 and 48 in units 126, 129 and 132.

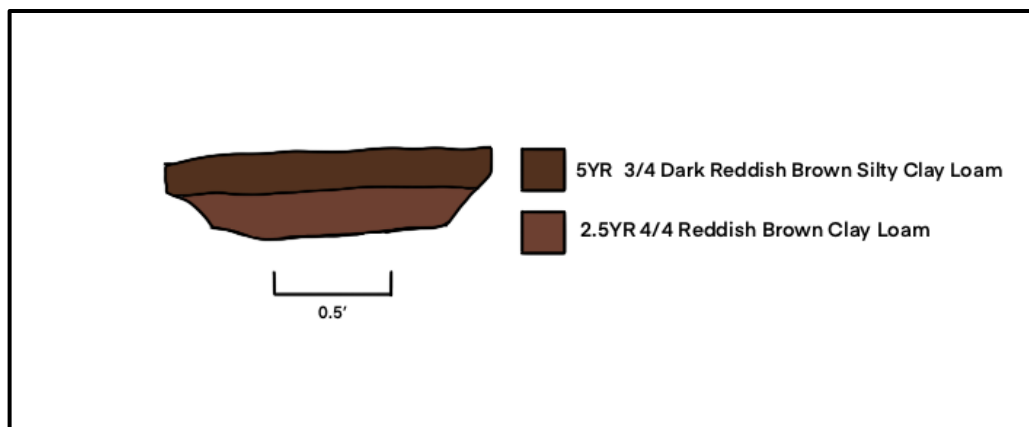


Figure 70. West profile of feature 42 in unit 129.



Figure 71. Feature 42 removed in unit 129 looking west. Photo by author.

Two features were noted in test unit 130. The first, feature 43, was a small hole similar to the ones discovered in the utility room. This hole was square in shape and measured approximately .15ft X .15ft at the surface before tapering down (Figures 72-73). It contained a reddish brown (5YR 4/3) silty clay loam with no artifacts and was .42ft deep.

The other feature (41) was oblong in shape and measured 1ft X 2.4ft. It contained a red (10YR 4/6) clay loam and was .26-.61ft deep. Artifacts recovered included five animal bones, two sherds of whiteware, one amber bottle glass shard and one dark green bottle glass shard. The presence of whiteware dates the fill of this feature to after 1820.

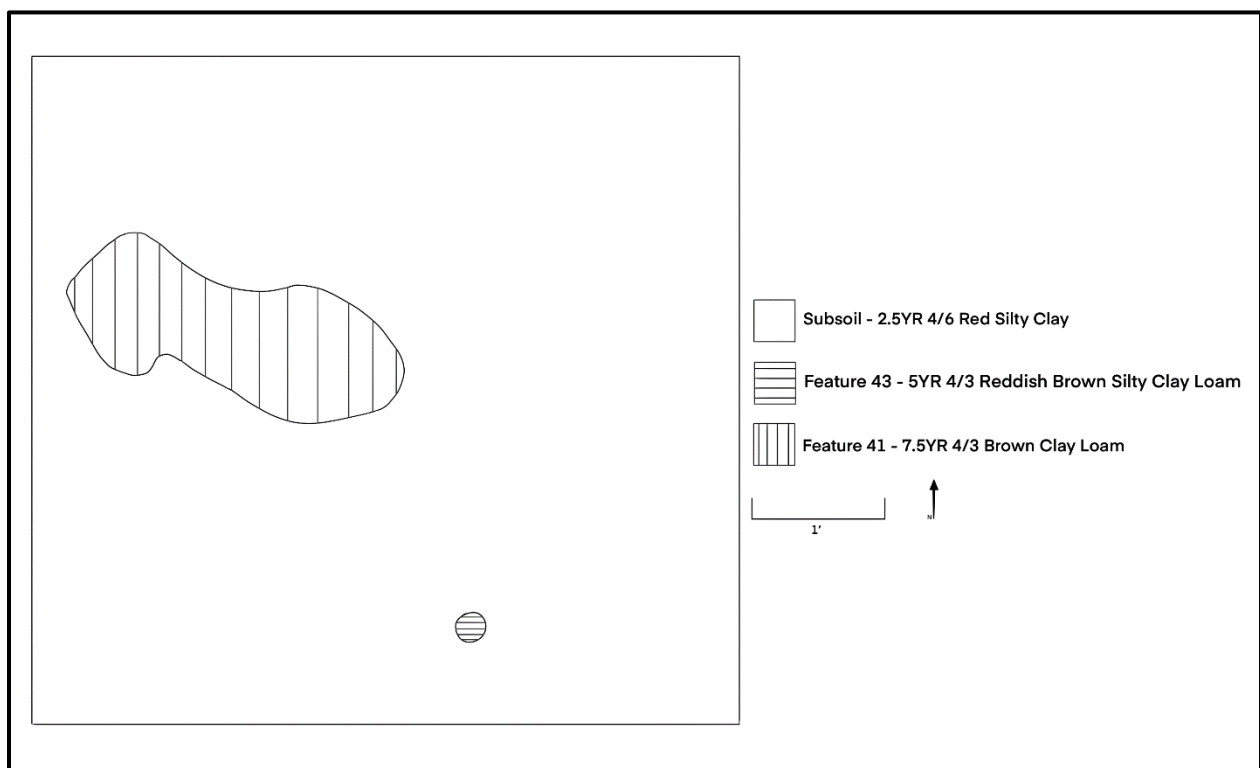


Figure 72. Planview of features 41 and 43 in unit 130.



Figure 73. Features 41 and 43 removed in unit 130 looking west. Photo by author.

In test unit 131 a pit and a shallow depression were found. Feature 73 was an oblong pit and measured 1ft X .9ft. It was only .09ft deep and contained a dark reddish brown (5YR 3/4) clay loam. A total of ten artifacts were found that include three animal bones, three creamware sherds, two unidentified nails, one amber bottle glass shard and one hand painted pearlware sherd. The presence of hand painted pearlware dates the fill of this feature to after 1775.

The other feature (74) was round and had a diameter of .22ft and was .19ft deep. It also had a dark reddish brown (5YR 3/4) clay loam that contained no artifacts (Figures 74-76).

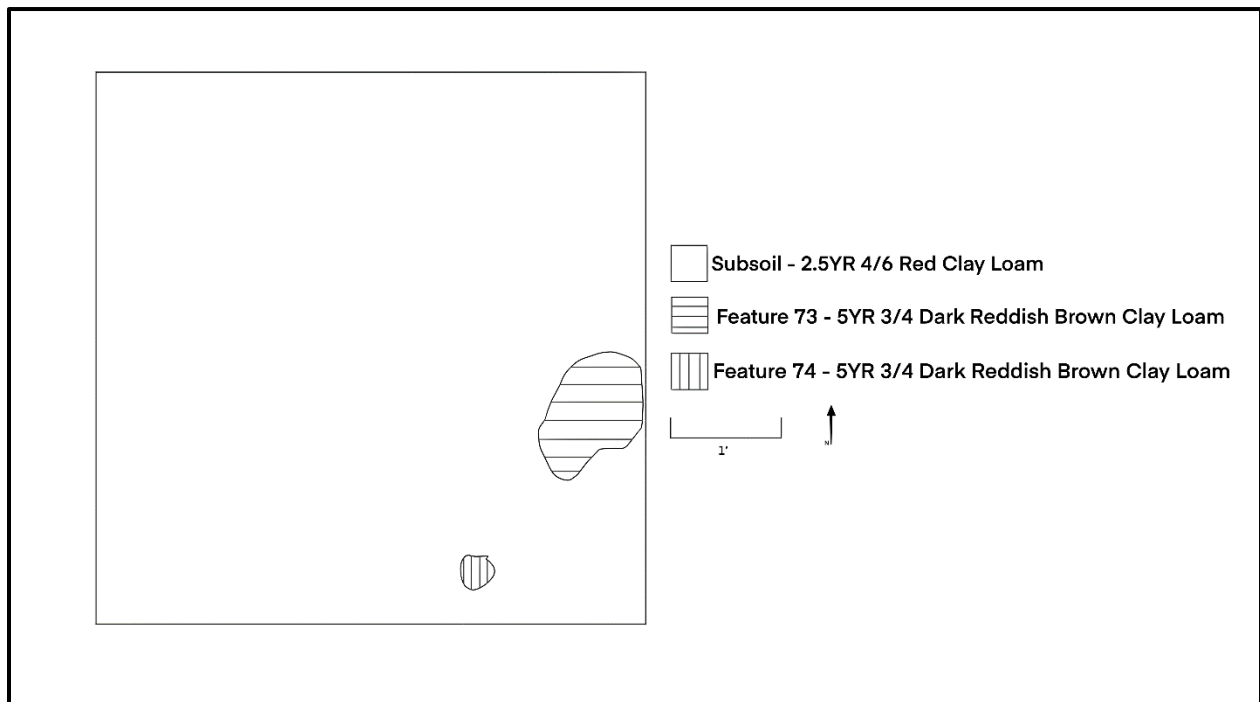


Figure 74. Planview of features 73-74 in unit 131.

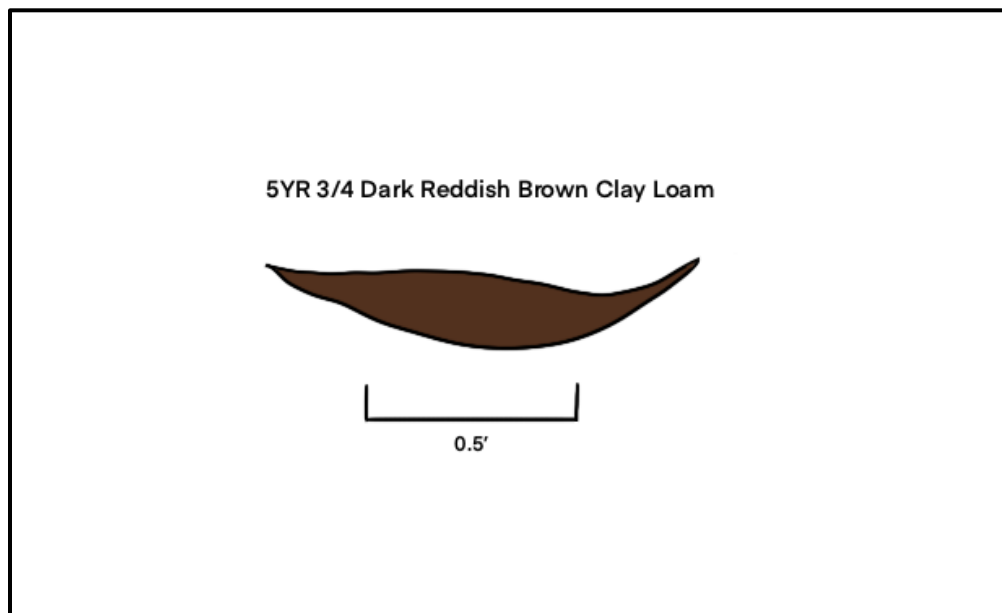


Figure 75. North profile of feature 73 in unit 131.

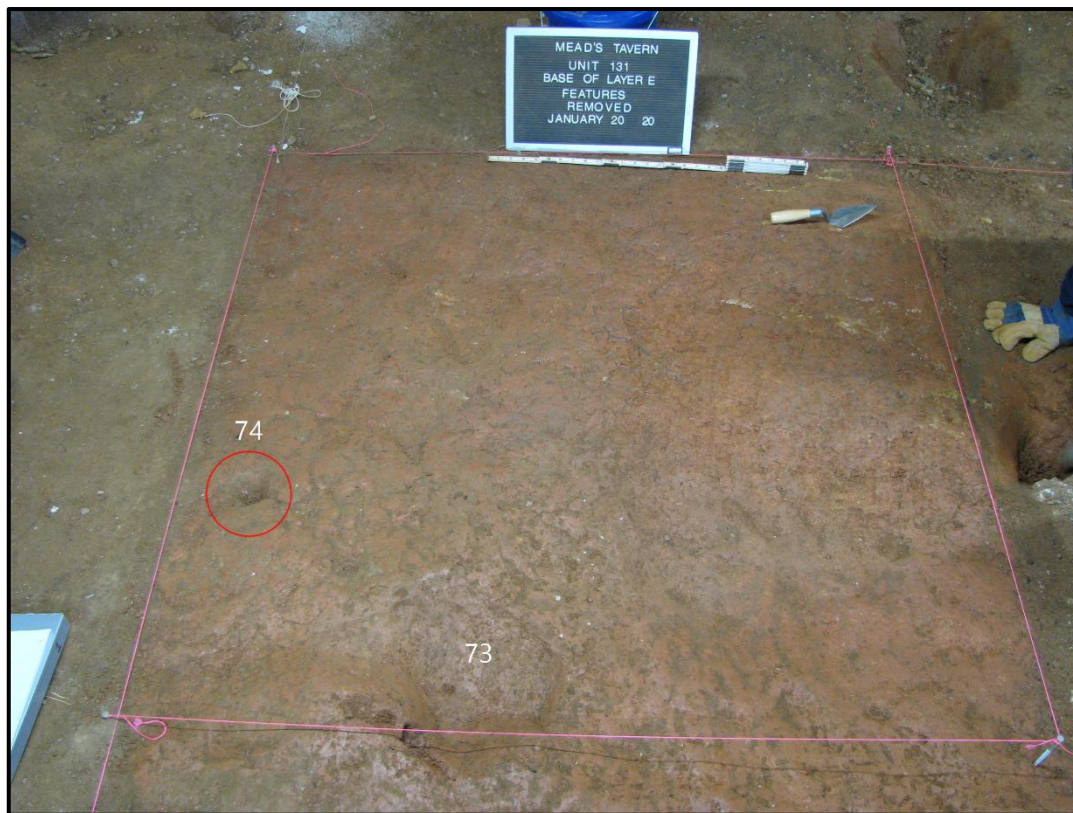


Figure 76. Feature 73-74 in unit 131 looking west. Photo by author.

DISCUSSION

A total of 14,443 artifacts were recovered from the basement of Mead's Tavern along with 20.36 pounds of brick, 3.44 pounds of lime mortar and 8.68 pounds of flat glass. Over 84 percent of the artifact assemblage was either ceramics, nails, animal bones or bottle glass (Figure 77).

Ceramics were the most common artifact type recovered and made up 27 percent of the entire assemblage. A total of 3,875 ceramics were found with 78 percent of them being either pearlware or creamware. Pearlwares were the most numerous ceramic types and made up 42.5 percent of the ceramic assemblage (Figures 78-79). Creamwares made up 36 percent of the assemblage with whitewares being the third most common at 6.8 percent. Redwares, coarse earthenwares, delft, stonewares and porcelains comprised just a small percentage (Figure 80).

Over 3,000 nails were recovered with 41.7 percent of them being hand wrought, 18.7 percent being cut and 14.7 being wire. Unidentifiable nails accounted for 24.8 percent of the nail assemblage. A total of 2,192 bottle glass shards were also recovered with 45.6 percent being dark green which is typical of wine bottle glass. Clear bottle glass made up 38.2 percent of the assemblage with aqua and light aqua making up 6.3 and 2.8 percent respectively.

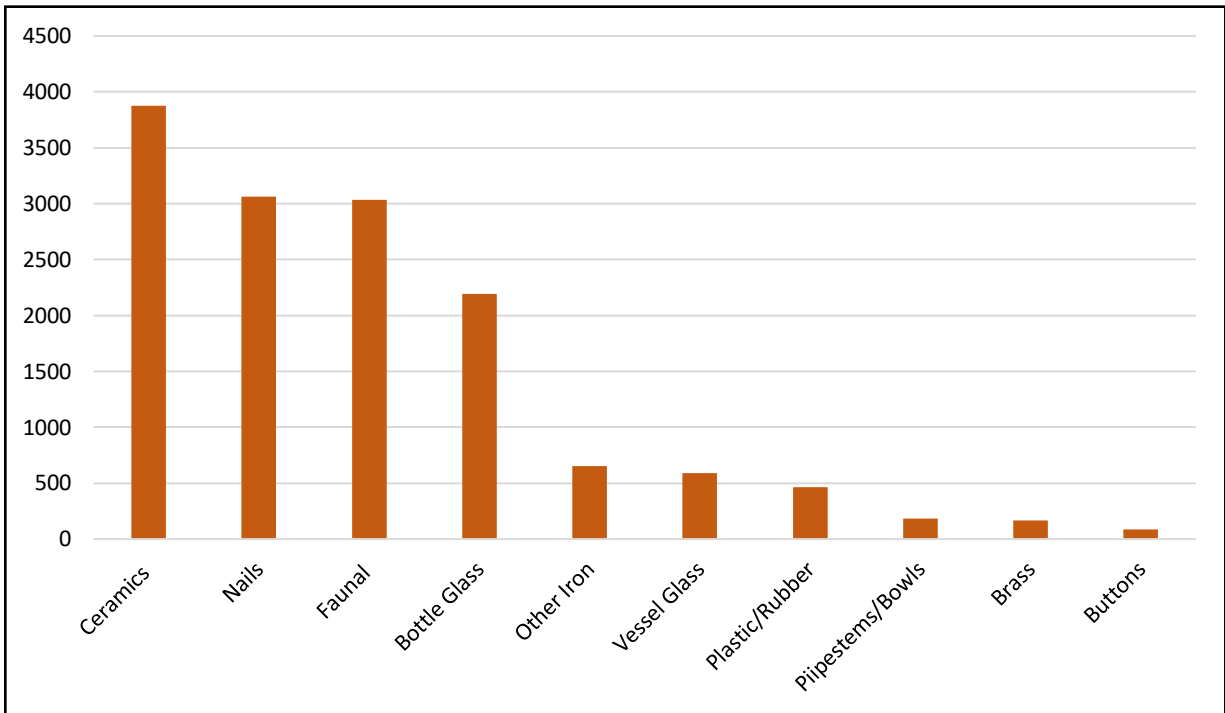


Figure 77. Breakdown of all artifacts.



Figure 78. Painted pearlware teacup sherd from unit 128 layer C. Photo by author.



**Figure 79. Blue shell edge pearlware plate from unit 132 layer D.
Photo by Jessica Gantzert.**

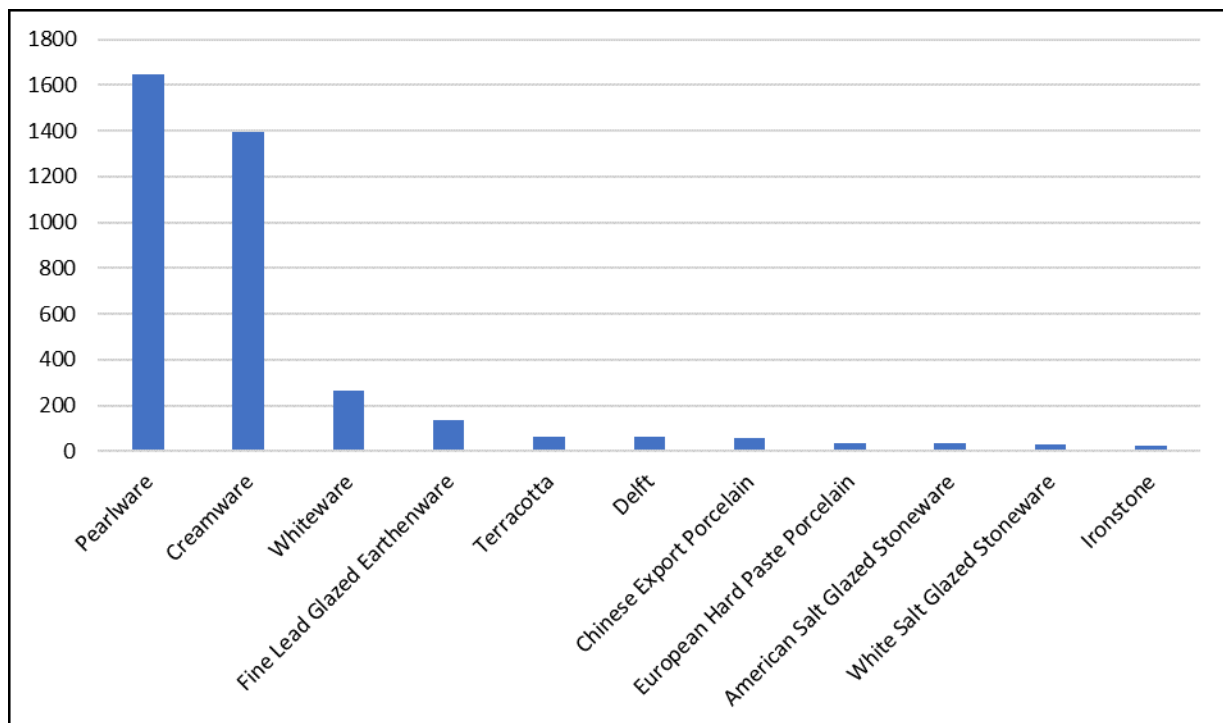


Figure 80. Breakdown of ceramics.

A preliminary analysis of the faunal remains shows that 78.8 percent of the faunal assemblage was comprised of mammal bones. Bird bones made up 8.6 percent and eggshells comprised 5.6 percent. Fish remains accounted for only 1.1 percent of the assemblage and 3.1 percent was unidentifiable (Figure 81).

In addition to these artifacts, there were a few other notable artifacts. Six musket balls, three lead shot and three gunflints were also discovered. Two of the musket balls and one gunflint were found in unit 117 in the utility room with the others being found along the north and west walls of the main room (Figure 82). Also, ten coins were found with four of them dating to the 18th century (Figure 83). Only one had a readable date which was a 1798 Draped Bust dollar. The other three were two silver Reales and a Draped Bust dollar with only the number 17 being legible. Six Liberty cent coins were also found with five dating between 1811 and 1820, and one only having the number 18 readable (Figure 84).

Based upon the large amount of creamware and pearlware found in the basement with beginning manufacturing dates starting at the earliest in the 1760s and as late as the 1780s and 90s, it is likely that the tavern operated until at least the early part of the 19th century. When John Thompson purchased the property in 1807, it was described as "...one half acre lot number six whereon stands a two story house formerly called Meads Tavern..." (Campbell County Deed Book 7 P610). It appears that by 1807 it was no longer being used as a tavern which fits well with the archaeological data.

The presence of a hearth in the basement might suggest that cooking activities were taking place there. However, the lack of redwares and coarse earthenwares, which are normally associated with food preparation and storage vessels, along with the high percentage of pearlwares and creamwares which tend to be tablewares, suggests that cooking was done in a separate outbuilding.

This conclusion is also supported by an analysis of orthophosphate ions in the soil which was done by the Biology and Chemistry Department at Liberty University (Appendix II). Orthophosphate ions are naturally formed during the normal decay of organic matter and those ions frequently stay spatially fixed at the locations they were formed.

The low, to no, orthophosphate ion signals around the hearth area suggest that it may never have been used for cooking and food preparation, but rather, may simply have been for warming which suggests cooking was done elsewhere. The 1805 Mutual Assurance Society plat depicts a kitchen outbuilding along with a smokehouse and washhouse. Since it appears that cooking activities were taking place in an outbuilding, what was the basement being used for?

Prior to excavations, the basement was a cramped, damp storage space primarily used for locating utilities. During the time it operated as a tavern however, it looked very different. The basement hearth would have provided a source of heat and light that would have dried the space, removed the chill and made it suitable for occupation or as a workspace. Excavations also showed that the original earthen floor, now precariously high relative to the overhead joists, was set deep enough to allow approximately 6 feet 2 inches of headroom. Remnants of whitewash on the brick and stone foundation suggest the basement would have been brighter than its present appearance.



Figure 81. Pig bones from unit 132 layer D. Photo by Jessica Gantzert.



Figure 82. Sample of recovered musket balls. Photo by Jessica Gantzert.



**Figure 83. Sample of recovered 18th century coins. From left to right 1798 Draped Bust Dollar, 17?? Silver Reale and 17?? Draped Bust Dollar.
Photo by Jessica Gantzert.**



Figure 84. Sample of recovered 19th century coins. From left to right 1806 Liberty Cent, 1811 Liberty Cent, 1811 Capped Bust Dime, 1816 Liberty Cent and 1820 Liberty Cent. Photo by Jessica Gantzert.

It is possible that people could have lived in the basement or it could have been used as a workspace or both. Several personal items were recovered, which shows that people spent time in the basement. A total of 185 pipestem and pipe bowl fragments were recovered along with 88 buttons with just under half being copper alloy. Also, 76 straight pins, six thimbles and a needle case were recovered. While this suggests sewing activities were taking place in the basement straight pins were also used in clothing. In addition, 12 clay marbles, a jaw harp and a cuff link were also found (Figure 85). The presence of these items shows that people occupied the basement either as a living space, workplace or perhaps both.

Given the large number of artifacts found in the basement, it might have been used as a workplace, possibly a scullery. The Merriam Webster dictionary defines a scullery as “a room for cleaning and storing dishes and cooking utensils and for doing messy kitchen work.” Food for guests at Mead’s Tavern would have been cooked in the kitchen outbuilding and presumably brought from there straight into the tavern. Given the large number of artifacts found, it is possible that food



Figure 85. Silver coated cuff link from unit 131 layer E. Photo by Jessica Gantzert.

might have been brought into the basement where it would have been further prepared and then put on plates to be sent upstairs. Those same dishes along with any table glass and utensils, might then have been brought back downstairs where they would be washed and stored until they were needed again.

In the process of preparing meals and washing the tablewares some of the vessels would have been accidentally broken or chipped and those pieces discarded on the clay floor or in one of the pit features. Likewise, any bones left on the plates would have also been discarded in the same manner along with any part of the animal that was not going to be used for the meal.

It is also possible that the artifacts were generated by people living in the basement who would have likely used the same tableware that was being used in the tavern. Any remnants of meals or broken ceramics would have likely been discarded in the basement.

An examination of the distribution of artifacts suggests two areas of the basement where activities could have taken place (Figures 86-88). The first was just to the south of the end hearth where units 119 and 135 are located. These units had a high concentration of ceramics, animal bone and wine bottle glass which suggests that this might have been one of the work areas where either meals were plated to go upstairs or washed afterwards or both. Food could have been kept warm in the fireplace and possible shelving along the walls in this area would have made a convenient place to store and retrieve tablewares.

The highest concentration of creamware and pearlware in the basement occurred in the utility room. It is possible that shelves in this area were used to store tableware for use in the tavern or that worktables were placed there for possible use in preparing meals. The highest concentration of animal bone occurred in unit 135 which suggests that meats were being further butchered into small portions or deboned to serve to patrons or people living in the basement.

While orthophosphate ion signals in the soil near the end hearth were low, higher orthophosphate ion signals occurred in units 118 and 113. These units had a comparably low number of artifacts but might have been where food and/or drinks were prepared. Unfortunately, the area in front of the end hearth was disturbed by the construction of the central chimney which was an area that would have seen a lot of activity.

The second area of high artifact density was in units 128, 129, 131 and 132 (Figure 83). These units, particularly units 131 and 132, had the highest number of artifacts in the basement besides unit 135. Like the area in the utility room, this area might have been where tablewares were washed but it could have also been an area where meals were further prepared as well. High orthophosphate ion signals occurred in these units with higher signals being located along the north wall in units 125, 127 and 130 which might be related to food preparation activities.

The northeastern area of the basement had fewer non-architectural artifacts than the rest of the basement. This is where the possible sumps were located and might have been used less because of water collecting there.

After the tavern ceased to operate the basement appears to have been used primarily for storage. The low number of 19th century artifacts suggests little was taking place there at that time. Some of the wine bottle glass recovered dates to that century and might have been stored in the utility room where there was a high concentration of dark green bottle glass. Also, in units 131-134, numerous coal fragments were found in layer B, which suggests that coal was being stored in the basement.

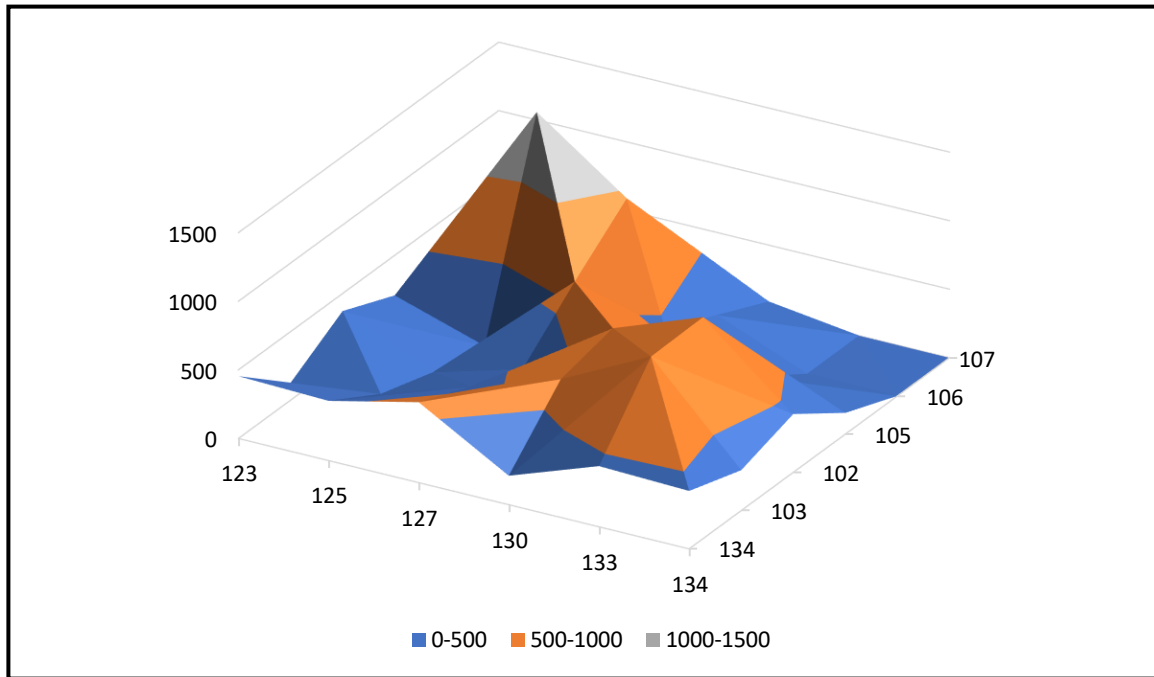


Figure 86. Distribution of all artifacts.

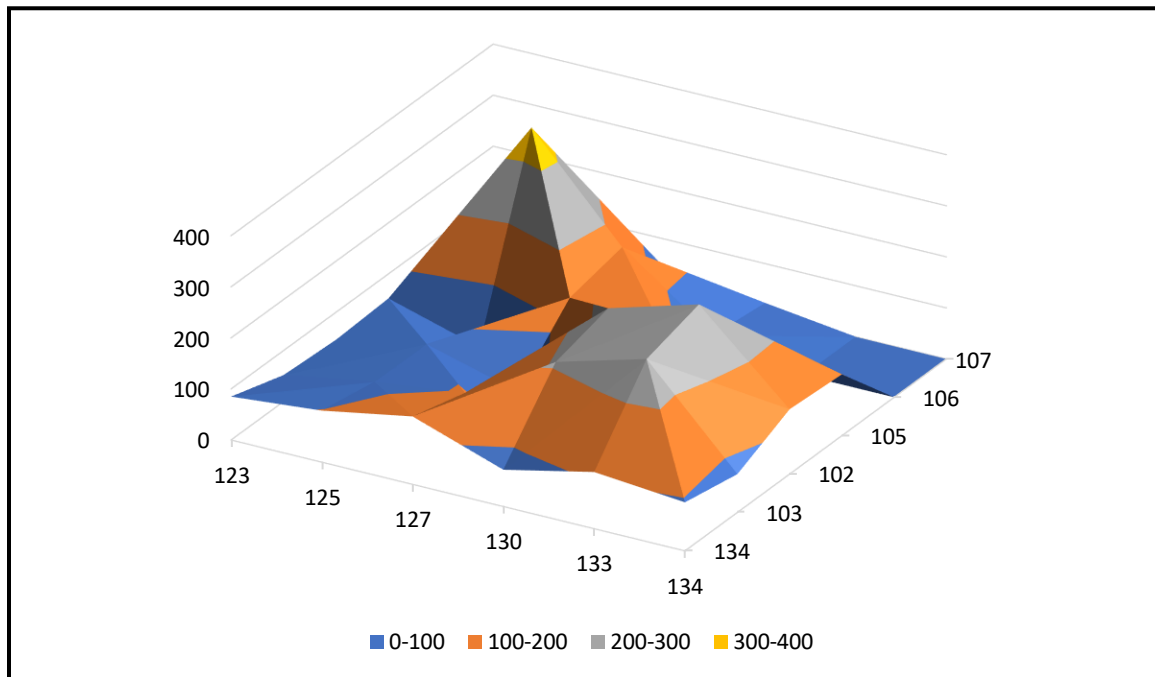


Figure 87. Distribution of ceramics.

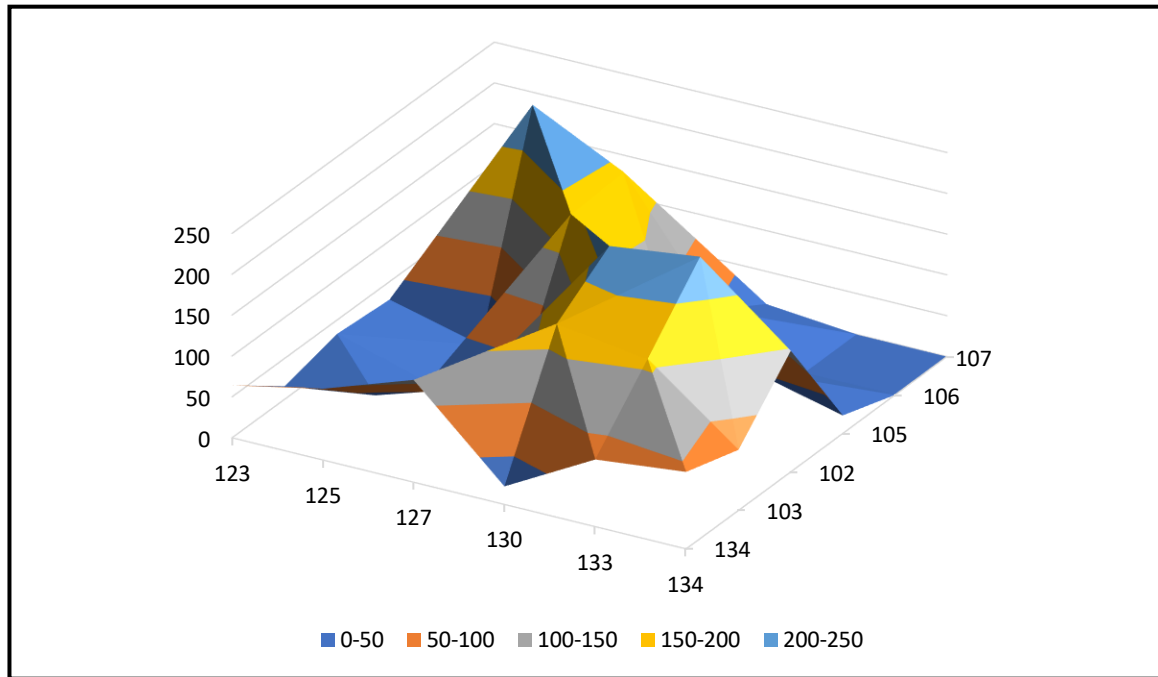


Figure 88. Distribution of animal bone.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Excavations in the basement of Mead's Tavern show that during the time it operated as a tavern, the basement would have contained a hearth along the east wall with possible shelving or tables along the southern wall. Two large pits were located next to the hearth and other pits were located throughout the basement, one of which might have been a refuse pit. Sumps located in the northeastern section helped keep water from collecting in that space. In addition, a possible support wall was located in the north central section of the basement (Figure 89).

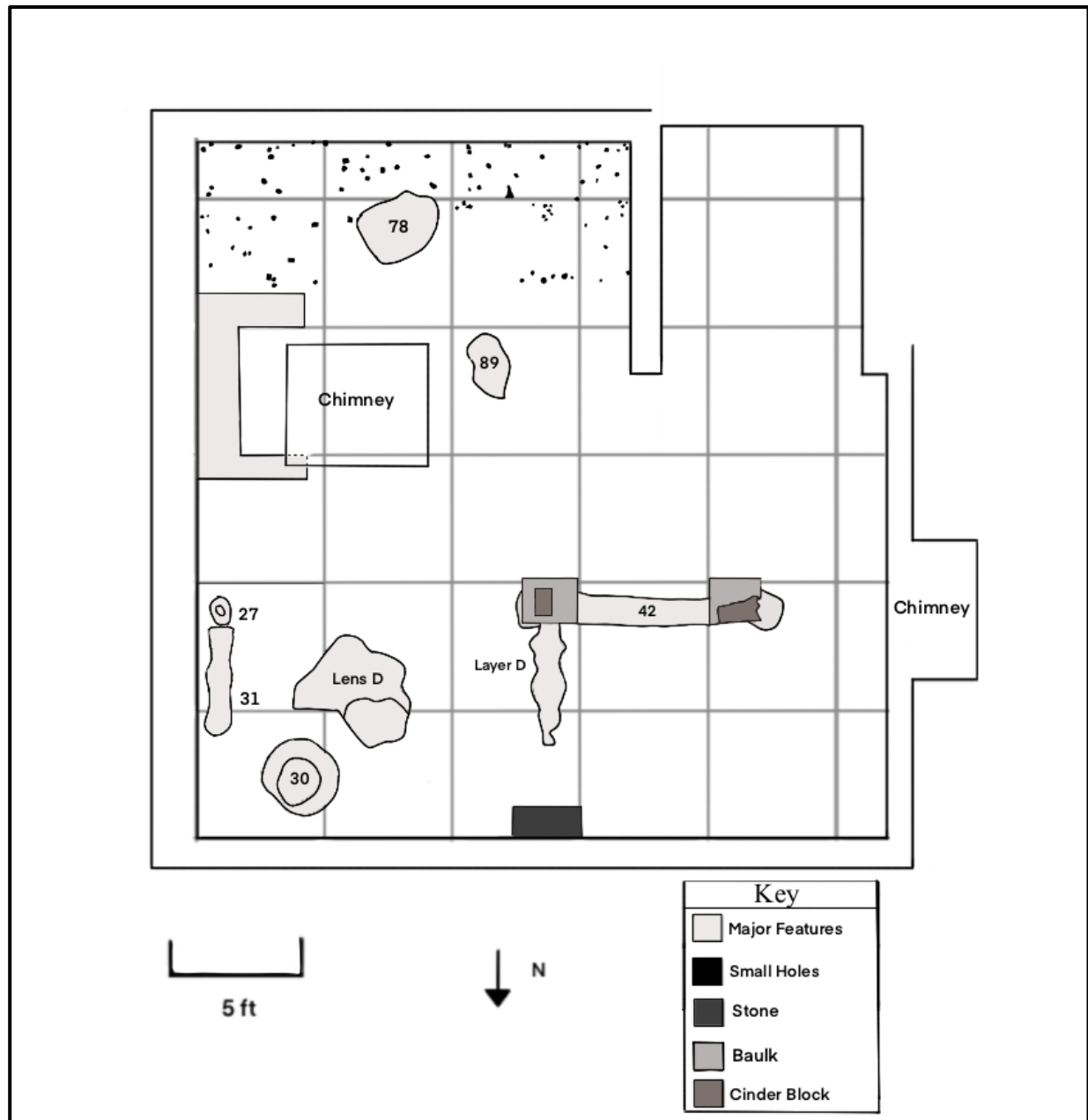


Figure 89. Planview of basement showing major features.

Artifacts recovered suggest the basement was occupied during the time it operated as a tavern and might have been a place where people resided and/or worked. A number of personal items such as pipestem/bowl fragments, buttons, straight pins, marbles, a jaw harp and a needle case were found which demonstrates that people occupied the basement in some capacity during the time it operated as a tavern.

The results of the 2018 excavations suggested that people might have lived in the basement and the current excavations have not ruled that out. However, it is also possible that the basement was being used as a work area, possibly a scullery since cooking activities were taking place in an adjacent kitchen outbuilding.

Little is known about the people who may have worked and lived at Mead's Tavern besides the owners. It is possible that the earliest tenants were tavernkeepers, such as Robert Hairston or Richard Turner who rented the structure from William Mead in the 1760s (Gish 2005). It is also possible that the tavernkeepers lived upstairs or even offsite and that free or enslaved laborers belonging either to them or to Mead may have occupied and/or worked in the basement. There is some potential, as well, that enslaved individuals accompanying affluent travelers may have been offered basement accommodations as opposed to sleeping outside or in one of the outbuildings.

The few 19th century artifacts found in the basement show that it was probably not occupied after the tavern ceased to operate but instead was likely used for storage. This corresponds to the period after the basement hearth was replaced with a new chimney which left hearths only on the first and second floors. A number of 19th century wine bottle glass shards were found in the utility room which suggests that wine was stored there. Also, in units 131-134, numerous coal fragments were found which suggests that coal was being stored in the basement.

Further examination of the artifact assemblage and comparisons with other areas excavated around the tavern may reveal more about how the tavern operated and the lives of those who worked and lived there. In addition, further documentary research may lead to additional insights regarding the occupants.

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APPENDIX I

Table of all Features

Unit #	Feature	Shape	Size ft	Depth	Munsell	Soil Type	Interpretation	Artifact #/ TPQ
100	13	Linear	3.9 X 2	.05-.65ft	5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Clay loam	Trench for hearth bricks	26/1775
100/122	35	Linear	3.4 X 2.1	.3ft	5YR 3/2 Dk reddish brown	Clay loam	Possible rodent	18/1790
100	80	Oblong	2.3 X 1.5	.1ft	2.5YR 2.5/4 Dk reddish brown	Clay loam Charcoal	Pit	5/1784
111	84	Amorphous	.5 X .4	.23	5 YR 3/3 Dk reddish brown	Clay loam	Possible rodent	9/1775
111	85	Oblong	2.2 X 1.6 not fully excavated	.4ft	5 YR 4/6 yellowish red	Silty clay loam Charcoal	Pit	29/1840
116	25	Amorphous	Not recorded	.19ft	5YR 4/3 reddish brown	Silty clay loam	Stone pile	73/1850
116	28	Rectangle	1.8 x 1.4	.19ft	5YR 4/4 reddish brown	Clay loam	Possible impression from a trunk	16/1820
118	57	Oblong	.4 X 2.5	.15ft	5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Clay loam	Shallow depression	None
119	58	Not recorded	Not recorded	.08ft	2.5YR 4/4 reddish brown	Silty clay	Modern disturbance	5/1784
119	60	Oblong	.7 X .6	.14ft	7.5YR 5/3 brown	Fine silt Charcoal	Pit	9/NDA
119	64	Amorphous	1.2 X .7	.20-.36ft	7.5YR 4/4 brown	Silty loam Charcoal	Pit	6/1775
119	67	Oblong	1.8 X 1.6	.12ft	7.5YR 4/3 brown	Silty loam	Pit	153 (150 egg shell)/NDA

119	68	Round	.5 dia.	.15ft	7.5YR 4/4 brown	Silty loam	Pit	None
120	86	Amorphous	1.6 X 1.3	.07ft	5YR3/3 Dk reddish brown	Silty loam Brick	Possibly part of feature 88	5/1820
120	87	Amorphous	1.5 X .6	.15ft	7.5YR 5/4 brown	Silty loam Charcoal	Shallow pit	22/1785
120	88	Linear	4.4 X .7	.15- .25ft	5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Silty clay loam Charcoal and brick	Possible Builders trench for central chimney	68/1784
120	89	Oblong	3 X 1.5	.37ft	7.5YR 4/4 brown	Silty loam Brick & stone	Pit	27/1811 (coin)
120	90	Not recorded	Not recorded	.01ft	5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Silt loam Charcoal	Possibly part of fea. 87	19/NDA
121	44	Amorphous	1.2 X .7	.22ft	2.5YR 4/6 red	Clay with Charcoal	Shallow depression Modern	10/1820
121	45	Rectangle	.2 X .1	.03ft	2.5YR 4/3 reddish brown	Clay loam	Small shallow depression	None
121/128	46	Linear Amorphous	10.7 X .9	.12ft	2.5YR 4/3 reddish brown	Clay loam Charcoal	Rodent tunnel	30/1820
121	47	Round	.8 dia.	.04ft	2.5YR 4/3 reddish brown	Clay loam Charcoal	Shallow depression	None
122	27	Oval	1.1 X .8 .3 dia. bottom	.5ft	2.5YR 3/3 dk reddish brown	Clay loam Charcoal	Possible small sump	39/1790
122	31	Linear	4.3 x 1	.07ft	2.5YR 4/4 reddish brown	Clay loam Charcoal	Trench	5/1784
122	33	Round	1.2 dia.	.11ft	2.5YR 4/4 reddish brown	Clay loam Charcoal	Possible rodent	15/1775
123	22/26	Amorphous	3.4 X 2.5	.14ft	Stone	Stone	Stone pile	54/1850

123/125	30A	Round	2.6 dia.	.53ft	7.5YR 3/4 dark brown	Silty loam Charcoal	Possible barrel sump	85/1820
123/125	30B	Round	1.5 dia.	.3ft	2.5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Silty loam		19/NDA
123	94	Not recorded	Not recorded	NR	Not recorded	Not recorded	Shallow depression	None
123	97	Not recorded	Not recorded	.10ft	5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Clay loam	Shallow depression	1/1820
124/114	14	Amorphous	1.7 X .7	.19ft	5YR 4/4 Reddish brown	Clay loam	Possible rodent	2/NDA
124	32	Oval	1 dia.	.2ft	5YR 4/4 Reddish brown	Silty clay loam Charcoal & brick	Pit	4/1820
124	34	Amorphous	1.9 X .2-.6	n/a	2.5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Silt loam	Rodent hole	None
125	29	Oblong	2.2 X 1.7	.16ft	7.5YR 3/4 Dk brown	Slit loam Charcoal	Pit	21/1820
125	96	Round	.6 dia.	.34ft	5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Clay loam	Pit	3/1705
125,124, 122	Lens D	Amorphous	2.6 X 2.3	.05	5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Clay loam Charcoal	Lens	80/1820
124/125	Lens D North	Amorphous	1.5 X 1.2	.25ft	5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Clay loam Charcoal	Pit	Same as above
126	36	Possibly round	Not fully excavated	.2ft	5YR 2.5/2	Clay loam	Possibly part of fea. 42	2/1850

					Dk reddish brown			
126/127	37	Round	1 dia.	.9ft	5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Silty clay loam	Rodent hole	6/1775
126/127	Layer D	Linear/Amorphous	5 X .3-1.3 Not fully excavated	.27-.38	5YR 4/3 reddish brown	Silty clay loam	Possible trench	60/1775
127	38	Amorphous	1.5 X .6	.04ft	5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Silty clay loam	Rodent hole	10/1775
128	46	Linear/Amorphous	5.5 X .6	.1ft	2.5YR 4/3	Clay loam	Rodent hole	5/1806 (coin)
128	59	Oblong	1.1 X .75	.55ft	2.5YR 4/8 red	Clay loam	Post hole 20 th century	11/1795
128	59	Round	.25 dia.	.15ft	7.5YR 3/3 Dk brown	Clay loam	Post mold 20 th century	None
128	61	Round	.3 dia.	.15ft	2.5YR 4/8 red	Clay loam	Shallow depression	None
128	62	Oblong	.6 dia.	.2ft	5YR 3/2 Dk reddish brown	Clay loam	Shallow depression	3/NDA
128	71	Oblong	.7 X .7	.24ft	5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Clay loam	Shallow depression	1/ NDA
128/111	72	Rectangle rounded ends	.7 X .6	.2	5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Silty clay loam	Shallow depression	1/1762
129	40	Rectangle rounded ends	2.2 X 1.8	.14ft	5YR 4/4 reddish brown	Silty clay loam	Modern disturbance	Modern
129	42A/48A in 132	Linear	10.1 X 1	.153ft	5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Silty clay loam Charcoal	Trench	16/1775
129	42B/48B in 132	Linear	10.1 X 1	.263ft	2.5YR 4/4 reddish brown	Clay loam Charcoal	Trench	15/1780

130	41	Oblong	2.4 X 1	.26-.61ft	10YR 4/6 red	Clay loam	Pit	10/1820
131	73	Oblong	1 X .9	.09ft	5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Clay loam Charcoal	Pit	10/1775
131	74	Round	.22 dia.	.19ft	5YR 3/4 Dk reddish brown	Clay loam	Shallow depression	None
134	95	Square	2 X 1.1ft	.3ft	5YR 3/4 w/ 2.5 4/6	Clay	Pit	16/1790
135	75	Linear	3.9 X 1ft	.35ft	2.5YR 4/3 reddish brown	Silty loam and gravel	Modern trench	Modern
135	76	Amorphous	.8 X .25ft	.36	2.5YR 4/4 reddish brown	Silty loam	Part of feature 78	None
135	77	Amorphous	1.8 X 1.1ft	.1-.2ft	2.5YR 4/4 reddish brown	Silty clay loam Charcoal	Pit	7/1820
135	78A	Oval	3.1 X 2.6ft	.25ft	7.5YR 4/4 brown	Silty loam Charcoal	Pit	62/1785
135	78B	Oval	same	.25ft	7.5YR 5/4 brown	Silty loam Charcoal	Same	37/1790
135	79	Oblong	1.5 X .8ft	.3-.65ft	2.5YR 4/4 brown	Silty clay loam Charcoal	Pit	22/1795
135/104	101	Linear	2 X 1.7ft	N/A	N/A	N/A	Bricks for end hearth	None

Utility Room				
Test Unit	Feature	Shape	Depth	Artifacts
104	91-1	Round	.28ft	No
104	91-2	Round	.25ft	No
104	91-3	Round	.30ft	No
104	91-4	Square	.28ft	No
104	91-5	Square	.25ft	No
104	91-6	Square	.15ft	No
104	91-7	Square	.36ft	No
104	92	Round	.23ft	No
104	93-1	Round	.27ft	No
104	93-2	Round	.27ft	No
104	100-2	Square	.25ft	No
104	100-3	Round	.30ft	No
104	100-4	Square	.25ft	No
104	100-5	Round	.20ft	No
104	100-6	Round	.05ft	No
104	100-7	Round	.10ft	No
104	100-8	Square	.30ft	No
116	83-1	Square	.20ft	No
116	83-2	Round	.10ft	No
116	83-3	Square	.09ft	No
116	83-4	Round	.55ft	No
116	83-5	Square	.34ft	No
116	83-6	Round	.05ft	No
116	83-7	Round	.11ft	No
116	83-8	Round	.20ft	No
116	83-9	Round	.30ft	No
116	83-10	Round	.31ft	Yes
116	83-11	Round	.07ft	No
116	83-12	Round	.15ft	No
116	83-13	Round	.45ft	Yes
117	52	Round	.2ft	No
117	52	Round	.1ft	No
117	53-1	Square	.39ft	No
117	53-2	Round	.04ft	No
117	53-3	Square	.21ft	Yes
117	53-4	Round	.30ft	No
117	53-5A	Round	.08ft	No
117	53-5B	Round	.08ft	No
117	53-6	Square	.15ft	Yes
117	53-7	Square	.14ft	No
117	53-8	Square	.40ft	No
117	53-9	Square	.31ft	No

117	53-10	Square	.12ft	No
117	53-11	Square	.08ft	No
117	53-12	Square	.08ft	No
118	54-1A	Round	.18ft	No
118	54-B	Round	.18ft	No
118	54-2	Square	.16ft	No
118	54-3	Square	.24ft	No
118	54-4	Round	.07ft	No
118	54-5	Square	.28ft	No
118	54-6	Amorphous	.10ft	No
118	54-7	Square	.14ft	No
118	54-8A	Square	.17ft	No
118	54-8B	Square	.17ft	No
118	54-9	Round	.11ft	No
118	55	Square	.40ft	No
118	56	Round	.60ft	No
119	63	Round	.70ft	Yes
119	65-west	Round	.04ft	Yes
119	65-east	Round	.05ft	Yes
119	66	Round	.11ft	No
119	69-west	Square	.32ft	Yes
119	69-east	Square	.40ft	Yes
119	70-1	Square	.02ft	No
119	70-2	Square	.11ft	No
119	70-3	Square	.05ft	No
119	70-4	Round	.04ft	No
119	70-5	Round	.24ft	No
119	70-6	Round	.12ft	No
119	70-7	Round	.12ft	No
135	82-1	Square	.38ft	No
135	82-2	Round	.25ft	No
135	100-1	Square	.20ft	No
Main Room				
100	81-1	Round	.37ft	No
100	81-2	Round	.35ft	No
121	49	Round	.38ft	No
121	50	Round	.32ft	No
121	51	Round	.17ft	No
125	29	Round	.35ft	No
127	39	Round	.15ft	No
126	Layer D	Round	.2ft	No
126	Layer D	Rectangle	.2ft	No
130	43	Square	.42ft	No

APPENDIX II

Orthophosphate Ion Analysis

Mike Bender, Donna Donald, and Randy Lichtenberger

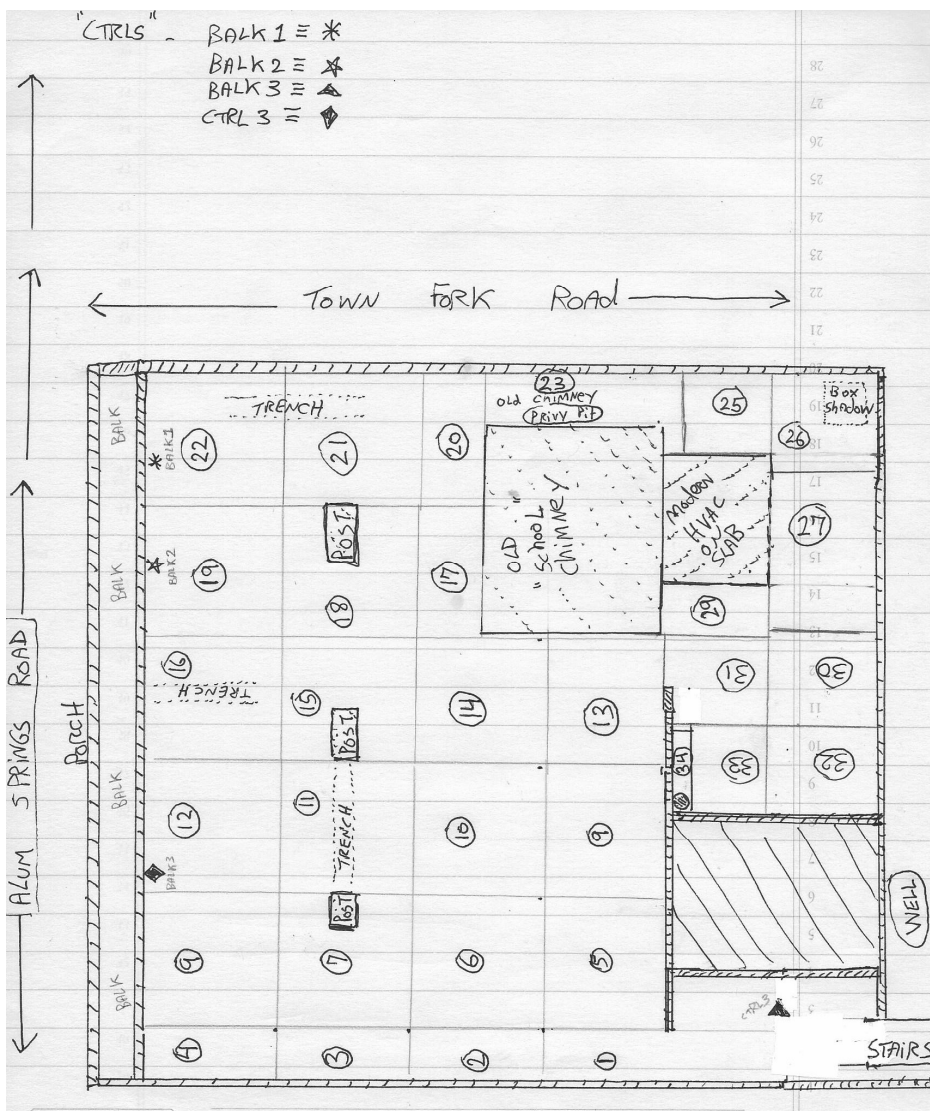
Sponsored by Liberty University's CRS grant to Bender

We studied the excavated cellar of Mead's Tavern using a chemical analysis method that we hypothesized would potentially indicate the cellar areas where food preparation and storage may have taken place. Literature reports that middens, privies, food preparation areas, and livestock pens can potentially be identified through analyzing site soil samples for orthophosphate ions. These orthophosphate ions are naturally formed during the normal decay of organic matter and those ions frequently stay spatially fixed at the locations they were formed. For our study, we took thirty-nine samples of soil across the entire excavated cellar surface using the remaining archaeological grid units that were in place. These soil samples were taken in a horizontal context (not depth sampled) and approximately one household measuring cup's amount of soil was removed at each sampling location. The orthophosphate analysis on these soil samples was then done in the Biology and Chemistry Department of Liberty University during June of 2021.

As the attached contour map shows, there is substantial variation of the "orthophosphate ion" across the excavated cellar. The results allow the following conjectures:

- The low, to no, orthophosphate ion signals around the hearth area in the top right of the figure suggest that the older hearth previously found in that region may never have been used for cooking and food preparation, but rather, may simply have been for warming. This would perhaps be consistent with food preparation practices of that time period where cooking was carried out adjacent, or removed from, the main living building.
- The higher orthophosphate ion signals in the cellar near the front porch area are concentrated and may indicate some activity between the proposed cellar division walls and the front porch area (zones 11, 12, 15, 16).
- The higher orthophosphate ion signals near zones 30 and 32 may mean the features seen in the soil that suggested storage shelving could be storage associated with food or drink items.

Mead's Tavern Basement post excavation



Sampled by TM Bender on 06/08/21

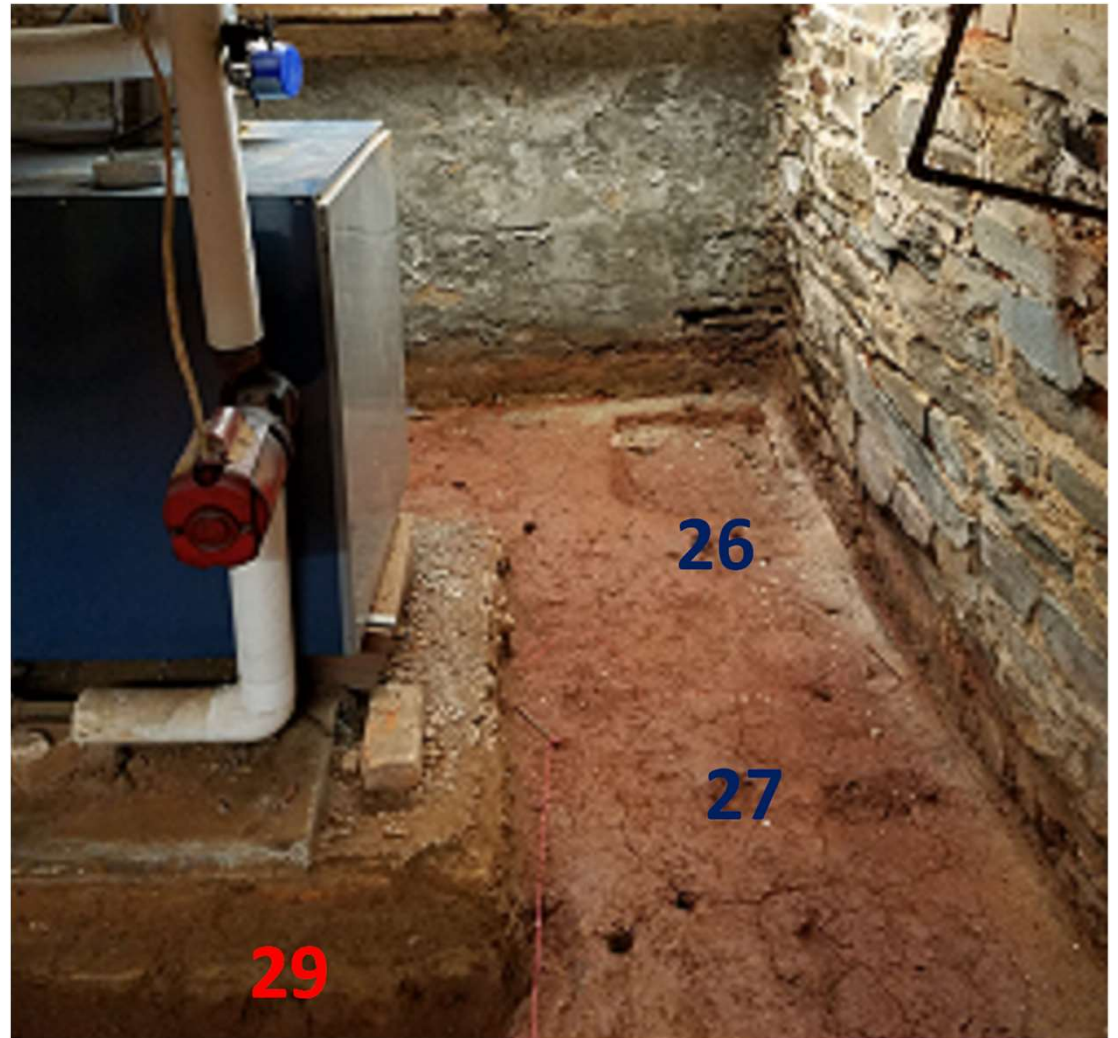
Most numbered squares sampled in center, but a few grid squares also sampled in "trench" features

Grid squares – lightly 'scalped' with a pointed trowel than sampled at a mostly horizontal plane in that scalped region

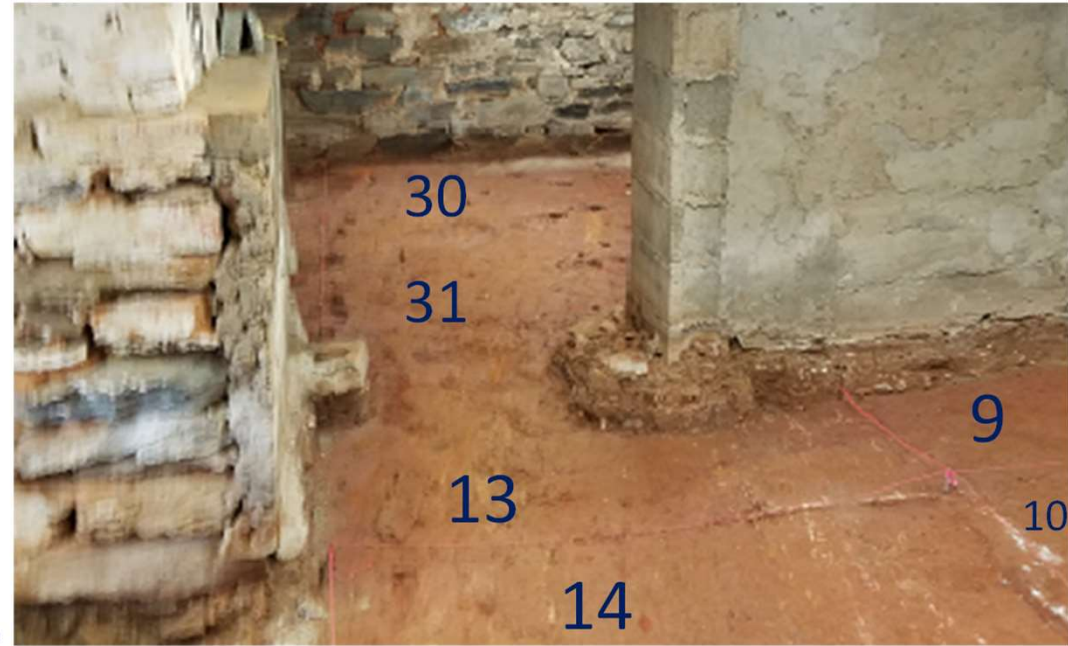
Three potential controls taken from the balk in the layer of soil closest to the excavated floor surface. One other potential control ("Ctrl 3") was taken in the region near the stairs believed to have been region excavated by former owner to backfill part of basement near 22,21,20,23,25,26 etc.



Balk 1 sampling point



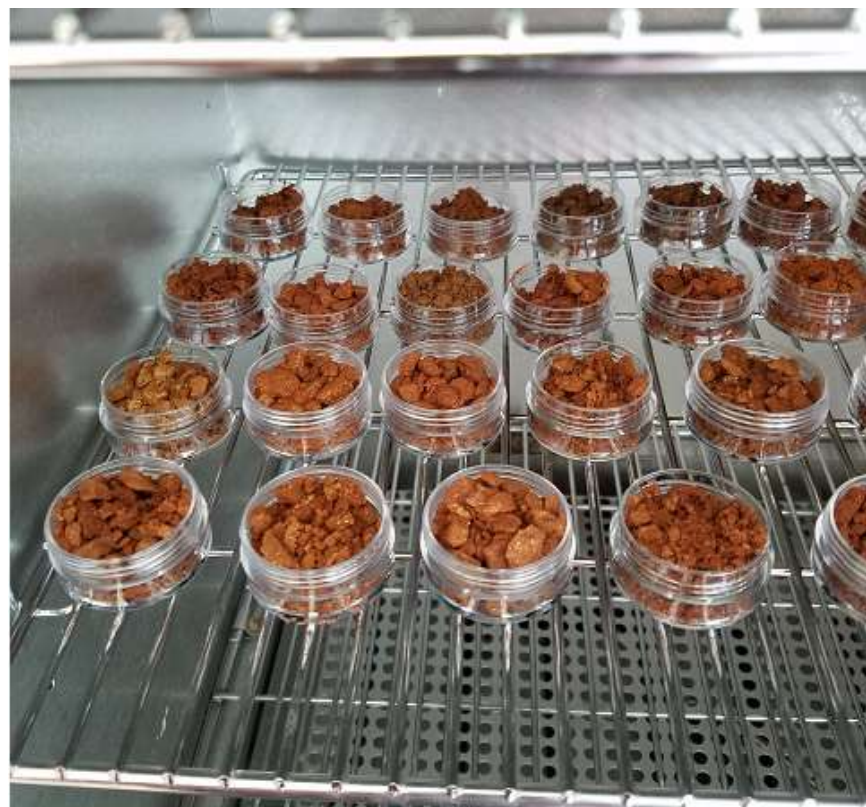












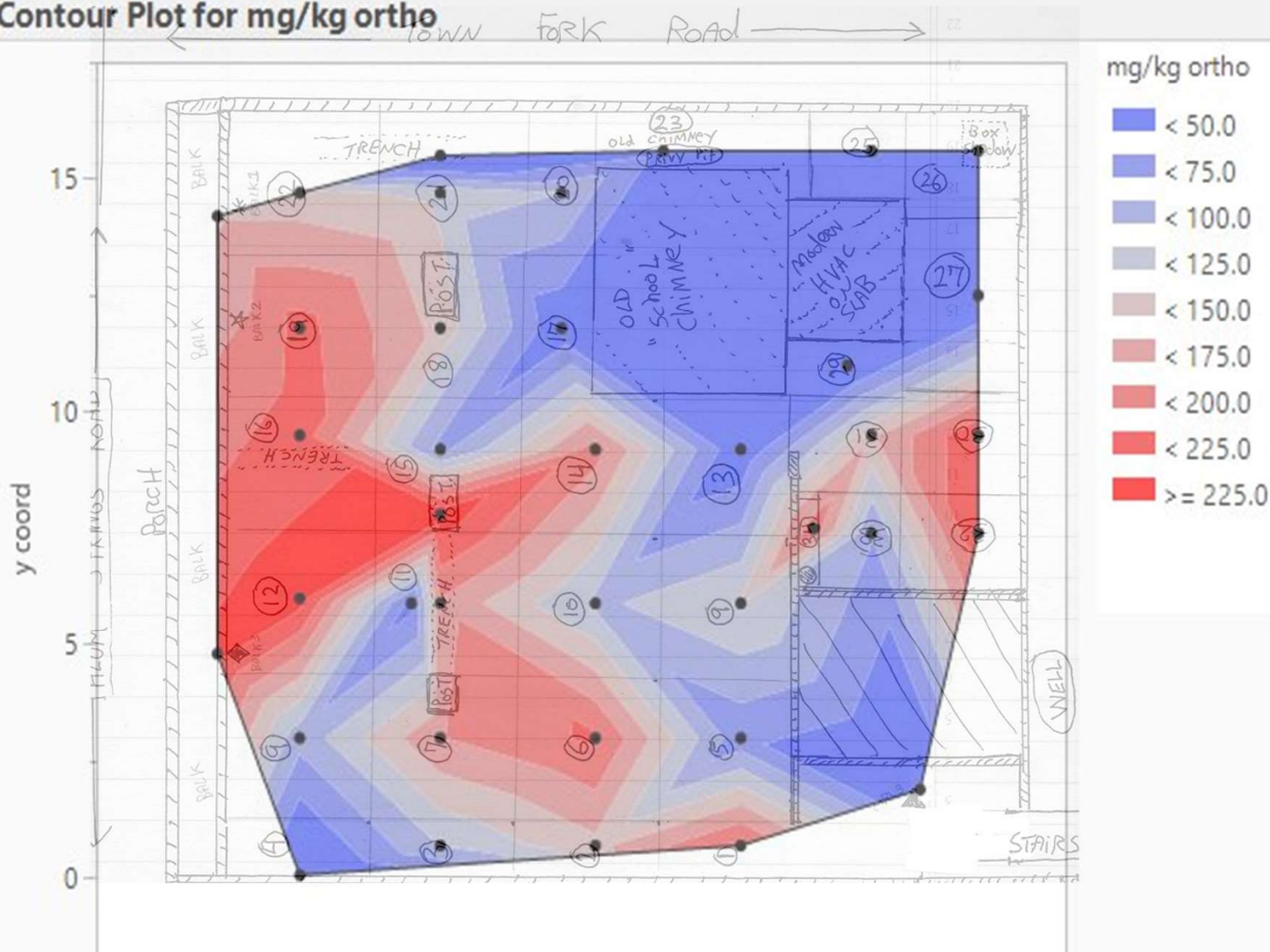


- Red = high level
- Green = low level
- R -> Yellow -> G

Max Red ~ 250 mg/kg orthophosphate

Min Green 0 mg/kg orthophosphate

Contour Plot for mg/kg ortho

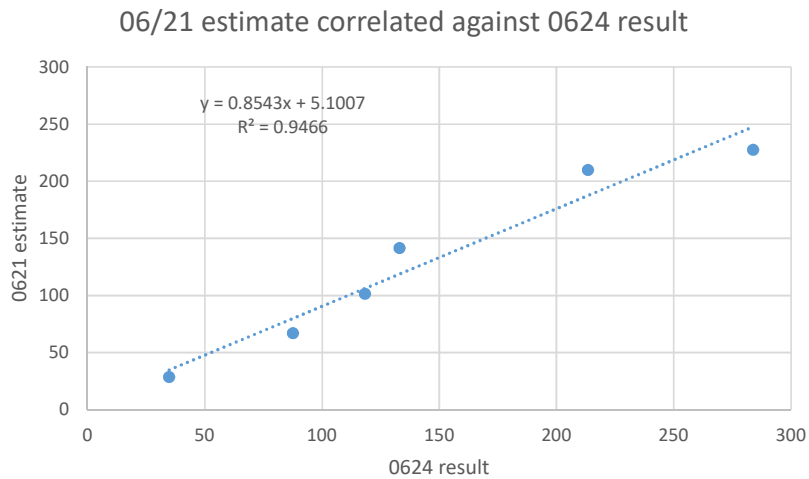


Sample ID	mg/kg ortho in solid
15 trench	241.6
12	236.5
Balk 3	233.7
Balk 2	227.3
30	223.7
32	222.6
16	214.4
19	209.6
1	206.6
6	204.8
34	189.7
14	186.1
7	173.6
11 trench	170.6
Balk 1	146.6
31	145.0
2	143.4
18	141.5
22	134.2
9	127.1
21	117.9
3	101.2
20	99.6
10	93.6
8	83.5
33	77.1
15	66.8
5	57.1
23	42.5
11	40.8
17	28.6
13	25.9
29	16.8
27	6.9
4	5.9
26	2.4
Control 3	1.5
25	1.1
21 trench	-1.3

First experiment – bulk of work but not optimized

2nd experiment – do triplicate soil selection and assays with more optimal method

Dry Sample ID	ortho mg/kg in soil	avg ortho mg/kg	std dev ortho mg/kg
Balk 2-A	286.8	283.9	4.5
Balk 2-B	278.7		
Balk 2-C	286.2		
19-A	224.2	213.5	20.6
19-B	226.7		
19-C	189.7		
18-A	143.2	133.1	8.7
18-B	127.9		
18-C	128.4		
17-A	28.2	34.8	10.4
17-B	29.4		
17-C	46.8		
3-A	134.2	118.4	17.4
3-B	121.4		
3-C	99.7		
15-A	81.8	87.7	9.5
15-B	98.7		
15-C	82.8		



Fair correlation between two sets of work

