

**PHASE I AND II ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS  
AT CAMERON FARM (44AX182) AND CAMERON  
MILL (44AX112),  
HOFFMAN PROPERTIES,  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

**FINAL REPORT**

by

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for

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**July 2005**



**Historic Photos Courtesy of  
Special Collections, Alexandria (Virginia) Public Library**

## *THE ARCHEOLOGY OF CAMERON FARM*

As recently as 70 years ago, the Eisenhower Avenue area of Alexandria was essentially a rural part of the city, as the 1927 aerial view below indicates. The area presently known as the Hoffman property included what was then known as the Cameron Farm, located at the bottom of the picture. At that time, Edmund Hunt Roberts and his wife Bertha lived in the large house that overlooked the Cameron Run stream valley and the site of the historic Cameron Mill. In 1929, however, Edmund and Bertha Roberts turned over the property to two trustees, who managed and eventually sold it in smaller parcels.



**This 1927 aerial view shows Cameron Farm, the mills, and the location of "Sunnyside" close to Duke Street (Photo from Special Collections, Alexandria Public Library)**

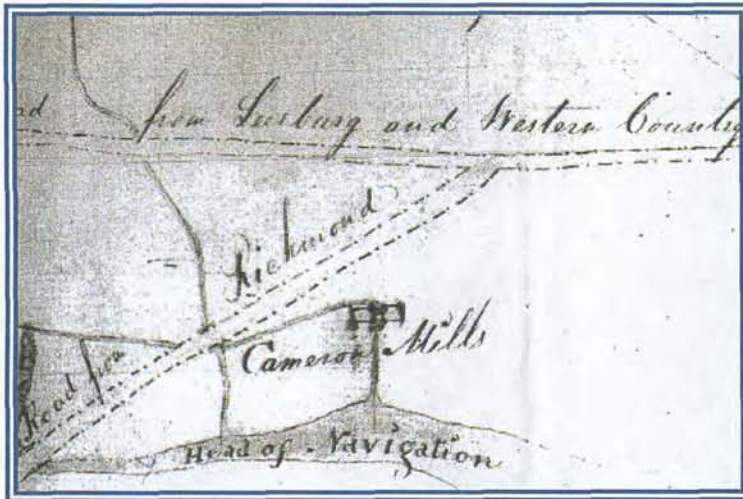
By the mid-1940s, development had begun to encroach on the old farmstead. Trailer parks and commercial buildings filled in once open fields and erased the traces of former buildings and structures. By 1970, most of Cameron farm had been bought by the Hoffman Management Company, who constructed two large office buildings and a motel on the site.

In 1998, Hoffman Management filed plans to develop the remaining open spaces on its property by constructing a cinema and retail center. Alexandria's archeological ordinance required that such development be preceded by archeological investigations, which, over the next three years, revealed features and artifacts related to three distinct sites: the 18th century West Family Cemetery; the 19<sup>th</sup> century Cameron Mills; and the 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century Cameron Farm. The State of Virginia assigned a separate number to each site.

### **The West Family Cemetery (44AX183)**

The land that became Cameron Farm originally was granted to two individuals, Carr and Simpson, in 1678. Twenty years later, John (I) West of Stafford County bought half of the 627-acre grant from John Simpson. By 1738, through inheritance and purchase, John West's





Above: Part of a ca 1798 map of Alexandria, showing the double mills at Cameron.

Right: The Cameron Mill complex in the late nineteenth century (Photo from Special Collections, Alexandria Public Library)



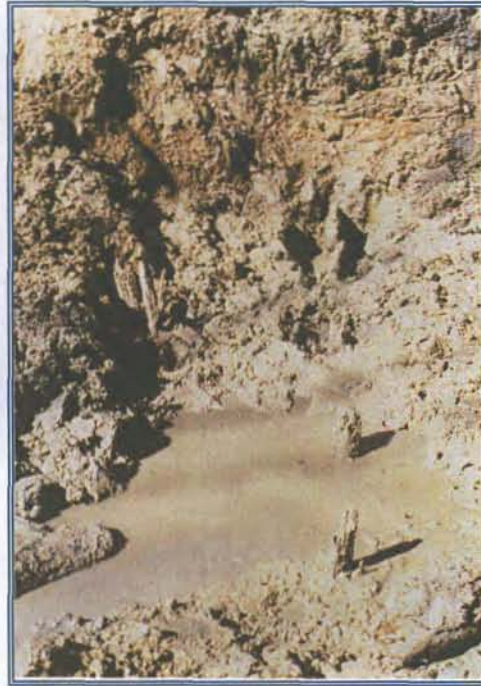
The Roberts family, together with Edmund Hunt, continued in the milling business, but with only one mill, having sold the eastern mill building to the newly formed Alexandria Water Company in 1851. The other mill continued to produce cornmeal, feed and flour for the commercial market until 1919; nine years later, the Alexandria Water Company demolished the structure, claiming that it was a hazard. Meanwhile, the water company converted the eastern mill into a pumping station, diverting water from the Cameron Mill millrace and pumping it up to the reservoir on top of Shuter's Hill. The water company's Cameron Pumping Station operated until the mid-twentieth century.

The first archeological study of the mill site was undertaken in 1990. At that time, preliminary testing exposed portions of the foundations of both mill buildings. Archeological excavations in 1999 and 2001 found other features related to the operation of the mills: portions of the mill race that bordered the yard of the Cameron Farmhouse, and (beneath 13 feet of fill in what used to be the bed of Cameron Run) the remains of a small pier, undoubtedly used to load sacks of flour and meal onto small boats for transport down Hunting Creek to the Potomac River. As the photographs show, both the millrace and Cameron Run still had water draining through them, despite having been filled in for over a quarter of a century.



**Above: Part of the stone lining of the millrace, buried beneath nearly five feet of fill.**

**Right: These upright posts once supported a small pier that extended into Cameron Run.**



### **Cameron Farm Complex (44AX182)**

Through the years, the descendants of Robert and Reuben Roberts documented, cherished, and kept alive the memory of their ancestral home. In 1945, Dr. James Roberts, grandson of Robert Roberts, described the Cameron Farm that he knew as a youth. His sketch maps showed the locations of all the buildings on the property and the layout of the principal family dwelling. Other descendants photographed, measured, and constructed a scale model of the main homestead before it was demolished. These artifacts, along with historic maps, photographs, and Edmund Hunt's nineteenth century diaries of life at Cameron (all of which are available at Alexandria's public library), were invaluable as archeologists tried to interpret the numerous features that appeared as the modern ground levels were slowly peeled back.

When the Roberts family took possession of Richard Windsor's property in 1848, the property included a brick dwelling house that had been mentioned back in the 1830s, in the deed that transferred the Cameron Farm property from Stump and Ricketts' heirs to Windsor. The Roberts family immediately built a large two-story frame addition on the eastern end of the original brick dwelling. But "Cameron" was more than just a residence; it was a thriving agricultural complex. The 1850 census indicated that the three separate households on the property were headed by Reuben Roberts, the miller; Joseph Allen, a male [*sic*] driver; and Robert Roberts, "farmer." A ca. 1851 survey for the Manassas Gap Railroad, which was planned to cross the property south of the mills, depicted the mill, a "cow house" and a "barn" immediately south of the millrace, two dwelling houses, and some "frame houses" around Roberts Lane as landmarks for the survey. The map key identified one of the "frame houses" as a "miller's house"--possibly the same one that James Roberts remembered as the "old mill house where the millers who ran the mill lived." From Edmund Hunt's extensive diary, we know that there was a "shuck house" for storing straw

and a “hot bed” that was used to start vegetable seedlings in January. Cameron was a bustling and prosperous agricultural operation in a beautiful setting.

By 1999, modern development apparently had erased nearly every trace of the rambling Roberts farmhouse and its bucolic setting. Functional cinder block warehouses and their graded parking lots had leveled the entire area; Mill Road, once an unpaved lane that had linked the farm to Telegraph Road, had been widened and realigned; and utility lines snaked through the yard beneath the surface. As archeological investigations began in 1999, there seemed little chance that much had survived such an onslaught.

The archeological project began by removing the modern fill from across large areas of the site using the same type of heavy equipment that undoubtedly had been employed to create the area’s modern landscape. Ultimately, a total of 22 trenches, some over 90 ft long and positioned in carefully predetermined areas of the site, were opened and cleared. Archeological crews monitored this process, carefully recording and mapping any soil discolorations, concentrations of brick rubble and other architectural debris, wall lines, road surfaces, or utility trenches. Then, in consultation with the City of Alexandria’s archeological staff, they made decisions about which of these features to examine more closely using more traditional methods of archeological investigation.

That many portions of the farmhouse and its outbuildings had not survived the damage inflicted by modern development was not surprising. For example, the widening of Mill Road and installation of gas and water lines beneath its shoulders had removed the foundations of the northeastern half of the 1848 addition, as well as the icehouse that had stood north of the original brick structure. Traces of the dwelling’s three westernmost additions, which had housed the kitchen and provided workspace for the farm’s dairy operations, had been totally destroyed when a cinder block warehouse was built in that area around 1962. What architectural debris had not been used to fill in the cellar of the main dwelling—like the stone window sills and steps pictured below—had been spread across the entire area once occupied by the farmhouse and its yard.

Yet much remained of the Cameron farmhouse and the landscape that surrounded it. East of Roberts Lane, the foundations of the miller’s house survived; in that house, according to James Roberts, Jim Potter, son of one of the teamsters employed by the mill, had been born. So too did the surface of an earlier “Roberts Lane,” surfaced with brick and cobbles and lined on either side with brick drains.



**Cut stone windowsills and stone steps, worn in the middle from long use, were found in the house basement.**

The yard area around the main house also retained many features, including the foundations and brick floors of the greenhouse, the old smokehouse, and one other unidentified structure that had rested on a foundation made of fieldstone. Archeology made it possible to trace parts of a fence line that ran east to west across the lower portion of the house yard. Most spectacularly, the foundations of the original brick dwelling and at least part of the 1848 addition remained largely intact, including the base of the furnace that the Roberts' installed in the basement of the addition.

The excavations undertaken on the Hoffman property between 1999 and 2001 vividly illustrate that today's intensive commercial development of the Cameron stream valley merely continues the types of multiple mixed uses that this section of Alexandria has hosted ever since its initial settlement in the seventeenth century.



**Top:** The northeast corner of the original house basement, showing the cut-through door into the 1848 addition.

**Bottom:** The base of the coal hopper/furnace beneath the 1848 addition

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CAMERON FARM (44AX182) AND CAMERON MILLS (44AX112),  
HOFFMAN PROPERTIES, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

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# ABSTRACT

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This report presents the combined results of Phase I and II archeological investigations of two sites: Cameron Farm (44AX182) and Cameron Mills (44AX112). These sites are located on property owned by Hoffman Management, Inc., in the Cameron Run Valley area of Alexandria, Virginia. The study, which was conducted in several stages between April 1998 and March 2001 by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., on behalf of Hoffman Management, Inc., was timed to coincide with phased development of specific blocks within the project area. The investigations were required under the City of Alexandria's archeological protection ordinance, and the work was coordinated closely with the staff of Alexandria Archaeology.

A preliminary Phase IA literature search, completed in April 1998, assessed the archeological potential of each undeveloped block within the Hoffman project area, and offered specific block-by-block recommendations for further archeological investigations. The Phase IA study was followed by a three-year program that entailed: (1) additional supplementary archival research; (2) geomorphological analysis, archeological monitoring, and limited Phase I testing in Block 4 (1999); and (3) mechanized Phase I testing, followed by manual testing of selected features in all other blocks as ground-disturbing activities and/or development were scheduled. This combined program exposed elements of the Cameron Farm site (44AX182) in Blocks 2 and 3, and auxiliary features of the Cameron Mills site (44AX112) in Blocks 3 and 10. The monitoring process in Block 4 also revealed remains associated with the West Family Cemetery (Site 44AX183); the results of that study were presented in a separate report (Williams and Soldo 2003).

Excluding the monitoring work involved with Block 4 development and the separate removal of the West Family cemetery, the fieldwork completed for the Hoffman project involved excavating and documenting a total of 24 mechanized test trenches, ranging in length from 45 to over 90 ft; mechanically stripping the Cameron Farmhouse and Miller's House sites and removing all fill from their structural foundations; and manually excavating 28 test units on selected features. The investigations produced an aggregate artifact inventory of nearly 6,600 items, including specialized botanical and soil samples.

The archeological studies undertaken on the Hoffman property demonstrated that the owners of this property, from the eighteenth century to the present, all were competitive entrepreneurs who exploited the resource potential of their land within the technical and historical limits of their era. Despite intensive and intrusive twentieth century development, the archeological features and deposits at the site reflected some aspect of each period of occupation on the property.

- The eighteenth century West Family plantation was a profitable business venture that required its owners to apply sound management practices to their operations. The primary feature associated with the West Family period was the family cemetery (44AX183)(Williams and Soldo 2003).
- Beginning in 1790, three entrepreneurs--William Bird, John Stump and John Ricketts—established the pair of mills that stood for the next century and a half near the “head of navigation” of Great Hunting Creek. Although the Cameron Mills Site

(44AX112) previously had been documented (Knepper and Pappas (1990), the present project documented two ancillary components of the mill operation, including the prism of the mills' headrace (Blocks 2 and 3) and a small pier or wharf at Cameron Run (Block 10) that likely was used to transfer the mills' output to shallow-draft vessels for eventual export. In addition, excavation exposed the earliest components of the domestic complex at Cameron Farm (Site 44AX182), including an approximately 17 x 35 ft rectangular brick dwelling; two brick-floored dependencies (a smokehouse and a structure that saw later use as a greenhouse) that apparently were constructed during this period; and a vestigial fieldstone foundation of unknown function.

- New Jersey natives Robert and Reuben Roberts (and later, Edmund Hunt) acquired the residential/agricultural/industrial complex on Cameron Run in 1848, and controlled the property for the next century. Under their ownership, the nature of the agriculture practiced at Cameron Farm gradually changed, as did the functions and operation of the mill complex. This project documented several of these changes.
  - The eastern mill building was converted in 1851 for use as pumping station for the city's new water system, which tapped the Cameron millrace as its principal water source. Through the nineteenth century, parts of the millrace prism were strengthened by adding a stone lining. Both the trajectory of the millrace itself, which defined the perimeter of the domestic "yard" of the Roberts' farmhouse, and its modified stone lining were documented during this study.
  - The family expanded and renovated its domestic complex several times. Although twentieth century development had erased the archeological signatures of some of these modifications, the study exposed the foundations of the ca. 1848 two-story frame addition at the eastern end of the original house block; the remnants of the central heating system in the basement of the new wing; and the foundations of the nineteenth century domestic structure that served as the "miller's house."
  - As the agricultural output of Cameron Farm changed over the years from grain production to growing fresh "truck" produce for local markets to dairying, so too did the physical plant that supported its operations. The study documented the remains of the brick-floored dependency southeast of the main house that was converted for use as a greenhouse, as well as the possible vestiges of the "old manse," the mid-eighteenth century West Family dwelling that later saw use as a barn.
- Finally, the field investigations graphically demonstrated the effects of extensive mid-twentieth century development on previously agrarian landscapes. Within the past six decades, the northern portions of the Hoffman tract had undergone extreme grading and leveling to prepare sites for modern commercial development; hence the integrity of the archeological features and deposits in this section of the property had been severely compromised. On the southern portion of the property, the opposite was true; massive landfilling had acted to seal and preserve both natural features (the original channel of Cameron Run) and cultural features (a pier or wharf).

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

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This report presents the combined results of Phase I, II, and III archeological investigations of the Cameron Farm (44AX182) and Cameron Mills (44AX112), located within the Hoffman Properties project area in Alexandria, Virginia. The staged components of the project that are summarized in this study were conducted between April 1998, and March 2001, by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., on behalf of Hoffman Management, Inc. The project was conducted in compliance with the archeological protection ordinance of the City of Alexandria, which requires archeological investigations prior to development of properties within the city. All work was conducted in accordance with standards established in the Secretary of Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*; the *Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations In Virginia* (Virginia Department of Historic Resources [VDHR] 1996); and under terms of a permit issued by and work plans developed in consultation with the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

### **Project Location and Description**

The Hoffman Properties project area incorporates an approximately 60 ac, 10-block tract in the west end of the City of Alexandria, Virginia (Figures 1 and 2). The property is bounded on the north by the Southern Railroad property, on the west by Telegraph Road, on the east by Mill Road, and on the south by the Capital Beltway (I-95/495) and Cameron Run/Great Hunting Creek, which was substantially channelized when I-95/495 was constructed. Three major streets subdivide the area internally: Mill Road (4 lanes), Stovall Street (4 lanes) and Eisenhower Avenue (4-6 lanes with median). An elevated segment of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Metro Yellow Line, including the Eisenhower Avenue station complex, traverses the southeastern corner of the project area. Until its annexation by the City of Alexandria in 1952 (Netherton et al. 1978:642), the project area was part of Fairfax County.

The Hoffman project area was internally divided into ten blocks, primarily along existing street lines (Figure 3). At the onset of the present project in 1998, only two blocks within the property were occupied by standing structures: Block 6, which houses the Hoffman I and II buildings that are leased by the Department of Defense, and Block 8, which accommodates the Holiday Inn hotel complex. The remaining blocks either were unused or had been graded and paved as parking areas. Subsequent reconfiguration of block boundaries and additional development and construction on Blocks 2, 3, 4, and 10 provided the catalyst for the investigations described in this report. These modifications included reorientation of street corridors, relocation and upgrading of sub-surface utilities, expansion of surface parking areas, and construction of a cinema and retail complex within Block 4.

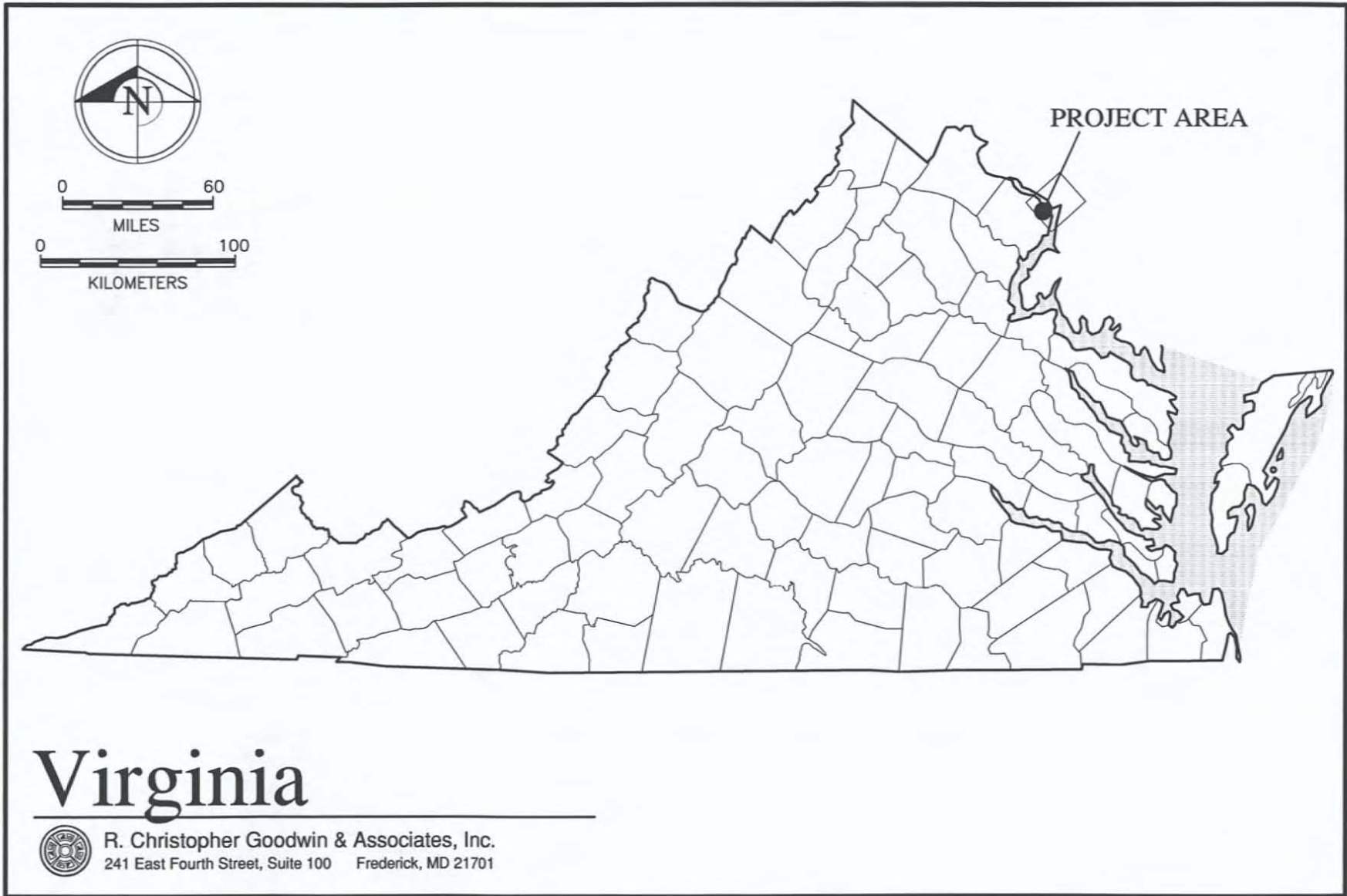


Figure 1. Location of the Hoffman Properties project area in Virginia

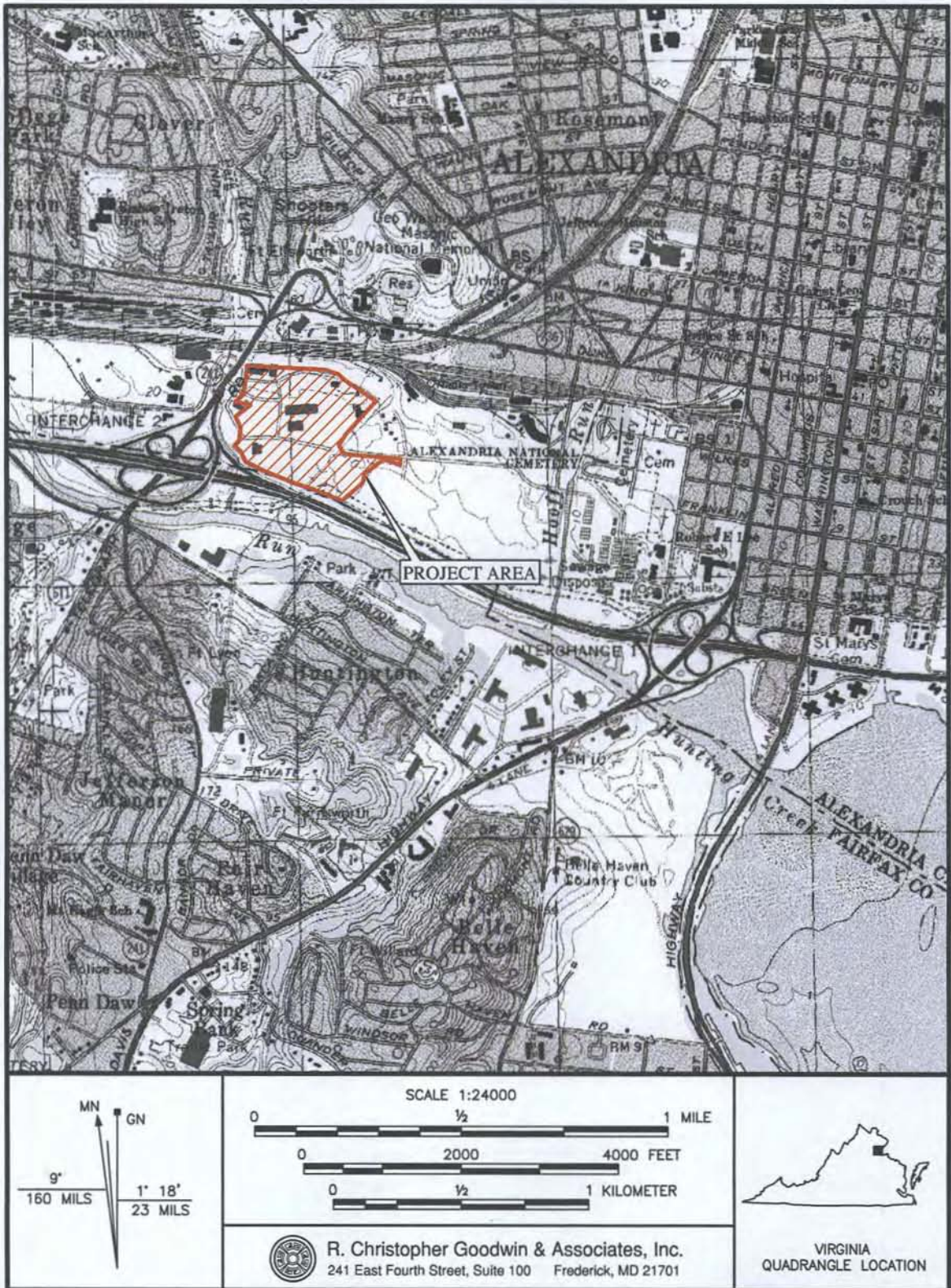


Figure 2. Excerpt from the USGS 7.5' Alexandria, Virginia, D.C., and Maryland topographic map, showing the location of the Hoffman Properties

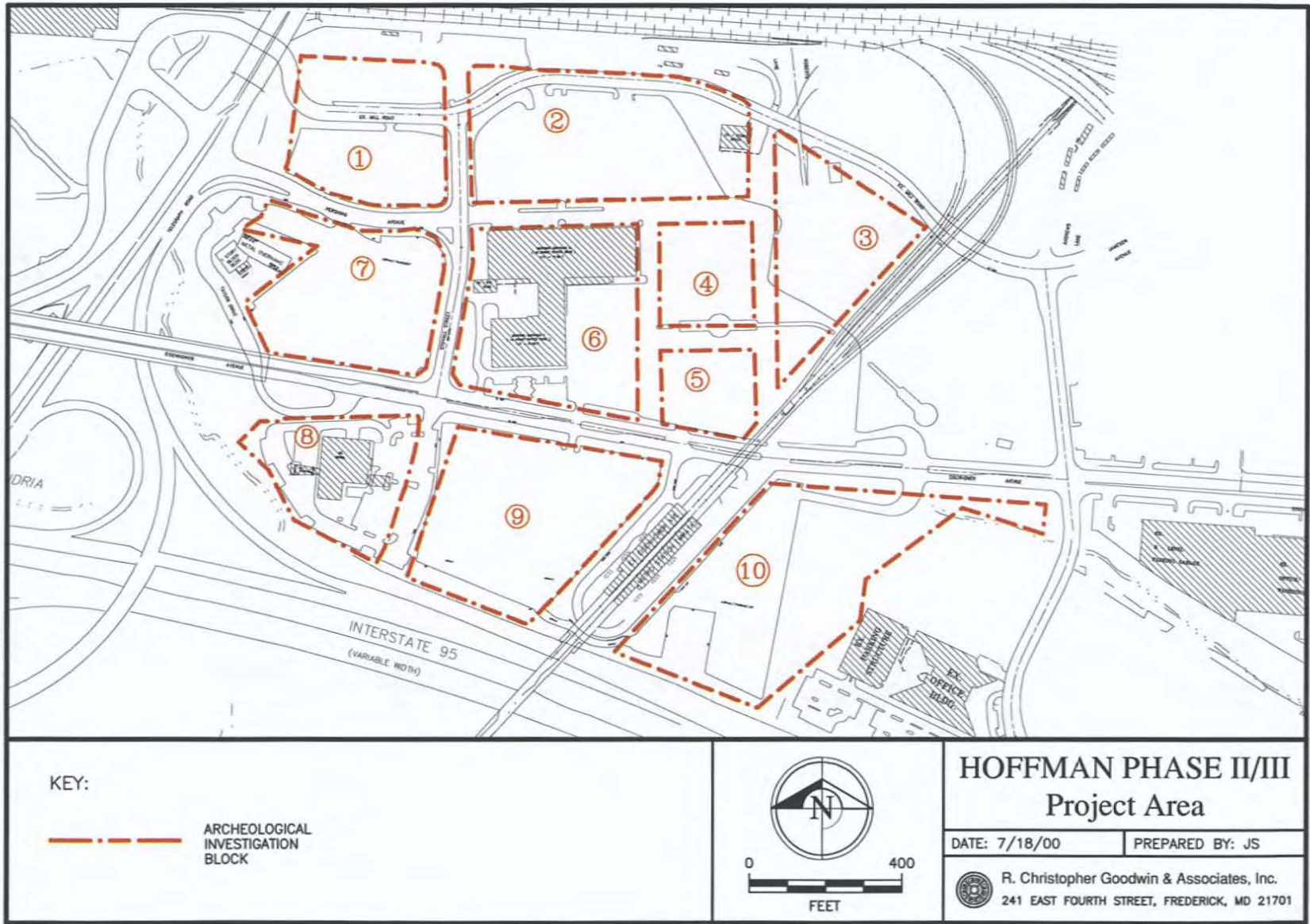


Figure 3. Schematic view of Hoffman Properties, showing property division by blocks

Christopher R. Polglase, M.A., ABD, Vice President for Archeological Services, served as Principal Investigator along with Martha R. Williams, M.A., M.Ed. Ms. Williams also was the Project Manager and conducted the archival research. Throughout the duration of this project, several members of the Goodwin & Associates, Inc. staff acted as Assistant Project Managers and provided direct supervision for the fieldwork; they included Laurie Paonessa, M.A., Nora Sheehan, M.A., David R. Soldo, M.A., Christian Davenport, M.A., and Sonja Ingram, B.A.

## **Research Objectives and Design**

The principal objectives of the cultural resources investigations at the Hoffman Properties were to:

- Assess, utilizing archival and cartographic data, the archeological potential within each block of the Hoffman property, and make recommendations for further work in each block (Phase IA [completed April 1998]);
- Identify and test archeological resources within Blocks 2, 3, 4, and 10 of the Hoffman project area, in advance of development within these blocks; and
- Assess the potential significance of identified cultural resources.

At each stage of the project, field strategies were designed, coordinated, and modified or expanded as necessary in consultation with the professional archeological staff of the City of Alexandria. The project objectives were realized through a combination of archival research, archeological monitoring, and mechanized and manual testing of features identified within each designated development area.

## **Organization of the Report**

Chapter I of this report describes the general scope and location of the project, and presents the specific research objectives of the study. The natural and cultural settings of the project area are developed in Chapter II, which also includes a review of previously identified cultural resources and cultural resources studies previously conducted in the vicinity of the Hoffman property. Chapter III presents a general discussion of the methods that were used to conduct the various portions of the study. Chapter IV presents the results and recommendations from the Phase IA general archival study and archeological assessment of the Hoffman property, as well as the results obtained from the monitoring and Phase I testing of Block 4. Site-specific archival material bearing on the history of Cameron Farm and Mills is presented in Chapter V. Chapters VI - VIII summarize the findings that resulted from the combined investigations conducted at the Cameron Farm site (44AX182) between 1999 and 2000, and investigations of various components related to the Cameron Mills (44AX112). Chapter IX summarizes the study.

Five appendices complete the report. Appendix I contains an inventory of archeological artifacts recovered from the site; Appendix II contains the ethnobotanical analysis of the wharf/pier components recovered from Block 10. Appendix III contains updated Virginia site forms for Sites 44AX112 and 44AX182. Appendix IV deals with public interpretation, while Appendix V includes the résumés of the key personnel who worked on the project.



# NATURAL AND CULTURAL SETTING

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### Natural Setting

The Hoffman project area straddles the border between the terraces of the Inner and Outer Coastal Plain. This geomorphic zone is underlain by strata of marine and/or fluvial silts, sands, gravels, and clays and overlies the granite gneisses and schists of the Piedmont Upland (Porter et al. 1963:2). Civil War era and later nineteenth century property maps all indicate that the original topography of the area sloped gradually south and eastward from elevations in excess of 40 ft above mean sea level [amsl]) to a low, marshy floodplain along Cameron Run.

The Hoffman project area originally was drained by two streams: Cameron Run, the principal tributary of Great Hunting Creek, to the south, and Taylor's Run, a tributary of Cameron Run, to the west. Vestiges of the original Cameron Run stream channel remain as an intermittent drainage along the boundary between the present Alexandria Public Safety facility and Block 10 of the Hoffman property. During the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Cameron Run, which originally formed the southern boundary of the project area, probably was navigable, at least by shallow draft vessels; an 1847 deed for the property known as Cameron Farm noted that Cameron Run was "6 poles (99 ft) wide at low water" (Fairfax County Land Records [Fairfax Deeds] M3:215). However, by the mid-nineteenth century, Shomette (1984:273) observed that there had been "nearly a hundred years of complacency over the gradual siltation of the waters of the Alexandria-Hunting Creek region of the Potomac." Alluvial and colluvial deposits slowly enlarged the expanses of marsh along both sides of Cameron Run, rendering continued navigation of the stream difficult, if not impossible (Schweigert n.d.:2-3). Edmund Hunt, who resided at Cameron Farm, observed the tidal nature of this waterway and also noted the tendency for areas along Cameron Run to flood during periods of heavy rain (Hunt [Vol. 1] 1848).

During the latter half of the twentieth century, the landforms within and in the vicinity of the project area were modified extensively. These modifications included extensive channelization and diversion of streams and drainages, including Cameron Run; moderate grading of the upper slope areas (Knepper and Pappas 1990); and the deposition of varying degrees of fill across the lower slopes of the property (Knepper and Pappas 1990; Froehling and Robertson, Inc. 1996).

### Prehistoric Context

#### Previous Investigations

Relatively little evidence of prehistoric occupation has been obtained from archeological studies conducted within or in the vicinity of the Cameron Run watershed, nor have any archeological investigations effectively targeted the recovery of prehistoric data. The data that have been

accumulated from sites north of Cameron Run and its tributaries suggest sporadic prehistoric activity on the gentler upper slopes and on terraces and benches adjacent to small streams. Such sites are thought to represent small resource procurement or lithic processing stations.

In their preliminary study for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project, Cheek et al. (1990:17) reported a prehistoric site of unknown cultural or temporal affiliation "on a terrace at the intersection of Taylor Run and Cameron Run." They also noted that this site had not yet been registered; review of currently available (2003) site location data from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) does not indicate any site at this location. Schweigert (n.d.:3-4) noted that no evidence of permanent village sites had been discovered in Alexandria's West End area, but that short-term or seasonal habitation and resource procurement sites had been identified in the vicinity. Walker et al. (1992) recovered a Late Archaic period Savannah River point, some quartz flakes, and one fragment of cord-marked prehistoric ceramics from Site 44AX164, located on the courthouse property, immediately east of the Hoffman tract. Tellus, Inc.'s 1992 investigations of the Carlyle Properties, also east of the Hoffman project area, noted numerous lithic scatters, possibly representing Middle Archaic (Halifax phase) occupations; one moderately intensive locus of prehistoric activity also was identified close to the former stream channel of Hooff's Run, another tributary of Great Hunting Creek (Bromberg and Shephard 1994:58). Farther afield in Alexandria, Gloria's Site and the Alexandria Business Center site (Table 1), both of which are located near the upper reaches of Taylor's Run, appear to represent the same sorts of occupations as those identified in analogous areas of Fairfax County. Within the Hoffman project area itself, previous investigations at the Cameron Mill Site (44AX112)(Knepper and Pappas 1990) mention recovery of lithic debitage; however, all prehistoric materials apparently were recovered from disturbed contexts.

Review of Fairfax County archeological files for 11 prehistoric sites south of Cameron Run indicated that all were scattered lithic processing loci in upland settings, at or near the heads of small drainages; no prehistoric sites have been recorded on the floodplain or terraces south of Cameron Run. Although virtually no diagnostic materials were recovered from these upland sites, a possible Halifax point base recovered at Site 44FX601 and an unidentified side-notched projectile point/knife from Site 44FX559 suggest Late Archaic/Transitional period exploitation of cobble beds along these upper tributaries (Fairfax County Archaeological Services (FCAS) n.d.:site files).

### Prehistoric Cultural Sequence

Both the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (1991) and Fairfax County archeologist Michael Johnson (1991:10) have developed cultural sequences for Virginia prehistory. These cultural sequences differ slightly in orientation and chronology. The Virginia state cultural sequence was designed to provide broad guidelines for the entire state, and date ranges reflect this statewide orientation. On the other hand, Johnson's sequence is based upon radiocarbon dates for Virginia assembled by Gleach (1985), and on ceramic dates obtained from Egloff and Potter (1982); moreover, it reflects a specific Fairfax County orientation, and utilizes subsistence patterns as its primary organizational framework. The prehistoric sequence utilized in this report will follow that outlined for the State of Virginia, but it also will reference Johnson's Fairfax County sequence.

Paleo-Indians (ca. 10,000 - 8,000 B.C.). This study unit, called "Paleo-Indian I" (? - 7,410 B.C.) by Johnson (1991), is defined by the occurrence of fluted projectile points, including the Clovis, Mid-Paleo, Dalton, and Hardaway types (Johnson 1986). Johnson (1986) has suggested that the climatic episodes defined by Carbone (1976) for the Shenandoah Valley were broadly applicable to

**Table 1. Previously Identified Archeological Sites in Alexandria within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the Hoffman Project Area**

Site No	Site Name	Chronology	Function	Comments/Source
44AX17	Gloria's Site	Prehistoric: possibly Archaic	Lithic Scatter	VDHR site files
44AX35	Rotchford Brewery	Historic: 1877	Industrial	VDHR site files
44AX103	Bontz Site	Historic: 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Domestic	Cromwell et al. 1989
44AX105	U. S. Military Railroad Station	Historic: 1861 – 1865	Transportation	Cromwell et al. 1989
44AX112	Cameron Mills	Historic: 18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries	Industrial	Knepper and Pappas 1990
44AX118	3449 Duke Street	Historic: 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Domestic	VDHR Site Files
44AX127	Alexandria Business Center	Prehistoric: unknown Historic: late 19 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Unidentified artifact scatters	VDHR Site Files
44AX128	Bloxam Family Cemetery	Unidentified	Mortuary	VDHR Site Files
44AX 134	Penny Hill Cemetery	18 <sup>th</sup> (1795) – 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Mortuary	VDHR Site files (Architectural #100-145)
44AX136	Holland Lane Black Baptist Cemetery	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Mortuary	VDHR Site Files
44AX139	Methodist Protestant Cemetery	19 <sup>th</sup> century (1836 - )	Mortuary	VDHR Site Files (Architectural #100-142)
44AX144	406 Janney's Lane (Smoot House)	Ca. 1856	Domestic	VDHR Site Files (Architectural #100-193)
44AX148	Hooff's Run Railroad Bridge	mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century	Transportation	VDHR Site Files
44AX164	Federal Court House Site	Prehistoric: Late Archaic- Woodland Historic: 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Prehistoric: lithic scatter Historic: Domestic	VDHR Site Files
44AX172	Bruin Slave Pen	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Domestic/ Commercial	VDHR Site files
44AX181	Virginia Bottle Factory	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Industrial	VDHR site files
44AX182	Cameron Farm	Historic: 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries	Domestic/Agri- cultural	Williams and Sheehan 1999
44AX183	West Family Cemetery	18 <sup>th</sup> – early 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries	Mortuary	Williams and Soldo 2000
44AX189	Weston PTO	mid-19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries	Agricultural, Transportation	Williams and Soldo 2002

Fairfax County, although environmental conditions in Northern Virginia may have resembled those of the lower elevations in the Shenandoah Valley, assuming a somewhat milder climate towards the Coastal Plain.

The episode pertinent to the Paleo-Indian study unit is the Late Glacial (ca. 15,000 - 8,500 B.C.)(Custer 1984; Johnson 1986). The Late Glacial represented the terminal Pleistocene and the "last effects of the glaciers upon climate in the Middle Atlantic area" (Custer 1984:44). Pollen records suggest tundra conditions existed as far south as central Pennsylvania at about 9,300 B.C. (Kavanagh 1982:8); further south, pollen and faunal data indicate a "mosaic" pattern of vegetation (Custer 1984:44). Carbone described the Late Glacial vegetation in the Shenandoah Valley as composed of microhabitats, including mixed deciduous gallery forests near the river, mixed coniferous-deciduous forest and grasslands in the foothills and valley floor, coniferous forest on the high ridges, and alpine tundra in the mountains (Kavanagh 1982:8).

The declining sea levels of the terminal Pleistocene have important implications for interpreting site distributions along the Potomac River and its tributaries. In 10,000 B.C., the Atlantic shoreline was approximately 47 miles east of its current location, and the Chesapeake Bay "was a broad river valley whose streams, draining large areas of land--much now submerged--carried substantial amounts of water" (Parker 1986:16). The Potomac was probably a broad, braided stream, unstable in its course, and the present Coastal Plain was part of the interior at that time (Parker 1986:16). Post-Pleistocene warming, which resulted in rising sea levels, may have inundated many Paleo-Indian sites, thereby skewing the data on site distribution.

Gardner (1979, 1983) identified six site types in the Shenandoah Valley Paleo-Indian settlement system, which has been applied more broadly to the Middle Atlantic region (Custer 1984). They include: (1) quarry sites; (2) quarry reduction stations; (3) quarry related base camps; (4) base camp maintenance stations; (5) outlying hunting stations; and, (6) isolated point finds. High quality lithics were the focal point for the settlement system, and hunting and foraging comprised the main subsistence base (Custer 1984; Gardner 1979; Stewart 1980; Johnson 1991).

Evidence for sustained Paleo-Indian occupation in Northern Virginia is rare. Seven sites in Fairfax County have yielded isolated diagnostic Paleo-Indian artifacts (Chittenden et al. 1988:III-P1-10), but no sites from this period have been identified within the City of Alexandria. Along with potential site inundation, the relative scarcity of high quality cryptocrystalline lithic material in Northern Virginia also must be considered. Although the jaspers and cherts preferred by Paleo-Indian toolmakers can be found in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain in cobble form (Johnson 1986:18, 20), the nearest primary jasper outcrops are located along the upper Potomac near Point of Rocks, Maryland. However, the discovery of a single fluted quartz point near Tyson's Corner in Fairfax County has prompted a reassessment of previously held hypotheses concerning Paleo-Indian dependence on high-quality lithic resources. The lower reaches of the Potomac may have been used only for periodic hunting forays by groups exploiting the upriver jasper deposits (Gardner 1979).

The Archaic Period (8,000 B. C. – 1,000 A.D). Most often subdivided into three phases, the Archaic period represented a time when native populations adopted settlement patterns and subsistence strategies that revolved around seasonal foraging rather than the more nomadic hunting lifestyles postulated for the early post-Glacial period.

*Early Archaic (8,000 - 6,500 B.C.).* Johnson (1991) has called this cultural period "Paleo-Indian II" (7,540 - 6,010 B.C.)(Chittenden et al. 1988). The environmental setting of the Early Archaic period was conditioned by the continuing Pleistocene/Holocene transition (Custer 1984; Johnson 1986; Kavanagh 1982). Climatic change involved warmer summer temperatures with continued wet winters.

Vegetation shifted accordingly, and for Fairfax County, Johnson (1986:2-1, 4) has suggested that the "mosaic pattern that was present during Late Glacial times continued, but with more southern hardwood plant species becoming prevalent." The diversifying floral and faunal population permitted the adoption of subsistence strategies that exploited a broader range of small game species and plant foods (Johnson 1991:10).

Gardner (1979, 1980) and Parker (1986:20) originally emphasized that the Early Archaic period represented a general continuation of Paleo-Indian hunting strategies. Archeologically, the major changes noted during this "Early Archaic" phase in Northern Virginia have been suggested by: (1) a more stable and restricted site distribution, implying a more sedentary lifestyle; (2) changes in projectile point morphology, with Palmer, Kirk and bifurcate points recognized as diagnostics; and, (3) a shift from the nearly exclusive Paleo-Indian focus on high quality cryptocrystalline lithics to the use of a broader range of locally available material (Johnson 1986:P2-1). More recently, Johnson (1991) has suggested that Archaic period subsistence strategies actually were based upon foraging. It generally is thought that population was "concentrated near the shore and along the lower river courses," and conducted hunting forays into the uplands (Parker 1986:20).

Johnson (1986, 1991) also has termed this period "Hunter-Gatherer I" (5,860 - 3,100 B.C.), and has identified the following projectile points as diagnostic of Middle Archaic occupation: Stanly, lobate, Morrow Mountain/Stark (contracting stem), Halifax, and Guilford (lanceolate)(Johnson 1986, 1991). Of these types, Halifax are the most abundant, and their more frequent occurrence appears to reflect a general increase in prehistoric activity and/or population throughout Northern Virginia.

6,500 B.C. marked the emergence of the full Holocene environment, and corresponded to the beginning of the Atlantic climatic episode, a warmer and more humid period that continued until approximately 5,000 B.C. (Custer 1984:62-63). The Atlantic shore was approximately 34 miles east of its current location at the start of the period; by its close, that distance had shrunk to between 9 and 13 miles. Parker (1986:23) indicated that "the Potomac had begun downcutting in its present channel by about 5,500 B.C., and fluvial swamps may have developed in wide floodplain areas." It is thought that essentially modern forest conditions were achieved by 6,000 B.C. (Johnson 1986:3-1). Local conditions have been characterized as including mixed southern pine-oak forest in the uplands and an oak-hickory forest in the valley floors (Parker 1986:23). Adaptive strategies continued to focus on foraging, with varying emphases on hunting and collecting that may have co-varied with climatic change.

Although Johnson (1986:3-7) noted a sharp drop in projectile point frequencies in Fairfax County during this period, he attributed the decline to a survey bias that has favored upland-interior areas (Johnson 1986:3-11). Parker (1986:24) maintains that there was "an absolute decline in the use of the uplands, with populations instead perhaps dispersing and concentrating seasonally along the shores and the lower river courses." Data from the Shenandoah Valley seem to indicate a riverine/swamp orientation for sites; there, base camps are associated with the junctions of low order streams with the Shenandoah River (Gardner 1978:14).

*Late Archaic (3,500 - 1,000 B.C.).* At about 3,400 B. C., the climate began to change culminating in a "xerothermic or 'climatic optimum' around 2,350 B.C., when it was drier and 20 degrees warmer than modern conditions" (Kavanagh 1982:9). Open grasslands reappeared, and oak-hickory forests expanded on valley floors and hillsides. By 3,000 B.C., the Atlantic coastline was only about four miles east of its current location, and the Chesapeake Bay was filling, undoubtedly creating extensive marshlands around the present mouth of the Potomac. Parker (1986:26) has suggested that larger population concentrations, if present, would have exploited these lower Potomac marshes extensively. The increase and wider distribution of Late Archaic points distribution suggest that the this

period represents the initial phase of intensive occupation of major streams like Cameron Run, in both its tidal and freshwater zones.

Johnson (1986) formerly classified this period as separate and distinct, and labeled it as "Hunter-Gatherer III." However, in his revised prehistoric chronology for Fairfax County (1991), he subsequently combined most of the traditional Late Archaic period together with the subsequent Early and Middle Woodland periods, into a transitional category similar to Custer's (1991) "Woodland I" (cf. Mouer 1991). He labeled the period "Hunter-Gatherer II," and suggested initial and terminal dates of 2,750 B.C. - A.D. 800, respectively, for its span in Fairfax County.

Diagnostics marking the Late Archaic phase of this transitional period include Savannah River and Holmes projectile points (Johnson 1986). Johnson (1986:5-5) noted that sites of this period in Northern Virginia "often are larger and more intense in both the uplands and along the main riverine floodplain." Steatite bowls also appeared during the Late Archaic, foreshadowing the steatite-tempered ceramics that mark the beginning of the Woodland period.

The Woodland Period. In general, the Woodland period corresponds to the Atlantic climatic episode (ca. 940 B.C. - modern times). While the environment after at least 3,000 B.P. generally approximated that of the present day, some episodic climatic variations continued into the Late Holocene period, as documented by Carbone (1976, 1982) in the Shenandoah Valley. While such episodes were minor in comparison to the variations of the earlier Holocene, evidence indicates that "locally significant changes did occur" (Bryson and Wendland 1967:281). Such short-term climatic perturbations apparently produced stresses in the local environment, particularly at points of transition between episodes (Carbone 1976; Custer 1980); these could be linked to cultural discontinuities (Wendland and Bryson 1974:10).

*Early Woodland (1,000 B.C. - A.D. 300)/Middle Woodland (300 - 1000 A.D.).* While the temporal framework developed in Virginia's Cultural Resource Management Plan (VDHR 1991) continues to display the traditional dichotomy between these two periods, Johnson (1986, 1991) has combined both with the traditional Late Archaic. Marked changes occurred during this time, including larger base camps in both riverine and non-riverine zones, exploitation of a wider range of lithics, and possible regional interaction. Both Johnson (1986:5-1) and VDHR (1991) noted a shift to greater sedentism during the period, and a subsistence base that continued to emphasize resource collection.

Gardner (1982:58-60) proposed two settlement pattern models for the Late Archaic to Early Woodland on the Inner Coastal Plain. The "fusion-fission" model suggests that population units coalesced seasonally into macro-social groups along both fresh water and salt water estuaries to exploit fish runs, and then dispersed seasonally to form micro-social unit camps to access other resources. The "seasonal shift" model suggests that the same population formed both macro-social unit and micro-social unit camps in fresh water and salt water zones and moved laterally between zones on a seasonal basis (Gardner 1982:59). Johnson (1986:5-14) hypothesized that both models could be applicable in Northern Virginia.

The traditional Early Woodland subperiod can be dated from about 1,000 - 500 B.C. (Gardner 1982), although more recent chronologies (VDHR 1991) designate the end of the Early Woodland at ca. 300 A.D. Characteristic ceramics of the period include steatite-tempered Marcey Creek and Seldon Island wares, and sand tempered Accokeek wares. Diagnostics of the Middle Woodland (ca. A.D. 300 - 1000) in the Coastal Plain of the Potomac include Popes Creek Net-Impressed and Mockley ceramics; other Middle Woodland sites are identified by projectile points including Fox Creek and Selby Bay types. Johnson (1986:5-21) reported that Piscataway-like points have been found in association with both Accokeek and Popes-Creek-like ceramics. However, the Middle Woodland period generally is

understood poorly in the study area; only two ceramic-producing sites of this sub-period had been reported in all of Fairfax County prior to 1988 (Chittenden et al. 1988:Table 5-2), although the association between such points and ceramic-producing sites (and hence their settlement system implications) are unclear (Johnson 1986:5-26 -5-30).

*Late Woodland (A.D. 1000 - 1600).* Johnson's (1986, 1991:10) chronology re-converges with that of VDHR at this period, although his dates of 800-1607 A.D. vary somewhat. Johnson uses the terms "Early Agriculturalist" to describe the subsistence base of the Late Woodland period.

In Coastal Plain areas, settlement and subsistence were distinguished by the following general characteristics:

...the intensive planting and cultivating of domestic plants (corn (maize), beans, squash, tobacco, etc.); a shift in riverine settlements from fishing and shellfishing locales to areas with prime agricultural soils (Gardner 1983:personal communication); the advent of semi-permanent villages; the apparent rise in inter-tribal conflict; the appearance of the bow and arrow, seemingly manifested in the triangular point type; and possibly the first appearance of complex political systems such as tribal confederacies and chiefdoms (Johnson 1986:6-1).

The locations of larger villages and hamlets appear to have been related to the availability of soils suitable for agricultural production. Small shell-fishing camps also persisted along tidal estuaries, and what Johnson terms "exploitative foray camps" were located in the interior (Chittenden et al. 1988:III-P6-4). The recently discovered site at Jones Point, which contained the post-hole features related to an oblong structure, may represent the remains of an estuarine shell-fishing camp.

On the Coastal Plain, Townsend series (shell-tempered) ceramics dominated after A.D. 900 (Clark 1980:18), while crushed-rock tempered Potomac Creek ware appeared somewhat later, principally in the Inner Coastal Plain/Fall Line sections of Northern Virginia (Egloff and Potter 1982:112). This latter ceramic type is thought to be related to the historically known Piscataway Indians (Clark 1980:8). Both ceramic types have been identified in Fairfax County, although Potomac Creek ware predominates (Chittenden et al. 1988:Table P6-3). Representative projectile points from this period are the small triangular forms. Sites that have produced these diagnostic artifacts tend to cluster along the Potomac shoreline and the lower reaches of major tributaries of the Potomac River.

## **Historic Context**

### Previous Investigations

Over the past three decades, the accelerated pace of development in the Duke Street and Eisenhower Avenue corridors has occasioned numerous cultural resource studies in the West End, including the separate studies that form the basis of this summary report. Surveys have been impelled by developments involving transportation improvements (Cromwell 1989; Cromwell et al. 1989; Cheek et al. 1990) as well as new construction (Miller and Westover 1990; Walker et al. 1992, 1996; Knepper and Pappas 1990; Williams 1998, 2003; Williams and Sheehan 1999; Williams and Soldo 2000, 2001, 2002; Williams et al. 2000). These investigations have demonstrated the high potential for archeological remains within the West End, including the Hoffman property. Previous investigations of the Hoffman project area itself, through a series of mechanized trenches placed within Block 3,

identified the Cameron Mill site (44AX112), as well as one other domestic structure (Knepper and Pappas 1990)(Figure 4).

Of the archeological sites registered within one mile (1.6 km) of the Hoffman project area (Table 1), 15 represent either historic occupations or contain historic components. The sites represent domestic, agricultural, industrial, and mortuary loci that range in age from the middle eighteenth through the early twentieth centuries.

In addition, a review of the architectural resources within one mile of the project area also produced a total of 57 designated historic properties and two locally designated historic districts (Table 2). Of these, the majority are single-family dwellings; however, other structures and buildings represent commercial, educational, transportation-related, and monumental or commemorative functions. Nine historic cemeteries are located in the West End, including the city's historic potter's field, a freedmen's cemetery, and the Civil War era National Cemetery. Two architectural districts, one cemetery and two buildings have been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, but formal nominations have never been submitted for these resources. Two properties are listed in the National Register: the original boundary stones for the District of Columbia and the [Gerald] Ford House (100-165), which also has been designated as a National Historic Landmark. The City's architectural resources also span the period from the end of the eighteenth century through the mid-twentieth century.

### Cultural Sequence

Exploration and Frontier (1550 - 1650). During the first half of the seventeenth century, as the tobacco-based plantation system emerged in lower Tidewater Virginia, the beaver trade flourished along the Potomac and in the upper Chesapeake region. This trade brought Europeans into the Northern Virginia area with increasing regularity (Fausz 1984), but none settled the region permanently until the second half of the seventeenth century. Until that time, the Doeg Indians controlled the middle Potomac shoreline (Moore 1991); John Smith's 1608 map of Virginia, which included the upper reaches of the Potomac River, located the chief Doeg town of Tauxenent on the Occoquan River (Chittenden et al. 1988:III-H1-2). Evidence of European occupation in this region would, therefore, be sporadic.

Early Colonial Settlement (1650 - 1720). Tidewater tobacco planters discovered quickly that intensive tobacco monoculture rapidly diminished soil fertility, and required the acquisition of additional fertile land. As landholders sought new fields for their crops, and as indentured servants completed their terms of service and sought to acquire their own properties, Virginia's frontier pushed steadily northward (Parker 1986). The first patents obtained for grants in Northern Virginia north of the Occoquan River were issued in 1651, but most of these grants probably were not "seated." Many later were repatented (Mitchell 1977:3), particularly after Charles II assigned the rights to the entire region between the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers to several of his supporters in England. Thomas Lord Culpeper eventually bought out most of the other grantees, and in 1675 he assumed sole control of the Northern Neck proprietary (Writers Program 1941:17).

Settlement in Northern Virginia proceeded slowly until the end of the seventeenth century (Mitchell 1977:4). Augustin Herrman's 1673 *Map of Maryland and Virginia* (in Stephenson 1981:Plate 4) indicates that early plantation sites clustered in southeastern Fairfax County along the Potomac River shoreline. Because so few landowners actually lived on their properties, it is likely that

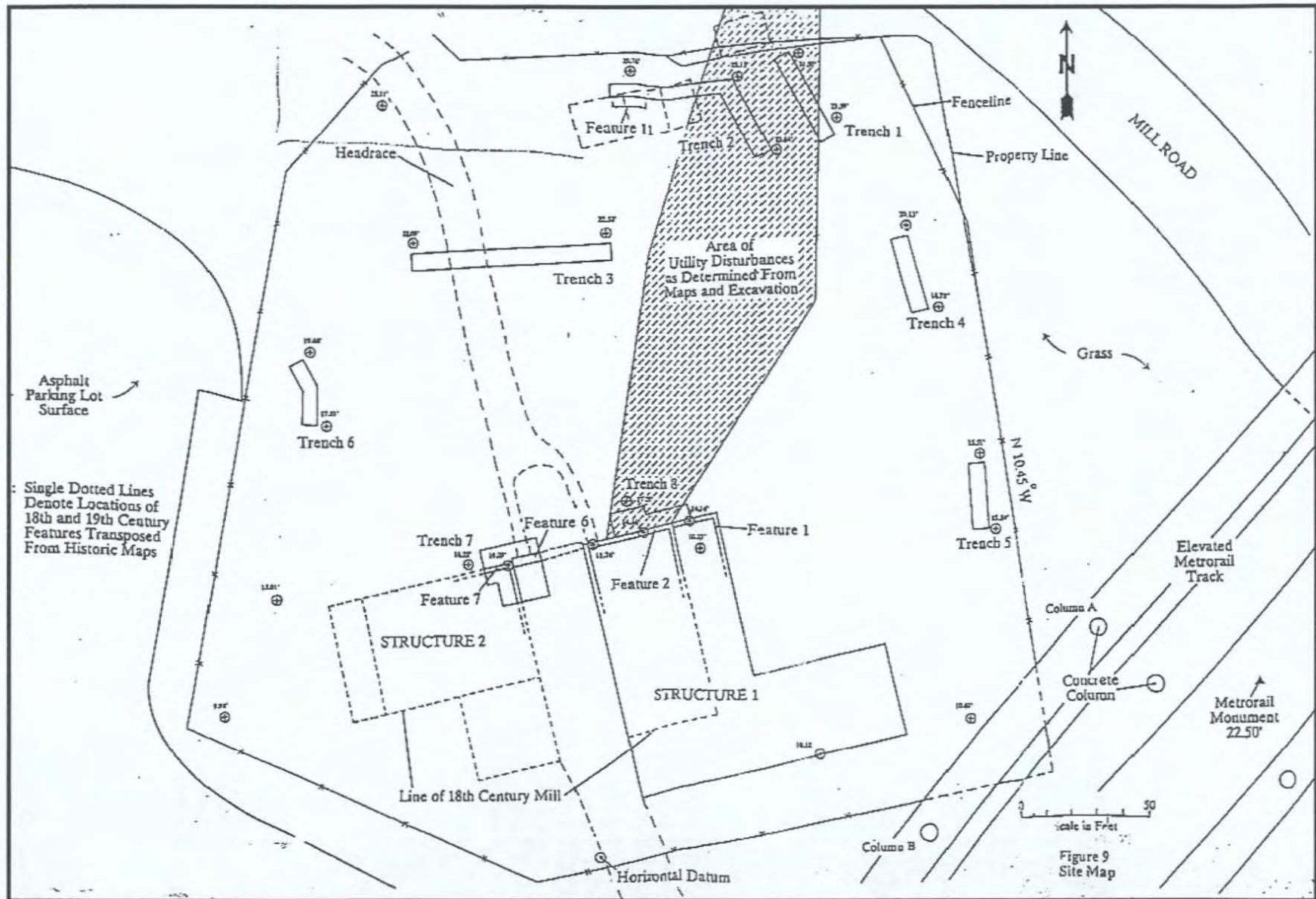


Figure 4. Schematic view of Knepper and Pappas' (1990) excavations at the Cameron Mill site (44 AX112)

Site No	Site Name	Chronology	Type/Function	Comments
	-Home of Peace Perpetual Care (Jewish)			officially listed
100-148	Southern Railroad roundhouse	Early 20th century	Transportation: maintenance	Destroyed
100-154 - 100-164	Braddock Road Improvements Survey: includes George Washington High School (100-160)	1904-1947	Mixed function, including educational, commercial, domestic, transportation	Series of domestic tract housing units and commercial buildings typical of mid-twentieth century suburban development. George Washington H. S.: Streamlined architecture design; brick ornamented with gray sandstone. Area also contains two ca 1904 plate girder bridges related to the first installation of the RF&P realignment of 1903
100-165	Ford House	1955	Domestic	Constructed by former President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford when the family first moved to the DC area. Listed in the Virginia and National Registers. Designated as a National Historic Landmark.
100-166	406 Highland Place	19th century	Domestic	Late Victorian frame dwelling. Determined not eligible in 1993
100-179	3010 Colvin Street (Alexandria Police Association)	1900	Commercial	Cited as "one of the only remaining turn of the century commercial structures in the west end area:
100-182	3020 Duke Street	1840	Dwelling	Mid 19th century; extensively remodeled
100-192	1001A Janney's Lane	1840	Dwelling	Late Victorian detailing
100-193	406 Janney's Lane	1856	Dwelling	Corner King and Janney's Lane; frame; reportedly housed Soldiers as hospital during CW. Probably built by George Smoot, a merchant
100-194	604 Janney's Lane	1820	Dwelling	Federal style with later modifications; overlooks East Taylor's Run Parkway. Very early for this part of town.
100-198	2413 King Street	1920	Dwelling	Neo-classical style
100-215	126 Longview Drive	ca. 1774	Domestic	Brick Federal style house with modern garage
100-216	200 Longview Drive	1824	Domestic	Three-bay, frame, Federal style house
100-227	1000 Mount Vernon Avenue	ca. 1915-1920	Domestic	"Late Victorian" cross gabled frame house with two story portico and porch
100-228	904 Mount Vernon Avenue	1910	Domestic	Second Empire style with front mansard roof
100-240 - 100-251	North Payne Street Houses	1815, 1852, 1875	Domestic	100 block of North Payne Street in proposed "Old and Historic District"; most houses constructed in post-Civil War period
100-259	1200 Russell Road	1900	Domestic	Colonial Revival house
100-260	1503 Russell Road	1910	Domestic	Queen Anne style house

tenant farmers, indentured servants, slaves, and/or overseers initially occupied these remote grants (Chittenden et al. 1988:III-H2-2).

*Alexandria Context.* What is now the City of Alexandria had its origins during this period, when Margaret Brent obtained a patent for 700 acres "within the freshes of Potomack River, beginning at the mouth of Hunting Creek" in 1654 (Mitchell 1977:35). Robert Howson subsequently repatented the Brent parcel plus some additional acreage (Smith and Miller 1988:13), and in 1669, he reassigned his patent to John Alexander. Part of Howson's 6,000-acre property formed the nucleus of the City of Alexandria.

Tobacco Plantation Society (1720 - 1800). The plantation society that had developed in southern Virginia spread to the northern limits of tidewater Fairfax during the early eighteenth century. Men like George Mason, George Washington and William Fairfax acquired and enlarged their immense estates of Gunston Hall, Mount Vernon, and Belvoir at this time. These affluent landowners came to represent the political, economic, and social upper class of Fairfax County (LeeDecker et al. 1984:38). By 1742, the population within Northern Virginia had increased so much that the House of Burgesses acted favorably on a petition to create a new governmental jurisdiction. Fairfax County, formed from the northern part of Prince William County, included the nascent community that eventually became Alexandria.

As population slowly increased along the upper Potomac Rivers, transportation routes were established across the Occoquan River from Woodbridge to Colchester, in Fairfax County, and a ferry operated there by the 1680s (Chittenden et al. 1988:III-H2-4). A former north-south Indian trail, the so-called "Potomac Path" was improved and extended into the county's frontier settlements. Also known as the "road to Colchester," the Potomac Path corresponded roughly to present-day Telegraph Road, which extended through or adjacent to the Hoffman project area. Other unimproved trails became "rolling" roads over which hogsheads of tobacco were conveyed to wharves and warehouses on the Potomac River at Colchester and Alexandria (Harrison 1924:466). This internal transportation network also provided access to churches, the county courthouse at what is now Tyson's Corner, and other settlement nuclei in the interior portion of the county (Chittenden et al. 1988:III-H5-2).

*Alexandria Context.* The town of Alexandria gradually coalesced around Hugh West's tobacco warehouses at "West's Point," a small peninsula at the foot of what is now Orinoco Street. Because "West's Point" was strategically located on the Potomac River, it was well situated for commercial shipping. Regionally produced tobacco crops could be conveniently exported from this site, which also served as the Virginia terminus of a ferry to Maryland. Until 1748, this community was known as Belhaven. With his associates, West, a prominent landowner in Northern Virginia, wielded enough influence to ensure that the town of Alexandria was laid out around this location when the Virginia Assembly formally authorized town incorporation in 1749. Alexandria's original act of incorporation provided for a town government composed of eleven trustees who were charged with the responsibility of laying out a 60-ac area into ½-acre lots and streets. In 1763, the limits of the town were expanded to the north, south and west, and 58 additional town lots were advertised for sale (Smith and Miller 1988:21).

The designation of Alexandria, directly on the Potomac River, as the region's official tobacco port, thwarted attempts by other prominent landowners, most notably John Minor and John Colville, to locate the facility at the head of navigation at Great Hunting Creek (Wise 1980:99). In its original trajectory, Great Hunting Creek/Cameron Run was both wide and navigable (Roberts 1945); as late as the mid-nineteenth century, the stream was described as "6 poles (99 ft) wide at low water" (Fairfax Deeds M3:215). This area around this site, which came to be known as "Cameron," is

thought to have been located “at the extreme SW corner of Cameron Farm” (Roberts 1945), near what is now the interchange of I-95/495 and Telegraph Road. Fairfax County court records for the period indicate that the location was an important road interchange; from it radiated connections to Difficult Run and the west, to the town of Alexandria, and to Colchester on the Occoquan River. A bridge apparently spanned Cameron Run/Great Hunting Creek in the area (Mitchell n.d.), as Fairfax County Court minutes for May 1758 refer to the “overseer of the road from the **bridge** at Cameron to John Summers’.” And this general point also was a population cluster; during the mid-eighteenth century, several Scots merchants reportedly maintained both residences and commercial buildings there (Walker et al. 1993:19-20). One sale notice, dated 1752 and placed by John Pagan in the *Maryland Gazette*, described Cameron and the property to be sold as follows:

“. . . a Place commonly known by the name of Cameron, within two miles of Potowmack River, convenient to two landings upon the said (Great Hunting) Creek, in the center of four very public roads, leading up and down the country, and exceedingly well situated for Trade; upon which is a dwelling House 26 feet square. . . with a cellar of the same dimensions, a kitchen 24 feet long and 18 ft wide, a store house 24 feet square in which is a counting room. . . a garden 144 feet square, with all convenient outhouses, and the whole paled in after the best manner” (quoted in Miller 1987:6-7).

Some have speculated that the complex described in John Pagan’s *Maryland Gazette* advertisement was the Cameron Ordinary.

That there was an ordinary at Cameron is well-known, and some of the licensees who were authorized to maintain that establishment are also known (e.g., John Minor in 1760 [Mitchell 1987:map] and Joseph China in 1770 [Mitchell n.d.]). The precise location of this establishment is somewhat less firm. Fry and Jefferson’s 1755 map (Figure 5) depicts the Cameron Ordinary immediately north of (Great) Hunting Creek, at the juncture of the (then) two main roads leading west from Alexandria and the road leading south to Colchester. The location is potentially at the northeastern corner of the Hoffman project area, although the scale of the map is so small as to preclude accurate placement.

The Alexandria settlement, already a thriving commercial shipping point, fast became an urban mercantile center whose artisans and entrepreneurs provided goods and services for residents all over Northern Virginia. The town gained further importance when, in 1752, Fairfax County’s courthouse was moved from its former location at “Springfield” to Alexandria (Smith and Miller 1988:16-17). Here too, General Braddock met in 1755 with the royal governors of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and New York to map British strategy against the French on the frontier. This meeting, which took place in John Carlyle’s great house, subsequently became known as the Royal Governors’ Conference; following the meeting, Alexandria was the starting point for Braddock’s ill-fated campaign against the French in Pittsburgh.

Early Diversified Agriculture (1750 - 1840). By the mid-eighteenth century, many Northern Virginia planters had realized that continued dependence upon intensive tobacco production ultimately would spell disaster. As a result, more progressive planters like George Washington began to diversify their plantation output and produce grains for export. By the end of the eighteenth century, this diversified approach to agriculture had almost entirely replaced tobacco monoculture in Fairfax County (Chittenden et al. 1988:III-H5-1). Merchant mills along outlying road networks throughout northern Virginia west to the Shenandoah Valley converted small grains into flour that then was sent to Alexandria for export.



Figure 5. Excerpt from the Fry-Jefferson map of 1755, showing the location of “Cameron’s Ordinary” and the approximate boundaries of the project area

The American Revolution did not affect Fairfax County directly in a military sense, in that no battles were fought there. Nonetheless, residents of the county and of Alexandria felt its indirect effects. The region's political and social leadership assumed prominent roles in the events that led to the American Revolution, and supported the war effort politically, militarily, and financially once it began. Many family fortunes were made during the war as residents supplied the Continental armies with wheat and flour (Smith and Miller 1988:27). The ideology of the American independence movement also encouraged some Virginia slaveholders to free their slaves during this period, either through immediate manumission, or in their wills. As a result, a free black population slowly emerged during the first half of the nineteenth century.

After the Revolution, the region's economy stagnated for a time, and a sizeable portion of its population migrated west. Many planters sold their estates to satisfy their debts, while other properties were partitioned as a result of inheritance. As the nineteenth century progressed, smaller farm units came to characterize regional agriculture, and the need for planters to maintain large numbers of slaves diminished. Local and state statutes required that free African-Americans either register with the local courts or that they leave the state, but documentary evidence suggests that these laws often were applied unevenly (Sweig 1983:3-4). Free African-Americans established small communities throughout Fairfax County, as well as neighborhood enclaves in larger towns, such as Alexandria (Chittenden et al. 1988:III-H9-3). For example, the community of Gum Springs, located at the head of Little Hunting Creek, developed around property owned by West Ford, a former Washington slave (Netherton et al. 1978:274; Chase 1990:12).

Towards the end of this period, Northern Virginia's agricultural economy began to recover as the widespread adoption of "scientific" farming methods increased productivity. A gradual influx of Northern farmers and entrepreneurs, whose ranks included many Quakers, swelled the region's population. The steady growth of the District of Columbia created an expanding market for commodities produced on outlying farms (Chittenden et al. 1988:III-H5-1), and the number of gristmills and other agriculturally related industries increased. Transportation systems improved; steamboat service along Potomac River provided a faster mode of transportation for residents of the eastern part of the county (Harrison 1924:452), and interior road systems were upgraded and expanded.

*Alexandria Context.* Between ca. 1770 and 1830, Alexandria's economy segued from one based upon preindustrial technology and controlled by mercantile economic theory to one based solidly upon commercialism (Cressey 1983:Figure 10). Many fortunes had been made during the Revolutionary War by supplying the Continental armies, and post-Revolutionary Alexandria fast became a thriving mercantile center, despite a slight recession during 1781 and 1782. Prosperity resumed, however, as the town's merchants began to diversify the items they exported. Travelers who visited the town in the 1780s described it as having 2,000 – 3,000 residents, 200 dwellings, and other buildings, wharves, warehouses, churches, and a municipal building (Smith and Miller 1988:27).

The construction and improvement of transportation systems, particularly the establishment of turnpikes that linked Alexandria with its western suppliers in Fauquier, Loudoun, and Fairfax counties and with markets in Georgetown, were critical elements in this success. The Little River Turnpike, an extension of Duke Street west of the city, was one of the principal commercial thoroughfares that developed during this time. The first public subscriptions for the turnpike company were sold in 1803, with West End miller J. T. Ricketts as one of the company's agents. By 1806, the road had been completed from Duke Street in Alexandria to Little River at Aldie, a distance of approximately 34 miles (Netherton et al. 1978:192). The Middle Turnpike, formally surveyed in 1827, also linked the city with Leesburg and points north and west.

The growing city was a magnet that attracted diverse socio-economic groups. Early advertisements in the *Alexandria Gazette* repeatedly indicated an influx of indentured servants from various points in Europe. Recent demographic studies also have demonstrated that, as early as 1810, a discrete, identifiable enclave of free African Americans had coalesced in the southwestern quadrant of the city known as "the Dip" (Cressey 1983:28). The West End of the city gradually became host to the annual New Year's Day "hiring out" event, wherein free blacks and slaves contracted out their labor to the highest bidders. One traveler described it thus: "On New Year's Day, West End is 'waked up'—it becomes an institution. [There are] congregated all the hiring hands in the adjacent country: men, women and children, mechanics, field hands, dining-room servants, cooks and house servants. . . all their own masters, so far as having the privilege of selecting their homes for the next year goes. . ." (quoted in Netherton et al. 1978:274).

Competition from larger commercial centers, especially Baltimore, gradually eclipsed Alexandria's growth and prosperity. Several other factors and events also reduced the town's ability to compete in the regional commercial market. Most importantly, Alexandria was formally annexed to the District of Columbia in 1798 (Netherton et al. 1978:27), a change in political status that imposed limitations that hindered economic growth. At the same time, the Fairfax County seat was moved west to the town of Providence (now Fairfax), thus depriving Alexandria's business community of an important component in the town's economic life. The city suffered major damage from fires in 1810 and 1827 (Smith and Miller 1988:51). The embargo imposed to deal with the Napoleonic Wars and the ensuing War of 1812 also created difficult times for Alexandria's merchants. Their difficulties were compounded in August 1814, when elements of Admiral Cockburn's forces briefly occupied the town and looted warehouses and stores. Businesses also failed during the post-war Panic of 1816 (Smith and Miller 1988:51-52).

One notable attempt to remain competitive regionally centered on improving access to the city and diversifying the types of goods that were traded. To achieve the first objective, subscriptions were sold to underwrite the construction of a canal between Georgetown and Alexandria. This link, known as the Alexandria Canal, was completed in 1843. Like the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal of which it was an extension, the Alexandria Canal brought coal down to the port for export. Eventually, however, the canal company went bankrupt. Another lucrative enterprise was the slave trade, which depended on and evolved from the fact that the type of agriculture practiced in Northern Virginia (e.g., production of wheat and flour) no longer required a large bound labor force. Excess slaves were needed further south in the spreading Cotton Belt states, and Alexandria companies stepped in to supply these requirements. Two such companies--Franklin and Armfield and Joseph Bruin--were located on Duke Street in the West End (Christian 1976; Smith and Miller 1988:52-54; Kaye 1998).

Agrarian Fairfax (1840 - 1860). For the next century, most of Northern Virginia, including the country surrounding the far western end of Alexandria, remained predominantly rural and agrarian. Along the Potomac River, farming was supplemented by the development of a fishing industry (LeeDecker et al. 1984:44). During the 1850s, small communities developed around railroad stations and post offices, as rail lines supplemented the transportation infrastructure that knitted the region together.

*Alexandria Context.* Gradual disenchantment with its status as a part of the District of Columbia eventually led to calls for retroceding the Virginia portion, including Alexandria, back to the state of Virginia. Alexandria's fortunes had suffered due to the District's prohibition on constructing public buildings anywhere south of the Potomac River; the disenfranchisement of the District's population; and a lack of investment in constructing rail connections. The failure of the National Bank in 1836 and the ensuing depression of the late 1830s also contributed to economic

stagnation. The eventual return of Alexandria to Virginia, which occurred in 1846, resulted in the formation of Alexandria County, which incorporated the present-day City of Alexandria and Arlington County (Smith and Miller 1988:54).

The city's fortunes brightened considerably thereafter, and the decade between 1850 and 1860 was one of unprecedented economic growth. During this decade, the basis of Alexandria's economy began a slow shift from commercialism to capitalism/industrialism (Cressey 1983:Figure 10). One critical element in this resurgence was the improvement of transportation systems that could continue to funnel goods in and out of the city and invigorate the city's sagging economy. By the 1850s, this meant the establishment of rail links. Two such lines impacted the project area: the Orange and Alexandria (O&A) Railroad, organized in 1851, and the Manassas Gap Railroad, which initially was laid out within a corridor that paralleled the O&A, but whose construction was halted when the Civil War began. The 1850s also saw the initiation of numerous public services, particularly utilities. The Alexandria Water Company was formed in 1851. The company diverted water from Cameron Run through an old millrace and pumped it to a reservoir on Shuter's Hill, directly across from the project area. The work, completed in 1852, ensured city residents a steady and safe supply of drinking water. A gas plant constructed at Lee and Oronoco streets also generated power for lighting the city's streets (Smith and Miller 1988:73-77).

The Civil War (1861-1865). The onset of the Civil War dramatically curtailed the economic resurgence in Northern Virginia. The region immediately south of the national capital was strategically important during this conflict. When Virginia seceded from the Union, Federal forces occupied Alexandria and parts of Fairfax County, took control of local turnpikes and railroads, and erected fortifications to guard Alexandria and the approaches to Washington. The region beyond the ring of defenses around Washington became a sort of "no-man's land" in which Confederate guerillas sporadically engaged Union pickets in brief encounters. Much of the major action remained west and south of Northern Virginia. Residents of the region, however, suffered greatly as a result of the four-year struggle for control.

*Alexandria Context.* The onset of the Civil War also brought an abrupt halt to the economic expansion of the preceding decade. Because of its geographic position and commercial importance, Alexandria was immediately occupied by 2,000 Union troops, a force that remained in the city for the duration of the conflict. The city was placed under martial law and all railroad facilities were seized (Cheek et al. 1990:42). Many of the city's indigenous residents fled; however, this decline in population was more than made up by battle casualties, units in transit to other locations, and by freed slaves fleeing north to seek the protection of the Union army.

The extent of the war's impact on the Alexandria cannot be underestimated. On the positive side, of course, local merchants profited from the presence of the occupying forces, selling liquor and other goods to the troops (Fralely 1977:8). With its transportation networks, Alexandria became "the great warehouse. . .for supplies for the Army of Potomac." Every building was commandeered and occupied; streets were barricaded; new buildings were constructed; and a 12-acre area just outside of the southwestern boundary of town was transformed into a massive railroad yard by the U. S. Military Railroad (Smith and Miller 1988:83-92). Union fortifications ringed the city; the New York Zouaves occupied Fort Ellsworth, a complex of trenches and fortifications overlooking the West End. The Federal authorities requisitioned company wharves and built warehouses to stockpile meat, hardtack and dry goods (Barber 1864:43).

Twenty-six Union hospitals also were set up in churches and abandoned homes (Barber 1864:109). Of particular interest for this project area was the temporary convalescent camp near Fort Ellsworth on the slopes of Shuter's Hill. The men sent to this installation called it 'Camp

Misery” (Barber 1864:64-65); the *Alexandria Gazette* commented that conditions were so bad that it [the camp] “should be called Camp Pestilence. . . .The aggregation of filth, dirt, debris and offal is enough to sicken any well man” (quoted in *Alexandria Gazette Packet* 1999:30). By mid-autumn, the facility held over 16,000 men. In December, the facility was moved to the Four Mile Run area near Fort Barnard, two and a half miles north, where conditions were much improved (Barber 1864:67). Somewhat later, to handle the continued flow of convalescents, authorities constructed another hospital facility, known as Slough Barracks, south of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad yards and just east of the Hoffman project area (Schweigart n.d.:7-20; Williams et al. 2002).

By war’s end, the region around Alexandria had been denuded of trees, wharves had been damaged, there were hundreds of “decrepit” buildings, sanitation systems had failed, and a community of ex-slaves had developed just west of the city’s boundary (Smith and Miller 1988:83-97 [*passim*]).

Suburbanization and Urban Dominance (1865 - Present). The post-Civil War and twentieth century growth of the Federal government in Washington, D.C. gradually changed the character of Northern Virginia. After the Civil War and through the early twentieth century, dairy farming gradually replaced the production of small grains as the principal agricultural enterprise in Northern Virginia. The composition of the area’s population changed and grew, as freed slaves established scattered small communities throughout the region; Union veterans were lured by bargain-basement real estate prices; and the growing responsibilities of the Federal government demanded a larger work force, many of whom elected to move into Virginia. As the number of Federal employees rose throughout the period, electric trolley lines and improved road systems integrated the surrounding jurisdictions into the Washington metropolitan area. The region gradually became a suburban “bedroom community” of the nation’s capital.

During the Depression and World War II, the needs of a growing Federal work force resulted in the establishment of more complex transportation network throughout the region, and gave rise to ever-expanding residential areas. Farmlands were sold to developers or to the Federal government. Within the last 40 years, major shopping, business, and industrial centers have emerged to dominate the neighboring jurisdictions of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William and Loudoun counties, particularly along such major transportation routes as Interstate 95 and the Capital Beltway (Chittenden et al. 1988).

*Alexandria Context.* The decades after the Civil War set in motion trends that, despite some minor setbacks due to fires and floods, propelled Alexandria to the status of a full-fledged city with (at least temporarily) an industrial base. A good proportion of the city’s growth occurred westward along the Duke Street/Little River Turnpike corridor (Figure 6). Other elements of this “rejuvenation” effort included large-scale modifications to the city’s waterfront areas, an influx of large-scale manufacturing concerns, the modernization of the city’s infrastructure, a change in the form of local government, and annexation of adjoining areas of Fairfax County.

The city’s business community gradually recovered from the war years, as railroads were returned to private hands and shipping resumed (Cheek et al. 1990:43). Industries established during this period included everything from brewing to glass production. World War I pushed the city further down the path toward industrialization, as war-related companies like the Virginia Shipbuilding Corporation, the Briggs Aeroplane Company, the Atlantic Life Boat Company, and the Navy’s Torpedo Factory located within the city’s borders (Smith and Miller 1988:107). Electricity and phone services were initiated in the 1880s (Smith and Miller 1988:104), and in 1903, consolidation of the several railroad lines that passed through the city led to the rerouting of the main railroad corridors toward the western edge of town; in the 1890s, the Southern Railroad’s (successor to the old Orange and Alexandria line) yard and repair facilities expanded substantially.

**Table 2. Architectural Properties located within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the Hoffman Project Area**

Site No	Site Name	Chronology	Type/Function	Comments
00-22	DC Boundary Stones	18 <sup>th</sup> century	N/A	National Register-listed boundary markers for original District of Columbia. Listed as Arlington County architectural site.
100-45	1207 Duke Street	ca. 1800	domestic	Federal Style; has "slave cellar" reportedly documented by early map
100-46	1621 Duke Street	ca. 1820	Domestic	Federal Style
100-47	1707 Duke Street (Bruin's Slave Jail)	ca. 1819	Warehouse/domestic	VA register listed 1999; determined NR eligible.
100-68	1108 Prince Street	1780	Domestic	2 bay town house, one of four Federal style
100-69	1111 Prince Street	ca. 1820	Domestic	3 bay federal style townhouse; Flemish bond
100-70	1115 Prince Street	1789	Domestic	3 bay, 2 ½ story townhouse w/ dormers; heavily modernized in Victorian and modern periods
100-105	Franklin & Armfield Office (1315 Duke Street)	1800-1820	Domestic/Commercial	Originally constructed as residence, purchased in 1828 as office for slave trading firm. Slave pens in back, later destroyed. Used as Union prison during Civil War
100-124	Union Station	1905	Transportation: passenger terminal	Yellow brick structure, Georgian Revival structure Determined eligible for listing 1993; no formal nomination prepared or submitted.
100-127	George Washington Masonic Memorial	1932	Memorial/commemorative	Greek revival monumental architecture on Shuter's Hill; determined eligible for NR listing 1998; no formal nomination on file.
100-131	VDOT Structure #3	Mid-late 1930s	Domestic	Apartment building, four units
100-132	VDOT Structure #4: 5 Sunset Avenue	1920s	Domestic	Craftsman style single family dwelling; front gable type
100-133	Parker-Gray Historic District	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Residential District	A working class neighborhood north of the Masonic Memorial containing a variety of residential structures of a range of designs. Determined NR eligible in 1989; formal nomination not submitted.
100-137	Rosemont Historic District	Early-mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Residential district	Residences constructed between 1908 and 1940; styles represented include Arts and Crafts, Craftsman, Colonial Revival styles. 456 contributing buildings. Determined eligible for listing in 1992; not formally listed
100-138 - 100- 146	<u>West End Cemeteries:</u> Include: -Alexandria National (Soldiers') -Christ Church -Douglas -Bethel -Washington Street United Methodist -St. Paul's Episcopal -Presbyterian -Penny Hill	1796 - 1885	Mortuary	Contiguous cemeteries are on land in West End originally known as Spring Grove. Penny Hill (1796) was the city paupers' cemetery. Soldiers' was established in 1862 as an official national Civil War cemetery; it contains remains of soldiers killed in battle in nearby military engagements, including 39 Confederates later removed by UDC and reburied at Christ Church. Soldiers' was determined NR eligible, but never

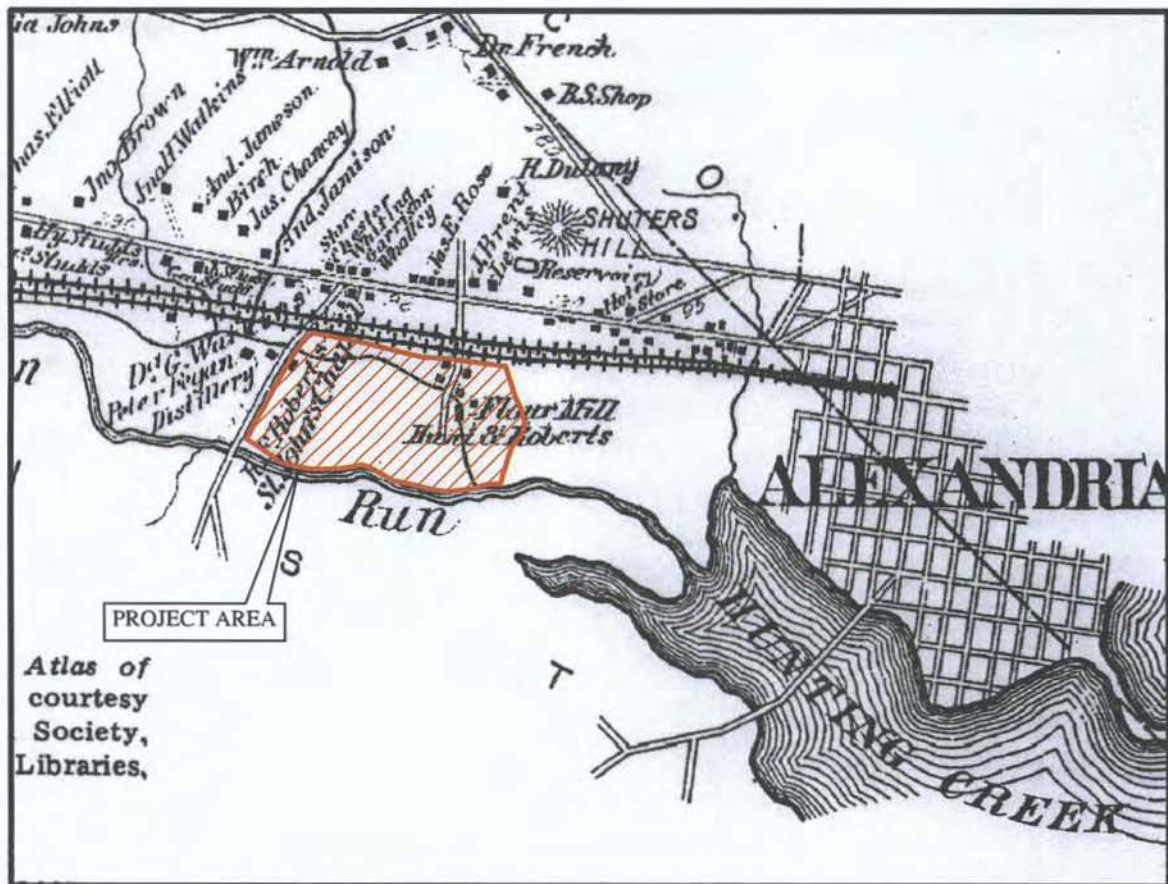
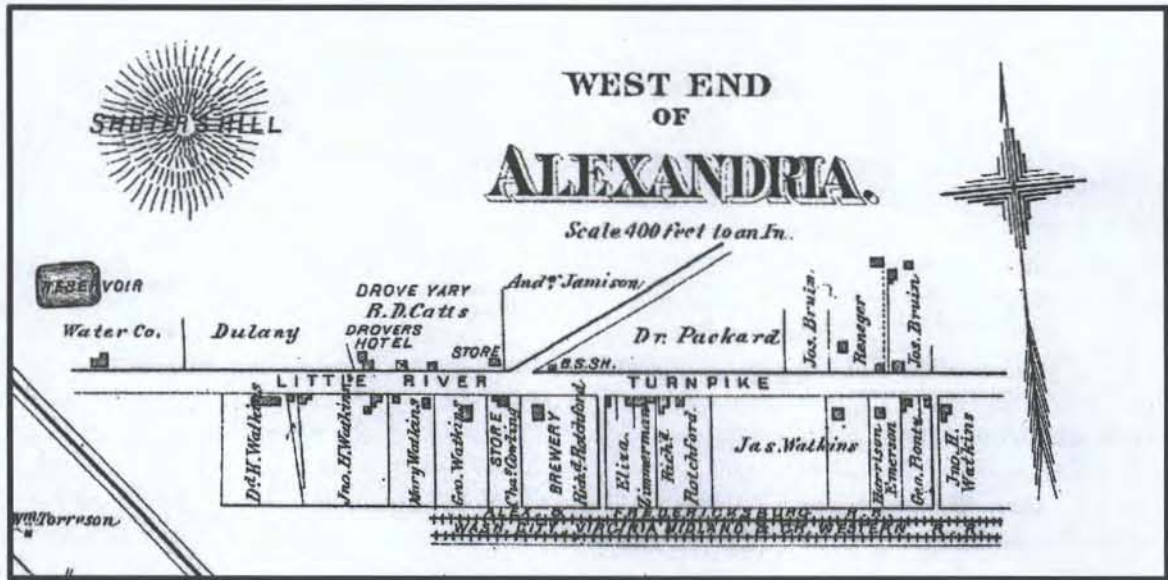


Figure 6. Excerpt from G. M. Hopkins' 1878 map of the Falls Church District, showing development in the West End, and west along the Little River Turnpike

One fundamental element was demographic; by 1880, the population of Alexandria had topped 13,500 (Cressey 1983), and it continued to increase steadily thereafter. As in neighboring jurisdictions, the steady growth of the Federal government provided much of the impetus for this population growth. The gradually increasing Federal work force created housing needs to which Alexandria developers responded by establishing such early "bedroom communities" as Rosemont, Braddock Heights and Del Ray during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Smith and Miller 1988:106). After World War II, tract housing and trailer parks along the commercial corridors south and west of the city responded to similar shortages; one such trailer park occupied the northern part of the Hoffman project area

The City of Alexandria expanded several times by annexing lands from its neighbors to the west. Alexandria's area almost doubled after the annexation of 1915 which included portions of the former community of West End (Schweigert n.d.: 9-1). Later annexations in 1930 and 1952 added even larger portions of land to Alexandria (Cheek et al. 1990:43), including the tracts encompassed within the Hoffman project area. Delivering "modern" services to the City's enlarged constituency expanded and stressed the role and resources of local government. The mayor and council form of government, no longer capable of dealing with the problems presented by an industrial center, was replaced in 1922 with a "city manager" system of government (Smith and Miller 1988:185).

## CHAPTER III

# METHODS

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Archival research and fieldwork for the Hoffman Archeological Project spanned a period of nearly 3 ½ years, from 1998 through 2001. The sequence and timetable for the various stages of the project were determined principally by the development plans of Hoffman Management and the logistical needs of its sub-contractors. For each stage of the project, the staff of Alexandria Archaeology developed an initial Scope of Work and appropriate testing strategies, in consultation with Hoffman Management and the manager team from Goodwin & Associates, Inc. These strategies were modified or expanded as fieldwork progressed and revealed potentially significant archeological features or artifact concentrations. All of the work conducted for the project complied with the *City of Alexandria's Archeological Standards* and the *Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*.

This chapter describes general approaches utilized to complete the archival, field, and laboratory tasks associated with the investigations on the Hoffman property; the methodology used during specific stages or in specific areas of the investigations will be discussed in the chapter that presents the results obtained during that stage or from that area of investigation.

### **Preliminary Archival Study (Phase IA)**

A preliminary Phase IA literature search was completed in April 1998, pursuant to a Scope of Work issued by Alexandria Archaeology in 1997. The initial study was designed to assess and graphically represent the archeological potential of the (then) undeveloped blocks within the Hoffman project area, and to make specific recommendations for further archeological investigations in advance of future development. These objectives were accomplished through a combination of background archival research, on-site inspection, and computer digitization and overlay of selected historic maps and aerial photographs.

Archival research was undertaken at numerous repositories including: Alexandria Archaeology; the County Archaeological Services of the Fairfax County Park Authority; the Virginia Room of the Fairfax County Public Library; the Special Collections of the Alexandria Public Library; the Alexandria and Fairfax County Court Archives, and the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress. Records reviewed at these repositories included reports of previous investigations in the West End; Alexandria Archaeology's files on Cameron Mills; historic map and aerial photograph files maintained by Alexandria Archaeology; prehistoric site files for the lower Hunting Creek drainage; and deed and title information for real property transactions within the project area. Computer enhanced and digitized overlays of selected historic maps and aerial photographs facilitated analysis of the archeological potential of the undeveloped blocks within the project area. During and after the Phase II study, additional background data was obtained from

interviews with members of the Roberts family, which owned the Cameron Farm through the middle of the twentieth century.

Based upon the data obtained from preliminary research, the archeological potential of each block within the project area then was assessed as "Low," "Moderate," and "High." The potential for prehistoric resources was assessed as low, based upon known prehistoric settlement and subsistence models and on the general results that had been obtained from previous investigations along the Eisenhower Avenue/ Cameron Valley corridor. Areas also were considered to have a low potential for intact historic archeological resources if:

Archival and cartographic research indicated that no potentially significant historic resources were present within the area;

- Previous archeological investigations (e.g. Knepper and Pappas 1992) had demonstrated a lack of archeological potential; or
- Previous severe sub-surface disturbance (e.g., utility lines, major construction, etc.) was indicated.

Areas in which historically documented features or structures or favorable prehistoric environmental conditions were likely to be present, and where the degree of disturbance appeared to be moderate to minimal, were classified as having a moderate potential for intact archeological resources. "High potential areas" were defined as those portions of the property that contained previously identified sites; two or more historically or cartographically documented features within the same general location; and/or exhibited little apparent sub-surface disturbance.

The report for this phase of the Hoffman project was presented as an extended management summary, and it offered specific recommendations for further work on each of the undeveloped blocks within the Hoffman property. To a large extent, these recommendations were followed in planning specific testing strategies for each block of the property as development plans were initiated.

Chapter II of the present report presents an overview of the general archival results developed for the region and the City of Alexandria; Chapter IV presents an abbreviated version of the conclusions and recommendations made based upon the results of this Phase IA study; and Chapter V presents site-specific historical data developed during and after the Phase IA study.

### **Archeological Monitoring/Phase I Testing**

Beginning in the summer of 1999, a program of geomorphological analysis of previously obtained soil bore data, archeological monitoring, and limited Phase I testing was applied to Block 4 of the Hoffman properties (Figure 3). This block was slated for development as the site of a new retail and cineplex complex. Pre-construction site preparation required removal of between 6 and 13 ft of previously introduced fill down to the level of the original ground surface, followed by replacement with new compactable fill. Archeological monitors were present as soils were removed across the entire block, in an area that measured approximately 300 x 450 ft. Development plans for Block 4 also required relocation of existing utility lines to corridors around the perimeter of the block, with extensions and links to city utility lines in Mill Road; excavations for these corridors also were monitored. Monitors noted stratigraphy and features as soils were removed in these areas; written anecdotal field notes, field photographs, representative stratigraphic profiles, and feature drawings were utilized to document these site preparation activities.

As sections of fill were removed within Block 4, Goodwin & Associates, Inc. staff conducted limited Phase I investigations across a portion of the exposed original soil surfaces within Block 4. The test loci were confined to areas that previously had been designated as potentially sensitive either through archival research or geomorphological analysis (Segovia 1999). The approved Scope-of-Work required that a maximum of 20 shovel tests be excavated within these high potential areas. No tests were required for areas assessed as having low archeological potential or within the footprints of previous disturbances, such as former utility lines. A 15 m (50 ft) control grid was placed across the exposed area; the site datum was established at the northeastern corner of the Hoffman 2 building; and all subsequent excavation loci were mapped in relation to this datum.

A total of 14 shovel tests were placed within Block 4; six shovel tests were not excavated due to the high water table or because site preparation excavations did not penetrate deeply enough to reach an "undisturbed" soil horizon. Test units measured 50 x 50 cm and were excavated stratigraphically to sterile subsoil, or to a depth of 1.0 m, whichever was encountered first. All soils were screened through 0.635 cm (0.25 in) hardware cloth, and standardized forms were completed for each test. Soil color, using Munsell Soil Color Chart (1998 Revised) designations, texture, and inclusions were recorded, as were depths, stratigraphic relationships, artifacts, and interpretations of findings. Site plans showing the locations and results of the shovel testing and major topographic features of the original landform also were prepared. In instances where the monitoring program encountered features, preliminary reports in the form of executive summaries were submitted to the client and to Alexandria Archaeology.

The results of the archeological monitoring and this limited Phase I testing program, as they relate directly to the development of Block 4, are presented in Chapter IV of this study. The features and components of the Cameron Farm complex (44AX182) that were identified as a result of the monitoring program will be discussed in the chapter related to that site. The discovery and subsequent excavation and removal of the West Family Cemetery and Vault (44AX183), which occurred as a result of this monitoring program, has been treated in a separate report (Williams and Soldo 2003), and will not be treated further in the present study.

### **Phase I Testing/Phase II Evaluation**

A program of supplementary archival research and mechanized Phase I testing, followed immediately by manual testing of selected features, was applied in all other areas on the Hoffman property that were scheduled for ground-disturbing activities and/or development. In all cases, the locations of both mechanized test trenches or areas to be mechanically stripped and the placement of specific test units within features in these areas were coordinated with the staff of Alexandria Archaeology. This basic strategy was utilized to investigate all of Block 2, selected portions of Block 3, and the easternmost part of Block 10.

The sequence of work was determined by the needs of proposed project development. Phase I/II investigations of the northern section of Block 3 and the corridor of a new entry road (Jay Street) were conducted between the fall and winter of 1998/1999. This stage of work entailed the mechanized excavation of a total of seven test trenches, mechanical exposure of a 4,400 sf area in the northeastern corner of Block #2, and manual excavation of test units around part of Cameron Farm House. The remainder of Blocks 2 and 3 were investigated with 14 mechanized trenches, mechanical exposure of archeologically sensitive areas, and unit excavations of selected features during the year 2000; these tests further documented features related to the Cameron Farm, the Miller's House, and the millrace. In March 2001, limited excavations were conducted in the southern portion of Block 3,

immediately south of the Cameron Mill/Alexandria Water Company site (44AX112), and in the easternmost part of Block 10, adjacent to the infilled (former) floodplain of Cameron Run. The latter series of tests revealed the remains of a small wharf or pier thought to be associated with the operation of Cameron Mills.

### Phase I Test Trenching

Phase I mechanized test trenching was designed to locate and record buried historic features and landscape elements across specific areas as they were scheduled for development. A program of mechanically excavated trenches and/or mechanized stripping of high potential areas was deemed the most efficient approach to achieve this objective. Mechanized units were excavated utilizing a standard backhoe or trackhoe equipped with a cleanup blade. Mechanized trenches varied in length, and averaged approximately 4 – 5 ft in width; however, the perimeters of trenches were expanded when sub-surface features were encountered to expose these features further and to facilitate recording and testing. Artifact samples were recovered from the major stratigraphic deposits observed within these trenches. Specialized Mechanized Unit forms were completed for each unit of excavation; these permitted recordation of the nature, color, depth, and contents of the strata in each trench, utilizing standard soil nomenclature and Munsell (1996) color chart designations. Plan views and representative stratigraphic profiles were drawn for each trench, and all significant features and trenches were photo-documented photographically.

A numerical coding system was devised to distinguish the locations of all trenches and account for multiple trenches within blocks over the three-year span of the investigation. The code for each trench combines the block and trench number and the year in which the trench was opened. Features identified within specific trenches were numbered sequentially within that particular trench (e.g., the designation "3/99.4-01" designates the first feature identified in fourth trench opened during the 1999 stage of work).

### Phase II Excavation Units

Phase II investigations were designed to provide additional chronological and structural data regarding the features exposed during the mechanized testing. All Phase II excavations were conducted manually; the format of Phase II tests depended upon the nature of the feature to be examined. Determination of which features were to be sampled was made in consultation with the staff of Alexandria Archaeology. Smaller discrete features, such as postholes were bisected, while larger features, such as yard deposits, foundations, and occupational surfaces, were sampled using larger standard test units.

Unit forms and, where applicable, feature forms, were completed for each unit excavated during the Phase II study. Data recorded on these forms included the nature, color, and depths of soils, and the general cultural materials recovered from each stratum in each excavation unit. The nature of the deposits within test units was further documented through recordation of representative stratigraphic profiles and plan views of each stratum in which significant, identifiable features were encountered. Finally, all units and significant features were documented photographically. Artifacts recovered from each stratum were placed in bags labeled with horizontal and vertical provenience information. All pre-modern artifacts recovered from excavation units were retained.

## Laboratory Procedures

Following completion of each stage of the fieldwork, all artifacts were transported to the laboratory of R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. in Frederick, Maryland, for cleaning, cataloging, and analysis. Laboratory procedures followed general standards established by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Artifacts were hand washed, air dried and sealed in clean plastic bags. Provenience data were recorded on the outside of each bag.

## Inventory and Analysis

The coded catalogue system applied to each historic artifact assemblage incorporated artifact attribute data, artifact counts, comments, and manufacture date range information in order to produce more accurate and detailed analyses of parts or all of the artifact data. The hierarchically arranged system entailed analysis based upon four principal levels:

1. The Category, which grouped items initially as historic or prehistoric;
2. The functional Group, based on a modified version of South's (1977) categories, including:
  - Architectural: objects related to the construction or maintenance of buildings and structures, such as brick, mortar, window glass, nails, and construction hardware;
  - Kitchen: objects related to food preparation, service, consumption, or storage, particularly ceramic and glass containers, metal cutlery. Faunal remains that exhibit specific characteristics that suggest use as food (e.g., butchering marks) may be incorporated into this category at the discretion of the project manager;
  - Clothing: items used in the manufacture and maintenance of clothing such as pins and needles, scissors, fabric, thread, as well as fasteners and decorations such as snaps, hooks, buttons, and buckles;
  - Furniture: materials and objects related to household furnishings; archeologically, this group typically includes items of furniture hardware such as hinges, drawer pulls, locks, keyhole escutcheons, and tacks, but may also incorporate glass and metal lamp parts, ornamental ceramic vases, and mirror glass;
  - Personal: products used for personal hygiene and grooming, such as combs, brushes, curlers, toothbrushes, chamber pots, pitchers, basins and other vessels, as well as jewelry, coins, objects related to the use of tobacco, and other personal possessions;
  - Transportation: items such as harness equipage and horseshoes, wagon and carriage parts, and automobile parts;

- Arms: objects related to arms or weapons, such as parts of guns, ammunition, and tools for gun or weapon repair and maintenance;
  - Activities: artifacts associated with non-domestic activities, such as toys, tools, or products associated with recreation, hobbies, non-architectural construction, repair and maintenance; and,
  - Miscellaneous: items as such as stone objects with no discernable cultural modifications, or non-diagnostic metal fragments.
3. The artifact Type, which further separated assemblages based upon seven raw material types (Biological, Ceramic, Glass, Metal, Stone, Synthetic and Manufactured and the Subtype); and
  4. The Class, in which material types were subdivided further into refined categories based upon their intrinsic morphological or technical characteristics. For example, ceramics were sub-divided based on ware type (i.e. earthenware and stoneware), as identified in such standard reference works as Miller (1980, 1991), Noël Hume (1976), Worthy (1982); glass classification was based primarily upon analysis of the technology that produced the vessel, as defined in references such as Jones and Sullivan's (1988) comprehensive glass glossary.

The system also permitted notation of specific details about each piece or group, including decorative technique, manufacturing date range, and vessel form. To establish manufacture date ranges, the aforementioned standard references were consulted, and, where possible, sources dealing with manufacturer's marks on ceramics and glass (e.g., Godden 1964; Lehner 1988, Toulouse 1971) were used to refine temporal associations. A complete artifact inventory for the project is presented as Appendix A of this report.

Samples of both the wooden posts and plank elements of the pier structure exposed during the test excavations in Block 10 also were submitted for ethnobotanical analysis and speciation. The analysis of these components is included in this report as Appendix B.

#### Artifact Curation/Stabilization/Conservation

Following the analyses described above, artifacts were sealed in clean plastic bags and appropriate provenience data were recorded on the outside of each bag. Upon completion of the project, all artifacts, the artifact inventory, field notes, photographs, and technical documentation will be turned over to Hoffman Management, Inc. for permanent curation or for transfer to an approved curation facility. Alexandria Archaeology or the Virginia Department of Historic Resources are recommended repositories that meet current professional curation standards.

At the request of Alexandria Archaeology, one specialized set of structural elements was subjected to more advanced post-excavation treatment. Two upright members of the pier discovered during the testing in Block 10 were removed intact, and brought back to Goodwin & Associates, Inc.'s Frederick office, pending negotiations for their ultimate disposition. While awaiting the outcome of these negotiations, Goodwin & Associates, Inc., applied procedures to stabilize and prevent further deterioration of these objects. Since they had been removed from a damp/moist environment, the uprights were re-immersed in clean water to prevent dessication and cell failure,

and were sprayed periodically with a 5 per cent alcohol solution to retard the development of mold and fungi. The alcohol was replenished periodically to maintain the uniform strength of this solution. In 2002, under terms of an agreement concluded between Alexandria Archaeology and the Alexandria Lyceum, these two items were turned over to the Lyceum, which arranged for permanent conservation at the Maryland State archeological laboratories at Jefferson-Patterson Park and Museum.

### **Public Interpretation**

Interpretation of the results of archeological projects conducted in Alexandria has long been a key objective of the City's historic preservation program. Public interpretation efforts undertaken during the excavations at the Hoffman property included a variety of initiatives. Informal flyers were developed for distribution to passers-by and occasional visitors from the adjacent office buildings during the initial (1998-1999) Phase I excavations. Major print and television outlets were provided with information about the excavation of the West Family cemetery and burial vault at a press conference in June 2000. Project archeologists also summarized the general results of the project for the Alexandria Historical Society in March 2001, and for the Roberts Family (descendants of former owners of Cameron Farm) at their reunion in September 2003 (Appendix IV).



## CHAPTER IV

# RESULT OF PHASE IA ARCHIVAL STUDIES AND BLOCK 4 MONITORING

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This chapter presents the results and recommendations obtained during the Phase IA preliminary archeological assessment (Williams 1998) of the Hoffman Property, and the detailed results obtained from the archeological monitoring and testing conducted during site development of Block 4 of the Hoffman property.

### **Phase IA Archival Study**

#### Research Design and Methodology

The objectives of the Phase IA study, conducted in April 1998, were to evaluate and graphically represent the archeological potential of the undeveloped blocks within the Hoffman project area, and to make specific recommendations for further archeological investigations in advance of future development. These objectives were achieved through a combination of background archival research and on-site inspection. Computer digitized overlays of selected maps (Figures 7 and 8) and aerial photographs also were generated; although the results of these overlays varied, due to historical changes in reference points, the resulting images facilitated analysis of the archeological potential of the undeveloped blocks within the project area. The cumulative data were utilized to assess the archeological potential of each block within the project area.

The general archival background for the project area, originally presented as part of the Phase IA report, forms Chapter II of the present study. The criteria for assigning "Low," "Moderate," or "High" ratings to specific blocks have been defined in Chapter III.

#### Results and Recommendations

The Phase IA assessment found that the undeveloped portions of the Hoffman property had a moderate to high potential to contain significant archeological resources, particularly those dating from the historic period. The property's archeological potential had been enhanced significantly by the fact that most portions of the tract, known historically as "Cameron Farm," apparently functioned as components of a relatively intact, semi-rural, agrarian operation until well into the twentieth century. The data seemed to indicate that Block 3 offered the highest potential for historic resources, due to the relative lack of development within that parcel. The archeological potential of Block 2 was assessed as moderate to high for historic resources, despite late twentieth century road realignment and light commercial/industrial development. Discrete isolated historic features also were thought possible in Blocks 1, 4, 7, and 10; Blocks 9 and 10, closest to the former stream channel of Cameron

Run and the least disturbed historically, presented the highest potential for intact prehistoric resources. Specific block-by-block assessments were presented in tabular form (reproduced here as Table 3).

## **Recommendations**

The Phase IA study concluded that the potential resources on the undeveloped sections of the Hoffman property could yield data on three aspects of the historical development of the tract, and thereby could contribute additional information to the accumulated knowledge about the development of Alexandria's West End. These aspects included the identification and dating of various components of Cameron Farm to document the evolution of its cultural landscape; additional clarification of structural details and temporal development of the Cameron Mills/Alexandria Water Works complex; and determination of the possible extent, nature, and chronology of prehistoric occupation along Cameron Run.

Due to the large-scale nature of the proposed development site, recommended field strategies emphasized mechanized exposure, followed by manual testing of selected landscape features. In Blocks 2 and 3, where preliminary research had suggested a high probability for remains associated with the Cameron Farm and the mill/water company complex, the report recommended a combination of monitored, mechanized removal of large block areas, followed by limited mechanized and manual testing of specific features. Expected features in those blocks included elements of the mill headrace; the remains of nineteenth century buildings and other structures along the former farm access road (Block 2), and foundations and features associated with the mill complex and/or the Alexandria Water Company works (Block 3). Systematic deep mechanized testing to document stratigraphy was recommended for Blocks 9 and 10, where potential prehistoric resources on the former terraces and floodplain of Cameron Run, and possible wharf or pier facilities at or near the intersection of the mill tailrace and the southern extension of Roberts Lane with the former channel of Cameron Run were predicted. Less intensive Phase I efforts (e.g., monitoring and limited shovel testing) were recommended for Blocks 4 and 7, where documentary and cartographic evidence suggested that the (burial) vault of Thomas West and portions of the Cameron Mill headrace might be present. No investigations were recommended for Block 5. The report recommended that archeological testing be phased to coincide with the sequence for block development as established by Hoffman Management, Inc.

The Phase IA report also recommended that additional background research be conducted to obtain specific data about the Cameron Mill complex and the Alexandria Water Company's modifications to and operation of that facility, as well as the occupation and operation of Cameron Farm and Mill. It was anticipated that review of census data, Fairfax County real property tax records, and other primary sources would constitute an appropriate level of effort for this supplementary research.

The recommended strategies developed as a result of the Phase IA study subsequently were used as the general framework for all fieldwork that followed thereafter.

### **Archeological Monitoring and Testing: Block 4**

Block 4 was the first area of the Hoffman property to undergo intensive development. Historic documentation suggested that, during the Cameron Farm years (late eighteenth through early twentieth

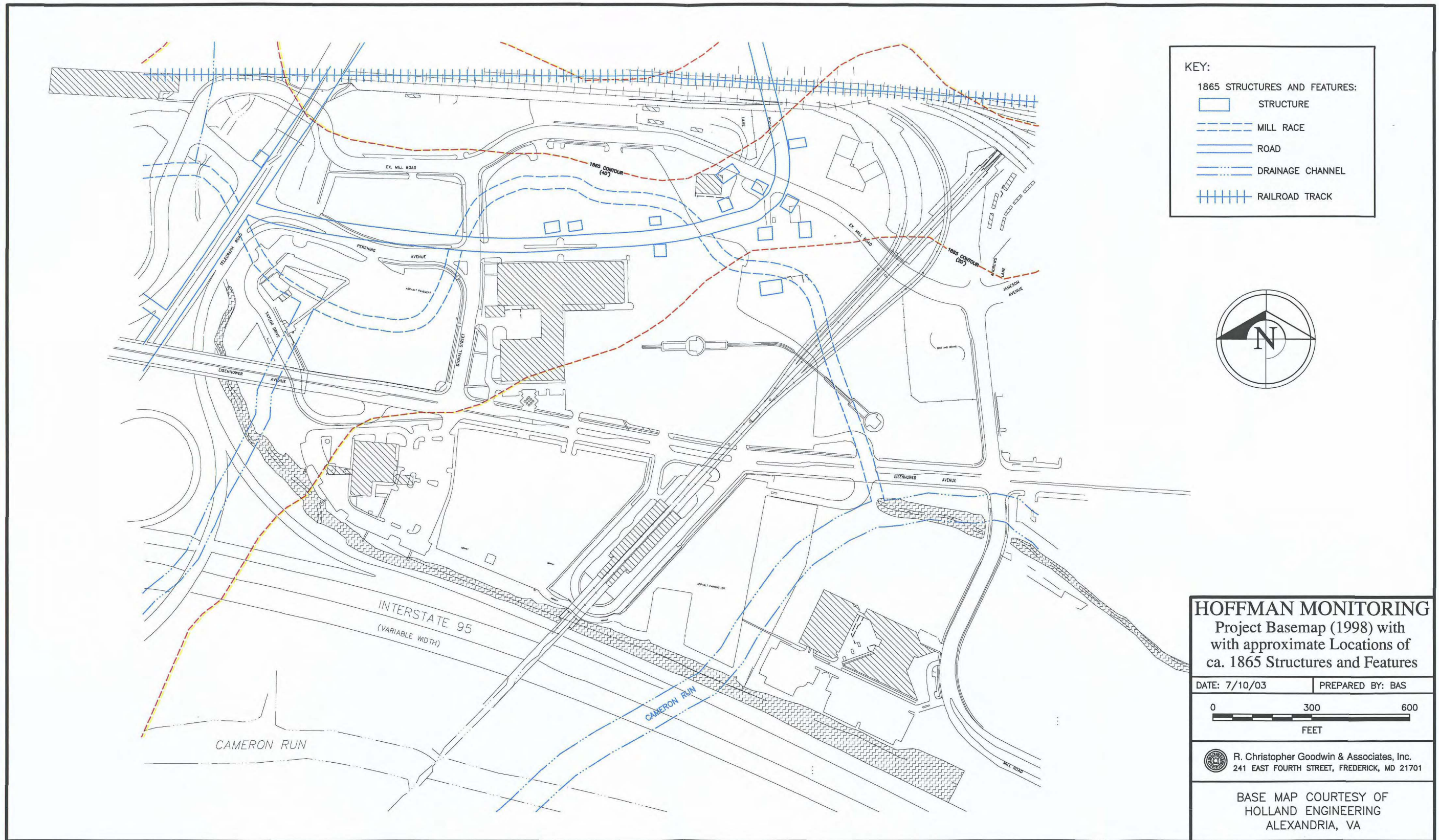


Figure 7. Digitized overlay of 1865 Civil War map on current Hoffman property map



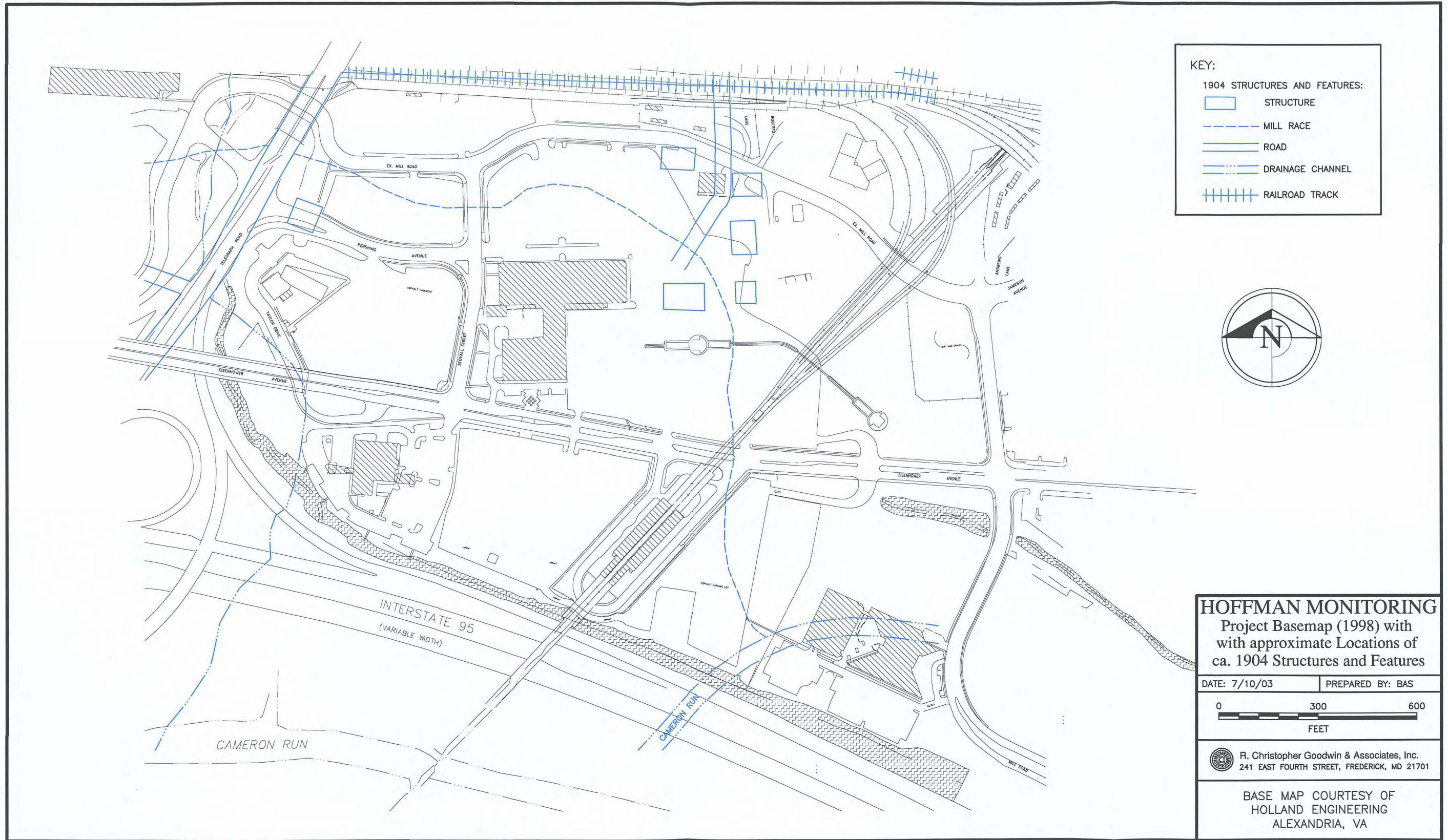


Figure 8. Digitized overlay of 1904 Baist map of Alexandria on current Hoffman property map



**Table 3. Analysis of Archeological Potential: Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 10, Hoffman Property, Alexandria, Virginia**

Block	Current Conditions	Potential for Archeological Resources	Documented/Apparent Disturbance	Potential
1	North Half: unpaved parking area and concrete slab foundations of post-World War II buildings South Half: asphalt paved parking area	Possible head race prism in northern half; unidentified building in southwestern corner	Northern half: concrete slabs, light grading; vehicular traffic disturbance to surface strata; possible discontinued utilities Southern half: light to moderate grading; asphalt cover	Generally low; moderate potential for known historic features.
2	Same as Block 1	Potential for head race prism through mid-section of block; unidentified building foundations in extreme southern portion	Northern half: concrete slabs; light grading; vehicular traffic disturbance to upper strata Southern half: partially cut (~5 ft or less) along Mill Road; moderate grading over remainder of lot; asphalt cover	Moderate to high potential for documented/mapped historic features
3	Grassed over triangular area	Cameron Mill/Alexandria Water Company complex (44AX112); 19th century domestic and agricultural structures; head and tail races; unidentified building in extreme southern corner of block.	Moderate to extensive grading and fill; building removal (south half); 19th and 20th century utility lines; previous archeological investigations	Low potential in previously tested areas; high potential for mill structure; moderate potential extreme northern and southern corners
4	Asphalt parking	Possible 18th century "vault"	Severe (~8-10 ft) grading north half; moderate grading and filling south half; one utility line bisects lot diagonally NW to SE; asphalt cover	Moderate potential for specific historic resource
5	Asphalt parking	No documented historic features	Moderate grading; asphalt cover	Low potential
7	Asphalt parking	Possible head race prism	Moderate grading; varying degrees of fill across southern half; road construction disturbance in southern half; asphalt cover	Moderate potential for specific historic resource
9	Asphalt parking	No historic features; potential for prehistoric resources in terraces above former swamp area	Probable fill and alluvial/colluvial deposits to maximum of 22 ft close to former stream channel and swamp; utility lines along southern perimeter; asphalt cover.	Moderate to high potential for prehistoric resources
10	Asphalt parking	Possible junction of tail race and former Cameron stream channel; possible wharf or pier facilities; potential for prehistoric resources in terraces above former stream channel	Fill and alluvial/colluvial deposits ranging from 12 - 22 ft close to former stream channel and swamp; asphalt cover.	Moderate to high potential for prehistoric resources; moderate potential for specific historic resources.

centuries), the majority of Block 4 had been cultivated or utilized as pasture until its development as part of a trailer park (ca. 1947 to 1960s). As the Hoffman family began commercial development of the property in the late 1960s, Block 4 was utilized as a parking lot, a function that was underscored by the presence of modern asphalt and 1½ to 2 ft of gravelly sand underlayment in the profiles taken during the monitoring stage of the project. In 1999, Hoffman Management, Inc. filed site plans with the City of Alexandria to develop this block as the site of an AMC multiplex cinema and commercial retail building. Specifically, development plans called for construction of a concrete pad-seated, multiple-theatre/retail/commercial complex; replacement and rerouting of utilities around the perimeter of the block; and landscaping and low-impact parking lot development on adjacent lots.

### Previous Investigations

Engineering Studies. Prior to development of the Block 4 site, several engineering studies had been conducted to ascertain the suitability of the area for heavy construction. The resulting soil bore data were assessed to determine the potential for intact surfaces within this block. A single soil bore that had been placed in the southwestern corner of this block (Froehling and Robertson, Inc. 1995:B-4) indicated that up to 13 ft of fill had been introduced into this area. This fill overlay a 9 ft deep B horizon of wet, yellowish brown clayey sand, followed by gravel and a series of clay, silt, and sand horizons to a depth of 74 ft. No buried A horizon was identified from the bore data. An earlier bore, attempted 4 ft north, had terminated at a depth of 20 ft, when concrete, apparently related to underground utilities, was encountered. Subsequent additional engineering borings (Engineering Consulting Services, Inc. [ECS Inc.] 1999) generally confirmed Froehling and Robertson's earlier findings. ECS (1999:8) concluded that "uncontrolled fill" (described as "nonuniform soil types including sandy CLAYS, clayey SILTS, silty SANDS, gravels and traces of wood and brick debris") had been introduced across much of the project block and that fill depths ranged generally between 8 and 15 ft. The deepest fill deposits were located along the southern perimeter of the proposed pad site. Below the fill levels, these same data revealed layers of silty sands and gravel "overlying clayey SILTS or silty CLAYS" typical of natural Coastal Plain deposits (ECS Inc. 1999:6). ECS (1999:6) further reported the presence of two active water tables, including one at the interface of the fill deposits and the natural underlying Coastal Plain deposits. These initial assessments suggested that most or all of Block 4 had been thoroughly disturbed.

ECS (1999:8-9) concluded that existing fill deposits were "unsuitable for direct support of conventional shallow foundations," and would have to be removed and replaced with soils suitable for supporting the proposed building. These findings dictated the nature and degree of site preparation required in advance of construction. Preparation of the proposed building's concrete pad initially entailed the removal of fill material to a distance of 10 ft outside of the building footprint, down to the level of original ground surface, and replacement with new compactable fill. The excavation contractor proposed to remove the fill in quadrants, to accommodate the limited space in which to store removed fill. However, this strategy was modified by the contractor, in consultation with soil specialists from ECS Corporation, after a portion of the first (southeast) quadrant was removed, and the underlying natural soils were determined to be unsatisfactory in texture and moisture to serve as the base for the replaced fill. The revised strategy called for removal of all overlying soils until a natural layer containing a high concentration of gravel/cobbles was encountered. In addition, fill removal in the southeastern quadrant also exposed a buried asphalt road surface at some depth beneath the base of the modern parking lot; the contractor was advised that the buried road would need to be broken up to facilitate drainage.

Geomorphological Analysis. Dr. Antonio Segovia, a paleogeologist with the University of Maryland, analyzed the bore data obtained from these tests to ascertain whether sub-surface

prehistoric topographic features might be present beneath Block 4's massive fill deposits. In his report, Segovia (1999) noted that the data suggested that there might have been two prehistoric drainage channels and three terraces of sufficient elevation above sea level to be utilized by a prehistoric population during the Paleo-Indian, Archaic, and succeeding prehistoric time periods. The data also suggested that the slope of the original landform described a northwest to southeast orientation. However, Segovia (1999:4) concluded that the "layer that would be a possible target for a search of stratified, prehistoric sites is very limited in thickness," thereby implying that the thinness of potential intact post-Pleistocene layers would render the likelihood of finding intact prehistoric remains tenuous.

## Research Design and Methodology

Segovia's analysis, coupled with the documented extent of grading and filling and the nature of the planned construction, dictated the archeological strategies that were adopted for dealing with the site preparation activities within Block 4. The principal strategy was that of archeological monitoring and documentation of stratigraphy within areas of planned disturbance. Within the perimeters of the block itself, a strategy was worked out to shovel test specific areas where natural soils and topography were exposed (Figure 9). Specifically, archeological monitoring was required during all phases of fill removal; the monitoring was to be followed by excavation of shovel test pits [STPs] measuring 1.5 ft x 1.5 ft. The planned locations of all STPs were based primarily on the results of Segovia's (1999) geomorphological analyses.

Monitoring of utility trench excavation around the southern, western, and northern periphery of Block 4 and the removal of fill overburden from the interior of the block proceeded sporadically from August 1999 through February 2000. As excavation progressed, numbers were assigned to the utility trenches, based on the function and angle of each trench. Nine trenches were excavated for utility line placement or relocation (Figure 10):

- Trenches 1, 2, and 3 related to the placement of a new 24-in OD main sanitary sewer line; although all three trenches represented a single construction episode, each was assigned a distinct number, due to differences in their orientation.
- Trenches 4 and 5, which comprised two small block excavations, were dug to expose buried water main valves.
- Trench 6 was excavated for the placement of a 60-in OD storm drain
- Trench 7 was excavated to accommodate placement of a 6-in OD sanitary sewer feeder line to connect the main sewer line with the sanitary system in the cinema complex.
- Trench 8 was an extension of the storm sewer line; and
- Trench 9 was a relocated waterline corridor that skirted the northern edge of Block 4; the portion of the waterline trench that turned northward to join with the city water system at Mill Road was designated as Trench 9 extended.

To retain horizontal control, an existing manhole at the south end of the new sanitary sewer line (Trenches 1-3) was designated as datum (N0/E0) for the Block 4 project; a declination of 20° (0°

compass declination) was utilized as grid north. A generalized profile was completed for one wall of Trenches 1-3 (north-south) and Trench 6 (east-west) to document the overall nature and configuration of the fill deposits across the site. In addition, photographs were taken and more detailed sketches of specific five-foot sections of trench walls were drawn at each 50 ft interval. All pre-modern features that were encountered in profile also were drawn to scale and numbered consecutively in order of their discovery.

## Results

Observations recorded during the monitoring and shovel testing demonstrated that Block 4 and contiguous areas of Block 2 had undergone extensive landform modification during the twentieth century. These modifications included: grading of former upper slopes; infilling in former drainage channels and floodplain/marsh areas; creation and subsequent infilling of possible silt ponds; installation of a variety of sub-surface utility lines; roadway construction; and large-scale paving. To a large degree, these modifications had obliterated not only archeological deposits and features, but also the natural soil profiles within Block 4. Table 4 summarizes, and Figures 11-15 document, the extent and nature of the disturbances noted within the block and the principal features encountered therein.

Archeological Monitoring. All ground disturbing activities associated with the preparation of the proposed building pad within Block 4 and the relocation of various utility lines around the perimeter of the block were monitored consistently. The most controlled monitoring occurred during excavation of the relocated utility line trenches. Due to their length and orientation, five of these monitored trenches proved to be the most illustrative of the complex land development history of the Hoffman property.

*Trenches 1-3.* The initial excavations, beginning in Trench 1 at the southern end of the project area, illustrated the degree of disturbance within much of the project block. For example, one feature noted within the soil profile at the southern end of this sewer line appeared to represent an infilled pond. This feature was characterized as a sub-surface deposit of extremely wet, oozing gray silty fill that exuded a foul odor (Figures 11 and 12). Aerial photographs and topographic maps from the second half of the twentieth century showed that this pond, which once stretched across the southernmost portion of the project area, occupied much of the area around Trenches 1 and 2 and the southern portion of Trench 3. This pond was absent on maps of the project area dating from 1945 and 1948, but was present on aerial photos taken in 1963.

Although the origin of this pond feature is uncertain, it corresponds temporally to the period during which the I-95/495 (Capital Beltway) was under construction. One anonymous informant conversant with the history of the property suggested that at least some of the fill originated during construction of the Wilson Bridge and the Capital Beltway during the 1960s, and that the Hoffman management had permitted its deposition on the property (Laurie Paonessa, Daily Field Notes 8/10/99). It is therefore likely that the pond was related to the changing configuration of wetlands and the channelization of Cameron Run that occurred during this construction project.

Stratigraphy at the northern end of Trench 3 was equally revealing, in that it illustrated the types of disturbances that occurred as a result of the previous excavation of a number of utility trenches through this section of the property. The wall profile near the northern end of Trench 3 (Figures 11 and 13) showed that nearly 14 ft of fill overlay the natural mottled strong brown and light gray silty clay subsoil. The depth of fill at this location most likely occurred as a result of the installation of the terra cotta sewer pipe visible at the bottom of Figure 13.

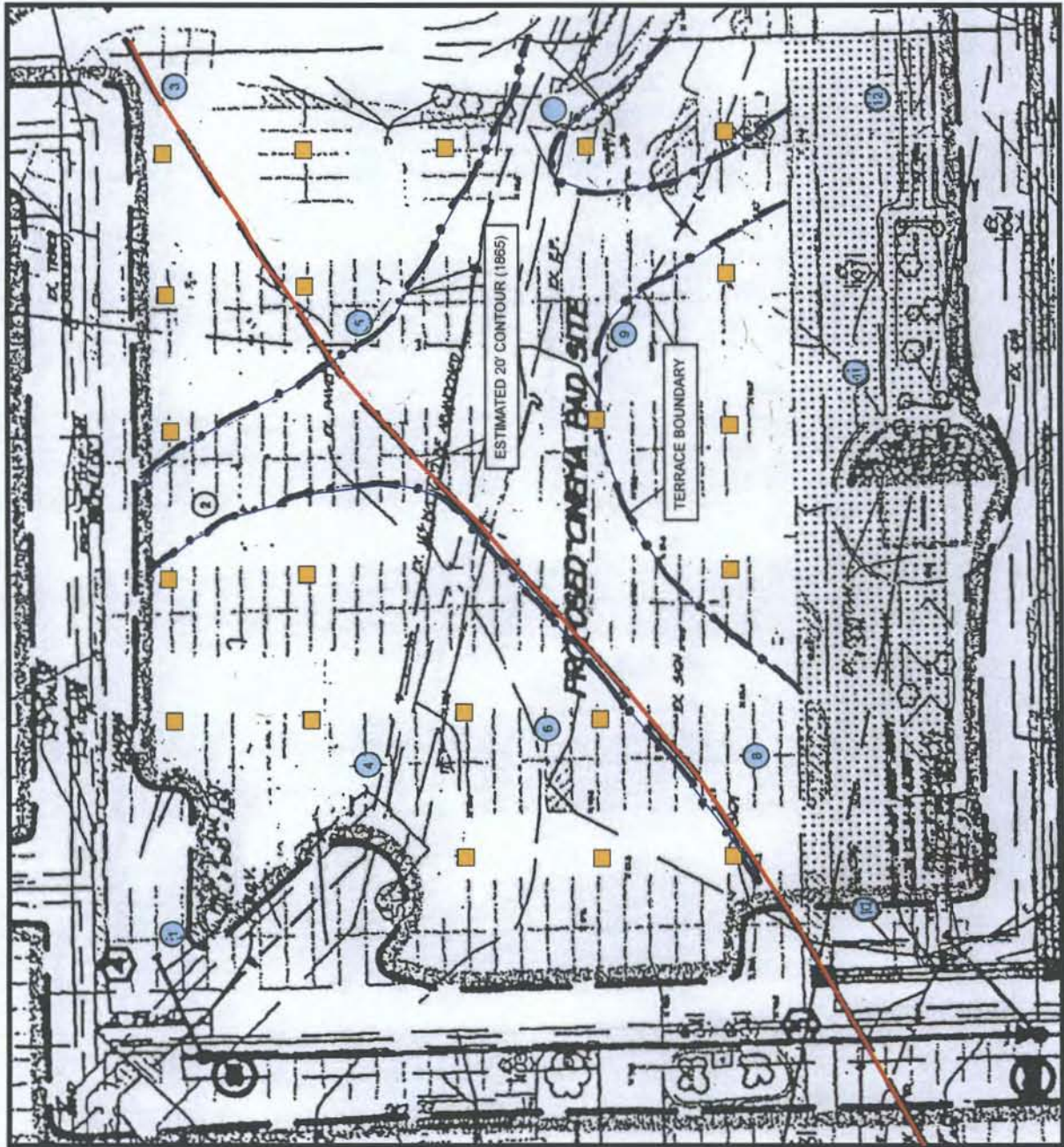


Figure 9. Testing and monitoring plan for Block 4



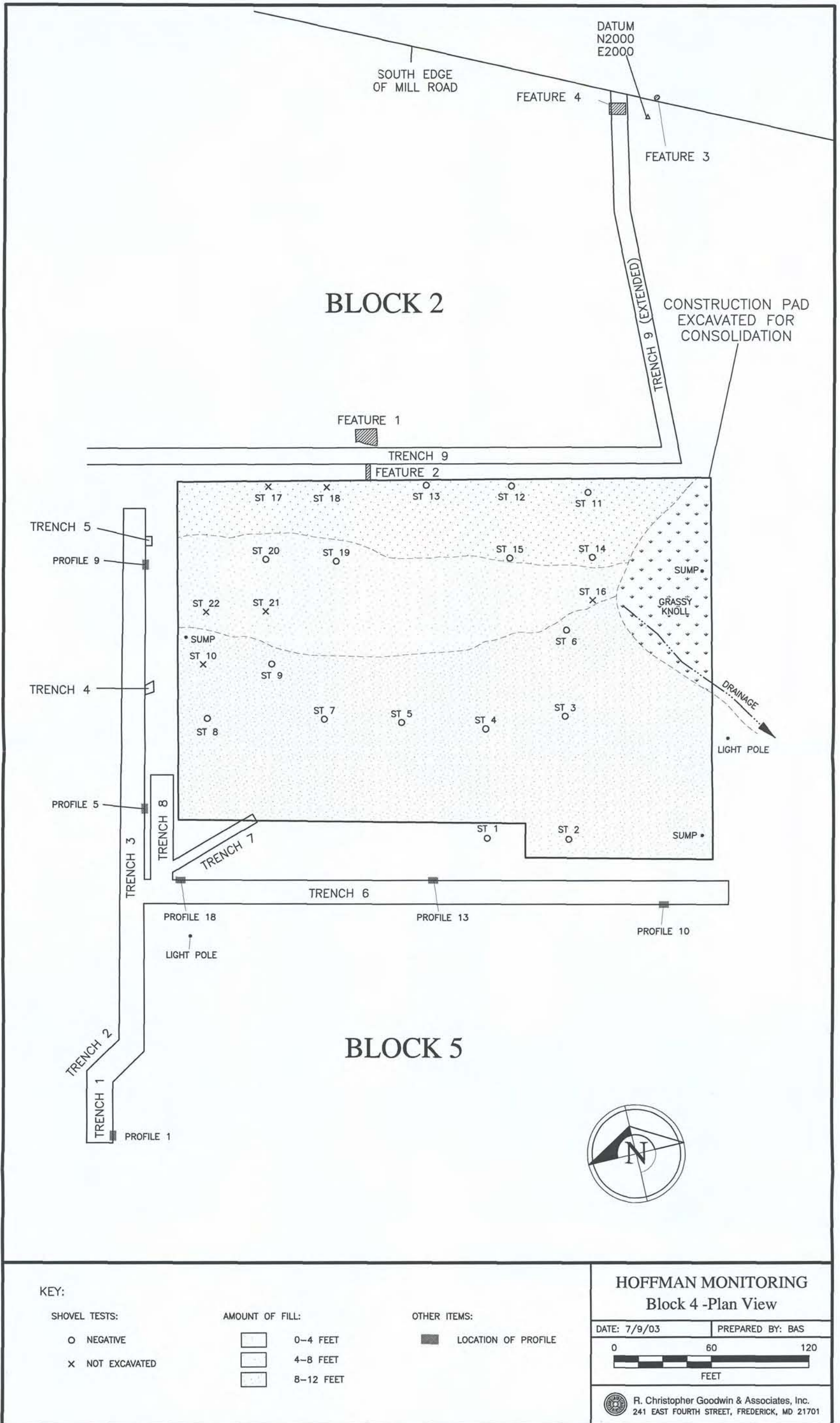


Figure 10. Block 4: Plan View, showing locations of excavated utility trenches and shovel tests



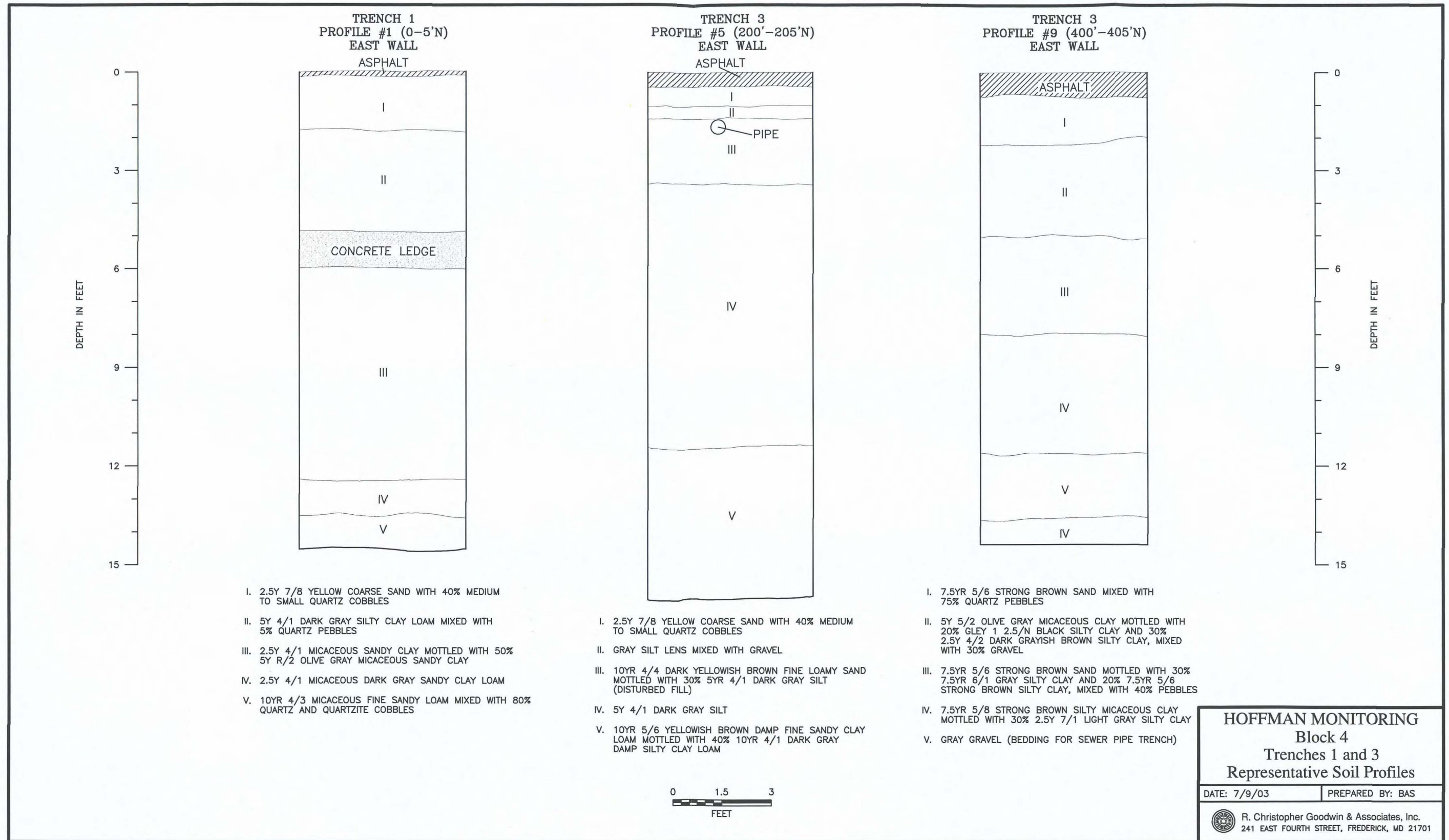


Figure 11. Block 4, Trenches 1 and 3: Representative soil profiles



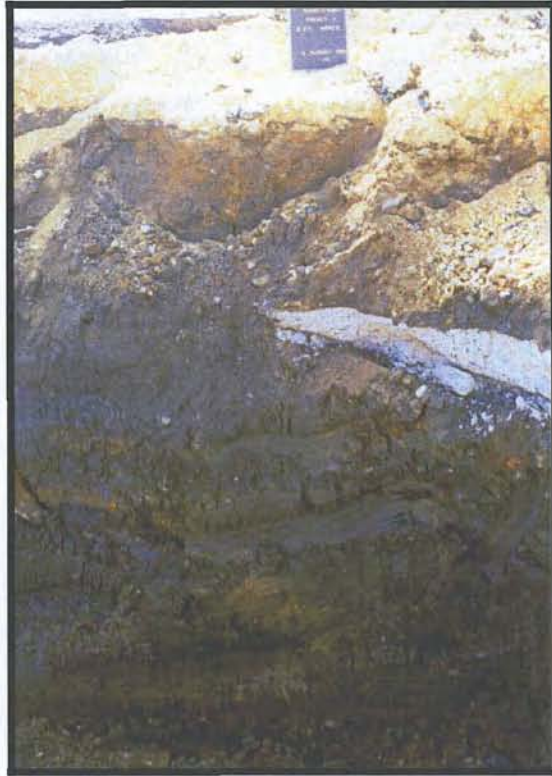


Figure 12. Block 4, Trench 1: Profile of east wall at 0 ft north, showing concrete curbing atop deep fill level



Figure 13. Block 4, Trench 3: Profile of east wall at 400 ft north, showing unconsolidated fill deposit and terra cotta drain pipe and water seepage

**Table 4. Summary Results of Archeological Monitoring, Block 4, Hoffman Properties, Alexandria, Virginia**

<b>Block</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Approximate size (L/W/D in ft)</b>	<b>Feature/Feature location</b>	<b>Observed stratigraphy</b>	<b>Observed Cultural Material</b>
Trench #1 (Sanitary Sewer)	SW Corner, Block 4	36.0 x 20.0 x 14.5+	Concrete Ledge @ 5 ft depth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lt. Yellow/brown sand (fill)(0-5 ft)</li> <li>• Dk gray-olive silty clay loam (fill)(5-12.4 ft)</li> <li>• Dk. Gray sandy clay loam (alluvial)O12.4 – 13.4 ft)</li> <li>• Sand and gravel (13.4 – 14.5 ft+)</li> </ul>	Artifacts in second fill level included brick, coal wire, wood fragments.
Trench #2 (Sanitary Sewer)	SW Corner Block 4	24.0 x (?) x 14.3+ft	Lens of macadam @ 5 – 7 ft bs	Same as above	Occasional brick fragments
Trench #3 (Sanitary Sewer)	West perimeter Block 4	330 ft long; variable widths; average depth 15 ft	Buried electrical cable/conduit; 5 ft OD concrete storm sewer, iron grating and terra cotta drainage pipe (drains for former parking lot); 36 in OD sanitary sewer; fire hydrant and associated water lines and valve box cover	Variable throughout; unstable at lower levels on marine clays and unconsolidated fill; prone to slumping	Machine made bricks, metal sign poles and other metal debris, tarpaper sheeting; wooden board fragments; shoe parts; small saplings
Trench #4 (Water valve)	West perimeter Block 4	~7.0 x 7.0 x 3.8	Existing water line and shut-off valve @ 3.8 ft bs	Unconsolidated fill	Cinder block fragments; machine made brick; cobbles; wooden boards; plastic sheeting
Trench #5 (Water valve)	West perimeter Block 4	~5.0 x 8.0 x 7.0	Existing water line and shut-off valve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concrete and asphalt surface</li> <li>• Strong brown sand w/ gravel (0-10 ft)</li> <li>• Mottled olive brown and grayish brown clay with gravel (1.0 – 7.0 ft)</li> </ul>	Nor ewxoesws

Block	Location	Approximate size (L/W/D in ft)	Feature/Feature location	Observed stratigraphy	Observed Cultural Material
Trench #6 (Stormwater sewer)	South perimeter Block 4	360.0 x ~8.0 x 12.0 (maximum)	Metal and plastic utility pipes, electrical conduit	Variable; extremely wet in lower portions of fill; prone to slumping	Large amounts of architectural and road-building debris
Trench #7 (Sanitary sewer connector)	Southwest corner Block 4	60.0 x ~7.0 x unknown		Unrecorded; same as Trench #6	Same as above
Trench #8 (Stormwater sewer)	Southwest quadrant Block 4	60.0 x 12.0 x 12.0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong brown coarse loamy sand w/ pebbles and cobbles</li> <li>• Gray silt fill</li> <li>• Olive gray silty clay, mottled with varied silty clays.</li> </ul> Prone to slumping.	Asphalt fragments
Trench 9 (Relocated water line)	North perimeter Block 4	360.0 x ~8.0 x 6.5 (average depth)	Feature 1 (West burial vault) Feature 2 (brick drain)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asphalt/underlayment</li> <li>• Yellow-brown clay</li> <li>• Gray marine clay</li> </ul>	None recorded
Trench 9 Extended (Relocated water line)	Boundary of Blocks 2 and 3 (Jay Street)	225.0 x ~8.0 x variable depth (depends on slope)	Feature 3 (existing gas line) Features 4A, 4b (building foundations)	Brick rubble and ash in features	None recorded

*Trench 6.* The storm sewer trench that extended east/west along the southern perimeter of Block 4 demonstrated the consistently deep fill levels that had been introduced to cover the formerly marshy areas along the former trajectory of Cameron Run. Typical profiles for Trench 6 (Figure 14) showed fill to depths of between 7 and 13 ft below the surface of the asphalt parking lot. More than half of this fill consisted of gray silt mixed with modern debris, such as chunks of concrete, asphalt, and machine-made bricks (Figures 15-16). Sterile subsoil often was encountered at the level of the water table, and typically consisted of dark grayish brown wet, silty clay mottled with olive gray or greenish-gray silty clay and mixed with decaying organic material.

No evidence of a buried A horizon was apparent below the fill in either of these utility trenches, suggesting that the original landform had been extensively disturbed and probably truncated during the 1950s or early 1960s. Depths measured from the surface of the former parking lot (two layers of asphalt 0.6 ft thick and a 0.4 ft thick sand and cobble underlayment that were removed prior to monitoring) showed that some fill layers extended vertically to a depth of 13 ft. The deepest layer of fill was often a distinctive 5 ft thick gray silt, mottled with darker gray to black silt and frequently mixed with modern debris. Intersecting trenches for existing utility lines occasionally cut through these fill layers. Beneath the fill were what appeared to be natural and sterile subsoil layer that typically consisted of mottled greenish-gray silty clay. When current trench excavations penetrated more deeply than approximately two feet into this apparently natural subsoil, a denser layer of yellowish brown silty clay was revealed; this clay layer was at least 3 ft thick, and extended vertically to the maximum depth of the utility trenches. No pre-modern artifacts were noted in or recovered from the fill soils, and no artifacts were observed in the two layers of silty clays near the bottom of the trenches.

*Trench 9.* This trench, excavated to accommodate the relocation of the main water line for the property, bordered the northern perimeter of Block 4. It demonstrated the radically different stratigraphy that characterized the northern portions of the Hoffman property. Industrial and commercial development had removed both the A horizon and an unknown portion of the B horizon in this area. Field notes document the stratigraphy: beneath the asphalt parking lot surface of Block 2 was a fairly uniform yellowish-brown sandy clay, that was in turn underlain by gray clay of unknown depth. Feature 1, a brick vault (Figure 17) had been excavated through and into these layers, as was Feature 2, a brick-capped eighteenth-early nineteenth century drain. Feature 1 later was identified as the West Family burial vault and designated as Site 44AX183. Features 1 and 2 both are discussed at length in separately prepared reports on this site (Williams and Soldo 2001; Williams 2003).

*Trench 9 (Extended).* Trench 9 (extended) was excavated to carry the relocated waterline around Block 4 north to link up with the main water distribution system beneath Mill Road. The distance between Mill Road and the "elbow junction" marking the beginning of this extended trench measured approximately 450 ft in length. Previous mechanized testing along a proposed entrance road (Jay Street) parallel to and just east of this waterline corridor (Sheehan and Williams 1999) had identified several features related to the Cameron Mill and Farms, including one section of the headrace for Cameron Mill (44AX112) and the foundations and a rubble-filled cellar associated with the main nineteenth century dwelling house at Cameron Farm (44AX182).

The Trench 9 extension again intersected these previously identified features. The mill headrace, which previously had been documented in two separate formal test trenches (Sheehan and Williams 1999), was not documented further during this monitoring process. However, Features 3 and 4, both elements assumed to be associated with the Cameron Farm house, were noted and Feature 4 was documented intensively.

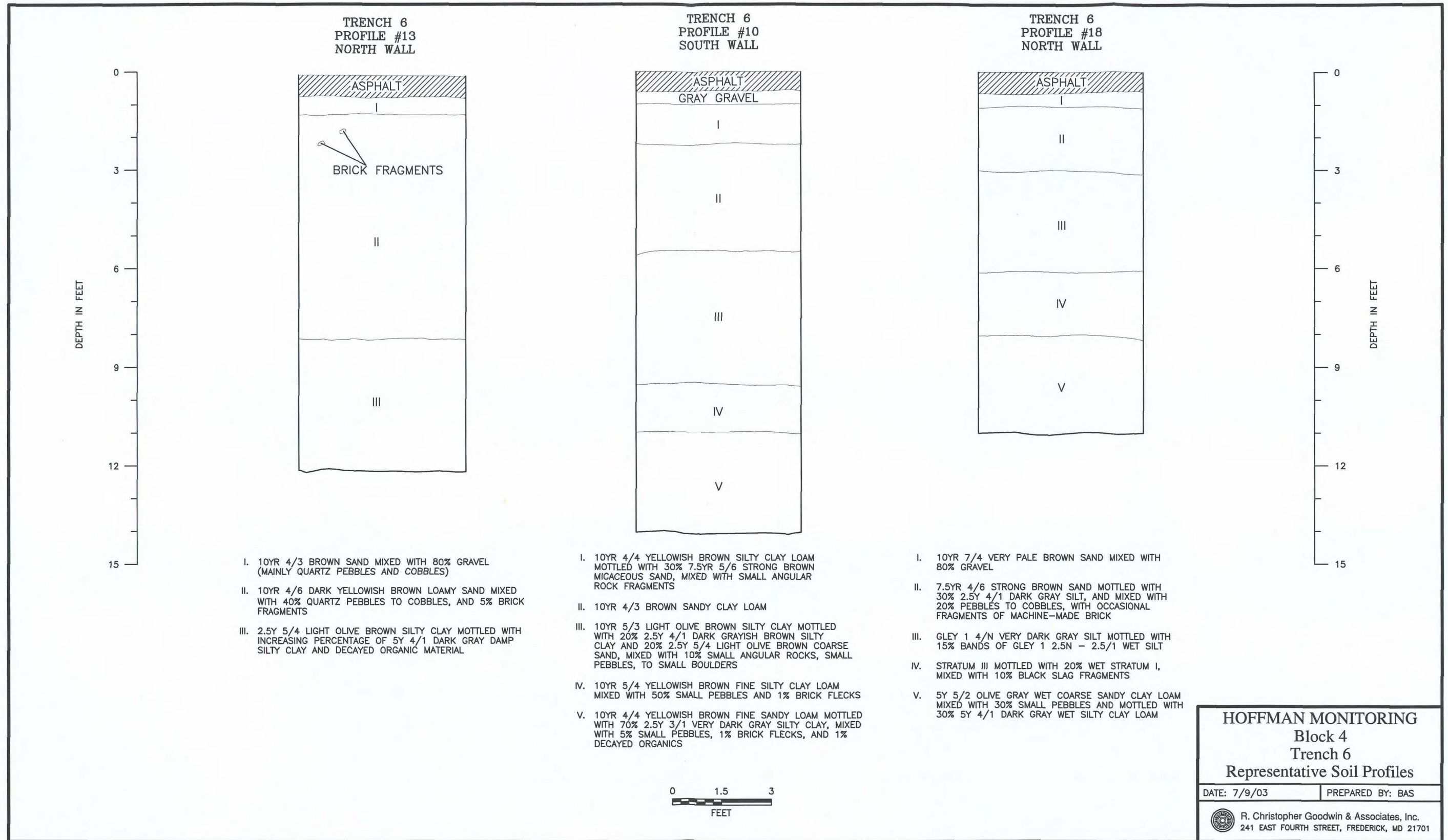


Figure 14. Block 4, Trench 6: Representative soil profiles



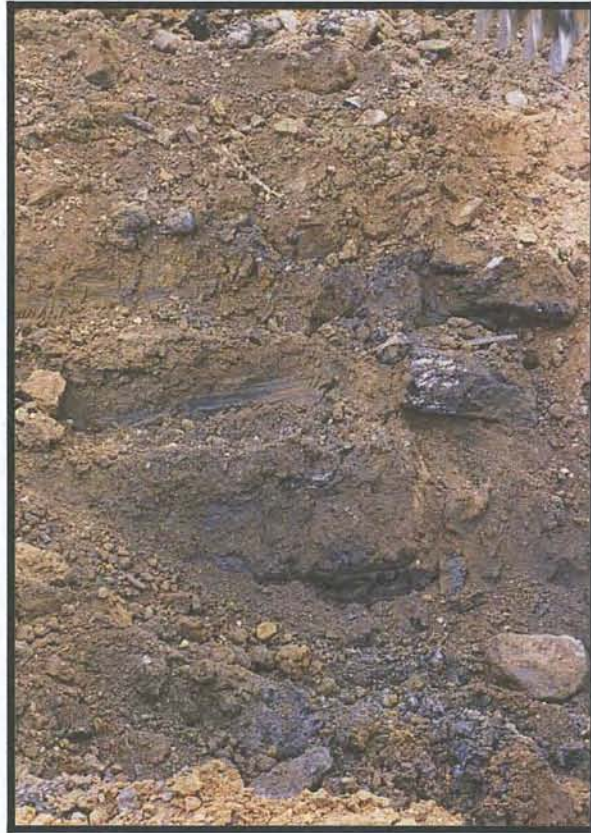


Figure 15. Block 4, Trench 6: Profile of north wall at 305' east of datum, showing typical disturbances and intrusions in fill levels



Figure 16. Block 4, southeastern quadrant: Excavations in progress

*Feature 3.* Identified during the construction excavation of the re-routed waterline along the Mill Road corridor, Feature 3, a section of brick wall laid in English bond, actually was located beneath the asphalt of the present-day road surface. In common with others close to Mill Road, Feature 3 had been impacted severely by both road construction and by installation of various utilities within the Mill Road right-of-way. Although a portion of the north wall of the waterline trench in this area slumped and exposed a 6" gas main, this slump also indicated that some portion of Feature 3 was intact. West of Feature 3, trench excavation also exposed large quantities of brick rubble, possibly the remains of a rubble filled basement; however this area had been disturbed so heavily by construction activities, and the disturbed soils and rubble had been intermixed so thoroughly, that neither the origin nor the exact nature of the buried rubble could be ascertained at that time.

*Feature 4.* Feature 4 was composed of several components that comprised the structural features of a building that had undergone possibly two, and perhaps more, remodeling episodes. The components of Feature 4 were exposed in both the east and west walls of Trench 9 extended. Their relative locations suggested that these structural components were architecturally, if not temporally, related in some way. To indicate the inter-relatedness of the two components, the same numeric feature designation was assigned to both, with a separate letter designation to differentiate between the two components. These components were investigated in greater detail during the Phase II excavation of the Cameron farmhouse (see Chapter VII).

On excavation, a complex composed of a circular wall, a brick-lined floor and a linear wall (Feature 4-a) were exposed along the east trench wall (Figure 18). Initial clearance of this portion of the feature and removal of the surrounding disturbed soils revealed a device tentatively identified as a possible "stoker box" or hopper, a mechanism related to the operation of a coal-fired furnace. The single-course circular wall that surrounded this device apparently was added when the device was installed. The intervening space between the junction of circular wall and the adjacent linear wall had been infilled with brick rubble, after which loose mortar had been poured over the rubble fill to consolidate it and render the entire complex structurally sound. The linear wall, two courses thick and laid in American Bond, supported the main structure above.

Feature 4-b (Figure 19), partially exposed in the west wall of the waterline trench directly across from Feature 4-a, represented the junction of two or more load-bearing walls and the base of a brick chimney. These features will be discussed more fully in Chapter VII as part of the Cameron Farm domestic complex (44AX182).

Shovel Testing. As the unconsolidated fill soils within the perimeter of Block 4 were removed and the pre-fill landforms were exposed, the program of shovel testing was applied to those areas that previously had been identified by Segovia as being "of interest" in terms of their potential for prehistoric remains. The original work plan submitted for this phase of site work (Figure 9) had proposed the excavation of 24 shovel tests at 50 ft intervals. Shovel tests were numbered sequentially in the order of their excavation; the excavation sequence and actual locations of these tests were governed by the timing and procedures used by the contractors to remove fill soils.

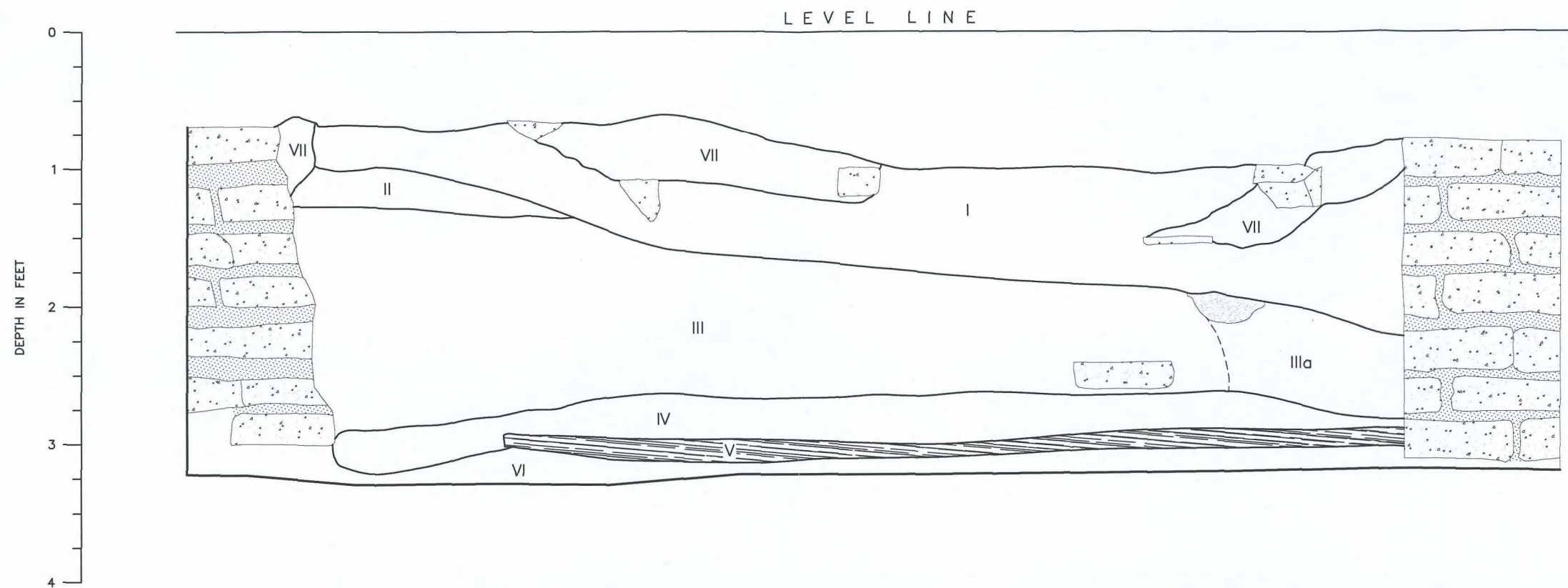
The reality of conditions on site caused the abandonment of six planned tests. During construction, contractors were forced to install several sumps in order to keep excavated areas from filling with water. The heavy clay soils immediately below the fill levels were highly impermeable, and these created a surface that channeled water downslope and created sub-surface "muck." In some cases, soils were so wet that it was impossible even to stand without sinking deeply into these underlying mucky clays. Four shovel tests (#s 10, 16, 21, and 22) were not excavated, due to the wet condition of the subsoil. Two STPs in the northwestern quadrant of the block (#17 and #18) were

not excavated because the overlying fill deposits were sufficiently compacted to allow for pad construction. Fill in this area was not removed, thereby leaving 3-4 ft of disturbed soil in place and precluding the placement of shovel tests. Other portions of Block 4 had been graded to facilitate construction of a parking lot, and 2-3 ft of heavily compacted sand with pea-sized gravel had been introduced below the modern asphalt to form the base for the parking lot. One shovel test in this area (#13) was excavated only to a depth of 30 in.


Four shovel tests demonstrated the general nature of disturbances that had occurred within Block 4 (Figure 20); these profiles collectively represent a continuous sample of stratigraphy along the eastern boundary of the block. STPs #11 and #14 were excavated in the northeastern corner of the block, following the removal of fill overburden. Both show a truncated profile wherein fill levels of up to 1.7 ft directly overlay strata of moist 10YR 5/8 yellowish-brown clay (1.1 – 2.1 ft thick) and wet 5YR 6/8 reddish-yellow sandy clay. As both underlying strata were free of inclusions and neither yielded any artifacts, these were presumed to represent sterile subsoil from which the overlying A horizon apparently had been stripped. ST#6, located in the east central portion of the block, showed continual disturbance down to the vertical limits of excavation. Only the profile from ST #3 showed strata that appeared relatively free of modern inclusions and therefore may have represented a buried A horizon. After the removal of approximately 7.9 ft of fill and fill residue from atop this ST location, the soil profile was composed of 0.3 ft of black (2.5Y 4/1) that contained decayed organic inclusions (fine roots and twigs); 0.6 ft of damp dark gray brown (2.5 Y 4/2) silty clay with minor (2%) amounts of disintegrated brick fragments near the top of the layer; and 0.8 ft. of damp light yellowish-brown (2.5Y 6/3) silty clay subsoil. The two buried organic strata appear to represent a buried wetland A horizon. Similar results were obtained in ST#4, following removal of approximately 9.1 ft of fill.

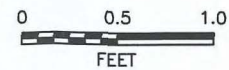
No pre-modern artifacts were recovered from intact soil horizons during shovel testing.





- |  |   |
|--|---|
| I. 10YR 4/2 DARK GRAYISH BROWN SANDY CLAY  | IV. 10YR 3/1 VERY DARK GRAY CLAY  |
| II. 10YR 6/6 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY  | V. 10YR 2/1 BLACK WOOD  |
| III. 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY MOTTLED WITH 5% 10YR 6/1 GRAY CLAY, WITH 25% GRAVEL                                    | VI. 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN WET SANDY CLAY MOTTLED WITH 10YR 6/1 GRAY CLAY AND GLEY2 6/1 BLUISH GRAY SANDY CLAY |
| IIIa. 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY MOTTLED WITH 5% 10YR 6/1 GRAY CLAY AND 10YR 4/1 DARK GRAY SILTY LOAM, WITH 25% GRAVEL | VII. BRICK RUBBLE   |

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  BRICK |  MORTAR   |
|  WOOD  |  CONCRETE |



HOFFMAN MONITORING  
Block 4  
Soil Profile - North Wall  
Trench 9 - Feature 1

DATE: 7/9/03 PREPARED BY: BAS



 R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.  
241 EAST FOURTH STREET, FREDERICK, MD 21701

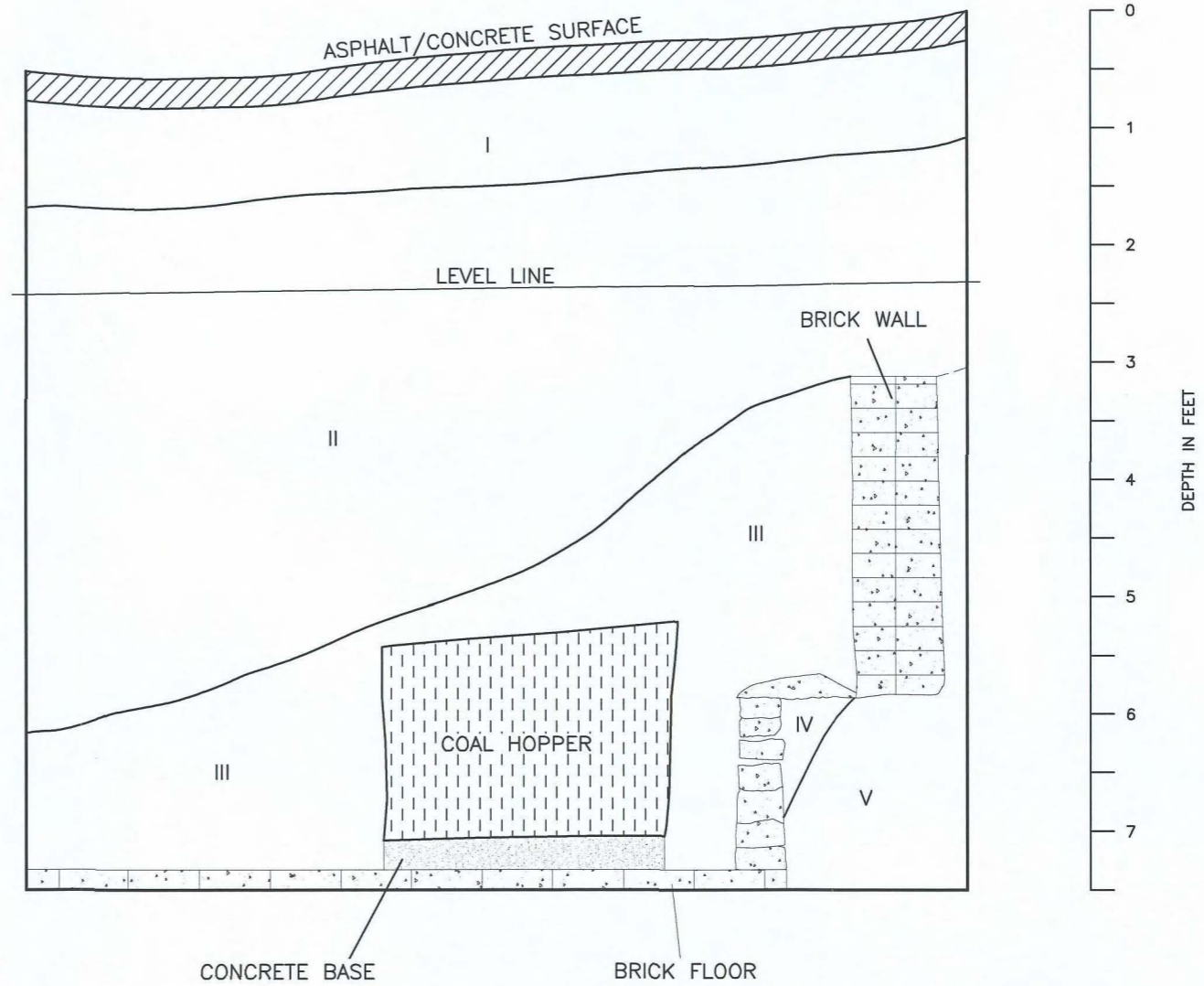
Figure 17. Block 4, Trench 9, Feature 1: North wall profile showing burial vault



- I. FILL
- II. 10YR 7/8 YELLOW GRAVELLY CLAY MOTTLED WITH 10YR 3/2 VERY DARK GRAY CLAY
- III. BRICK RUBBLE
- IV. 7.5YR 5/8 STRONG BROWN CLAY (BUILDER'S TRENCH)
- V. 10YR 4/4 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY (UNEXCAVATED SUBSOIL)

 BRICK

 CONCRETE



HOFFMAN MONITORING  
Block 4  
Soil Profile - East Wall  
Trench 9 (extended) - Feature 4a

DATE: 7/9/03 PREPARED BY: BAS


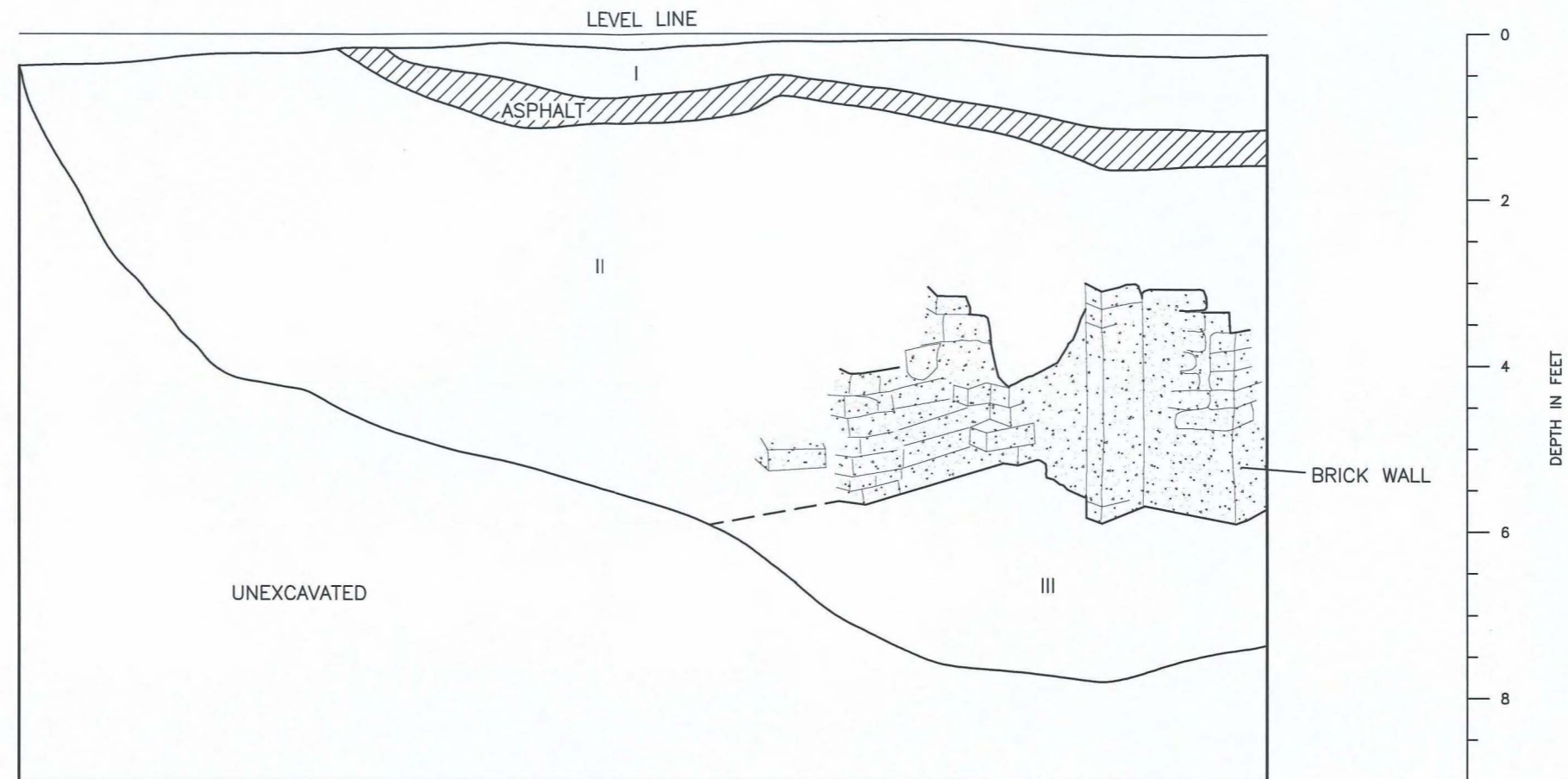
 R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.  
241 EAST FOURTH STREET, FREDERICK, MD 21701

Figure 18. Block 4, Trench 9 (extended), East Wall profile, showing Feature 4a





- I. MODERN FILL
- II. BRICK RUBBLE
- III. 10YR 4/4 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY (SUBSOIL)

**HOFFMAN MONITORING**  
 Block 4  
 Soil Profile - West Wall  
 Trench 9 (extended) - Feature 4b

DATE: 7/9/03      PREPARED BY: BAS


 R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.  
 241 EAST FOURTH STREET, FREDERICK, MD 21701

Figure 19. Block 4, Trench 9 (extended), West Wall profile, showing Feature 4b



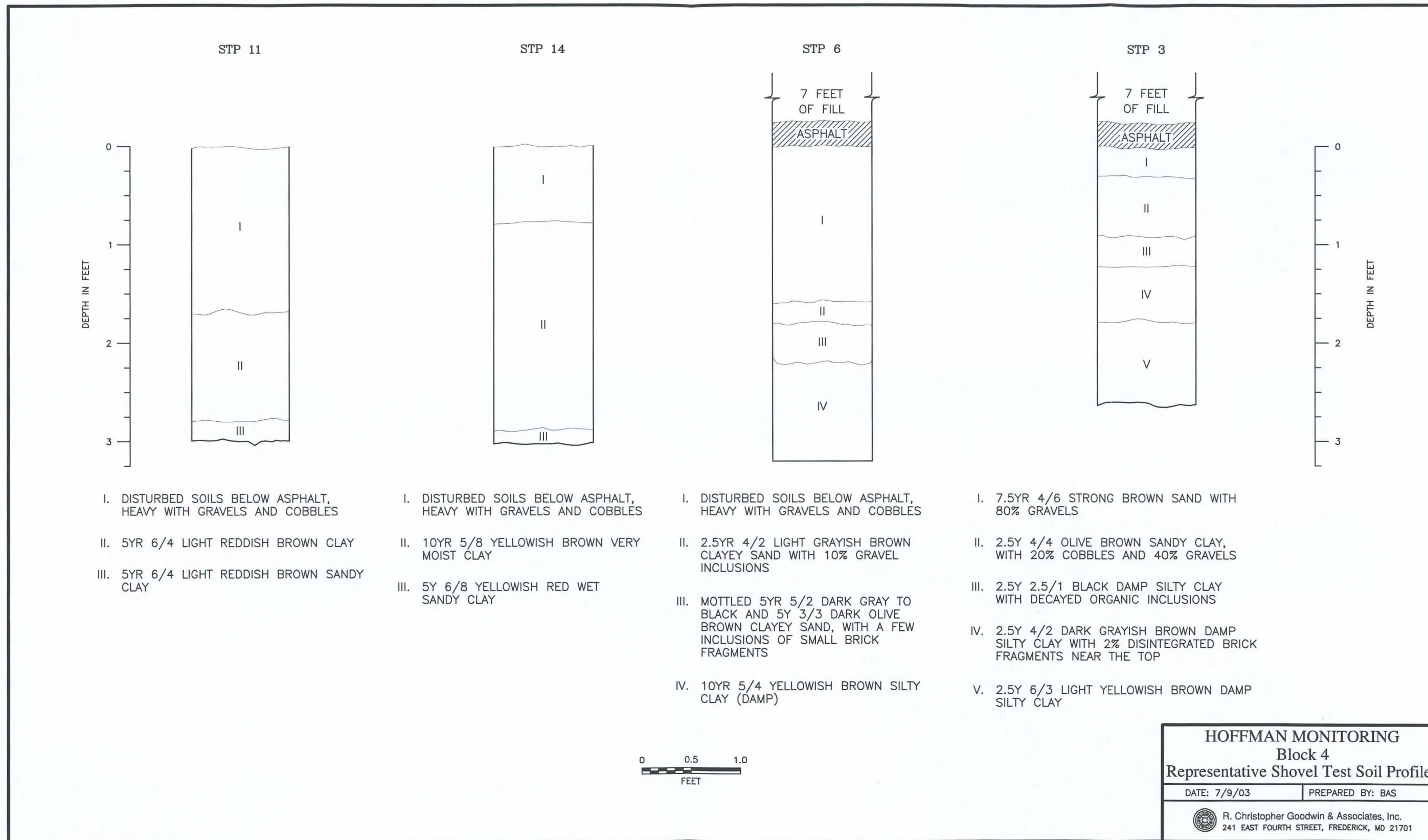


Figure 20. Block 4: Profiles of representative shovel tests following removal of fill



# SITE-SPECIFIC ARCHIVAL RESULTS

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Some generalized research dealing with the history of the Hoffman property was conducted as part of the Phase IA study. However, additional detailed archival work was pursued during and after the ensuing stages of full scale excavation to create a chain-of-title for the property and to gather additional data on its occupants, the nature, function and configurations of buildings and structures that might have been constructed, and the types of activities that might have been carried out within the project area. The sources examined during this research ranged from deeds and wills to personal interviews with descendants and former occupants of "Cameron Farm." These sources generally were available at local archives and libraries in Fairfax County and Alexandria City. The discussion that follows proceeds chronologically, and follows the property's history through the various owners identified in the property chain of title (Table 5).

### Seventeenth to Eighteenth Centuries

#### The West Family

A detailed review of the West Family's occupation of the Hoffman project area is not directly relevant to understanding most of the archeological features that were identified during the present study. A complete exposition of West Family history and genealogy is presented in the companion report to this study, *Data Recovery at the West Family Cemetery (44AX183), Block 2, Hoffman Properties, Alexandria, Virginia* (Williams 2003). Therefore, this report will present only a brief summary of the West family's tenure on the Cameron property.

The property that encompasses the Hoffman project area, a 627½-ac tract that extended northwest from Great Hunting Creek, first was patented during the last decade of the seventeenth century (Mitchell 1977:245). Four years later Col. John West purchased half of this tract and eventually bequeathed it to his grandson, Hugh West. Following several intervening land transfers, Hugh West acquired the remaining southern portion in 1753. For the next 50 years, the West family occupied the so-called Carr-Simpson grant as their principal residence.

The Wests were prominent in Northern Virginia's eighteenth century social, economic, and political hierarchy, particularly within the town of Alexandria, Hugh West being one of the founders and original trustees of the town (Miller 1991:241). Because Hugh's will permitted his widow Sybil to retain the use and benefit of all of her husband's properties, provided that she did not remarry (Stone 1928:2), she occupied the property until her death at the age of 83, as noted in an obituary in the *Alexandria Gazette Packet* for June 7, 1787.

**Table 5. Chain of title for Cameron Farm (1754-1992)**

Year	Grantor	Grantee	Instrument	Comments
1754	Hugh West	John West, Jr.	Fairfax Wills Book B:74	"the plantation on which I now live"
1777	John West, Jr.	Thomas West	Fairfax Wills Book D:4	"my tract of land whereon my mother lives, containing 627 acres. . ."
1790	Thomas West	William Bird	Fairfax Deeds T-1:114, 125	8 acres for mill and mill race. "Canal" not to exceed 26 ft wide; cannot come within 10 ft of West's house or 20 ft of West's vault; segment through West's yard must be covered with stone, timber and sod.
1793	Thomas West	Stump and Ricketts	Fairfax Deeds W-1:284	22 acres of Carr/Simpson grant, "saving and reserving. . .the vault mae use of for interment of the family and 20 ft around sd vault, and access to the vault for purpose of interring any dead body of the family of Thomas West, and privilege of repairing the vault" when necessary.
1798	Thomas West	Hepburn & Dundas	Fairfax Deeds A-2:533	80 acres to satisfy debt of £204. Described as "art of land on Great Hunting Creek" immediately west of land sold to Stump and Ricketts
1798	Thomas West	J. T. Ricketts	Fairfax Deeds B-2"467	1 acre and 10 poles on north side of mill race, adjacent to land sold to Stump and Richetts in 1793.
1799	Thomas West	Thomas Redmon	Fairfax Deeds B2:485	5 acres, beginning at turnpike road, east to within 50 ft of Rickett's fence, then aolng the old Colchester Road, then north to beginning
1801	Thomas West	Liep (Leap)	Fairfax Deeds G-2:46	3 ½ acres purchased from Thomas Redmon bounded by Little River Turnpike, Stump and Richetts land, and the Old Colchester Road
1804	Peyton, Alexander, and Scott (commissioners)	J. T. Ricketts	Fairfax Deeds E-2:446	180 acres on Great Hunting Creek and Old Colchester Road, sold at auction to settle debt owned to Dundas and Hepburn.
1804	Thomas West	Stump and Ricketts	Fairfax Deeds E-2:462	76 acres of "firm land and marsh". . .bounded partly by Colchester Road and "the run at Great Hunting Creek (possibly Taylor's Run)." Deed mentions West's "necessary" and a garden.
1805	Thomas West	Thomas West, Jr.	Fairfax Wills 1:499	Part of the Carr and Simpson grant "on which I now live."

Year	Grantor	Grantee	Instrument	Comments
1834	John T. Ricketts	Richard Windsor	Fairfax Deeds B-3:109	The 150-acre "parcel of land on which Ricketts resides" known as Cameron, plus two additional parcels. Bounded by Little River Turnpike, Great Hunting Creek, Colchester Road, and Cameron Mills Lane leading from the Turnpike to the Great Hunting Creek.
1837	Heirs of Herman Stump (Harford County, Maryland)	Richard Windsor	Fairfax Deeds D-3:215	5/6 portio of the tract called "The Mills," including a parcel east of the road that leads from Little River Turnpike to the mills, then south to Great Hunting Creek.
1848	Richard and Ann Windsor	Reuben and Robert Roberts	Fairfax Deeds M3:215	146+ acres. Property called "Cameron," being land on which are situated the Cameron Mills; land conveyed from the heirs of Stump and Ricketts
1851-1852	Reuben and Robert Roberts	Alexandria Water Company	Fairfax Deeds G-3:17; Q-3:319	Sell the "more eastward" of the Cameron Mills and all water rights plus surrounding land on the north, east and south to a distance of 30 ft from the walls of said mill. Also granted access from Little River Turnpike and right to lay pipe through property. In return, the Water Company guaranteed the Roberts' the right to use water in the millrace except for irrigation purposes.
1854	Reuben and Robert Roberts	Reuben and Robert Roberts	Fairfax Deeds U-3:342	Partition of Cameron Farm. Reuben Roberts takes the northern portion of the property (north of the millrace and the Orange and Alexandria Railroad); Robert retains the rest of the property.
1861	Hannah Roberts	Roberts and Hunt	Fairfax Deeds D-4:125	Widow of Reuben Roberts, a resident of Burlington County, NJ, sells a tract of land that was bequeathed to her by Reuben Roberts (dec), being the tract resulting from the partition of property between Reuben and Robert Roberts. Property lies north of Orange and Alexandria Railroad.
1861	Robert F. Roberts	Edmund Hunt	Fairfax Deeds D-4:126; F-4:462, 464	Purchases tract of land bounded by the Occoquan Road (Telegraph) Road on the west, Little River Turnpike on the north and the Orange and Alexandria Railroad on the south. Additional conveyances dating 1861-1866 have to do with mortgaging this property and clearing the mortgage.
1885	Robert Roberts	A. J., Walter, J. W., M. E., H. M., and E. W. Roberts	Fairfax Wills E-2:166	Robert Roberts died intestate. His estate inventory showed that he owned Cameron Farm plus other property (Washington Mill, Bay View Farm and Owens Farm). Administrators' accounts suggest that all children shared equally in his estate. His widow waived her dower rights.

Year	Grantor	Grantee	Instrument	Comments
1910	Walter & Rebecca Roberts, A. J. Roberts, Edmund H. Roberts and Mary Roberts	James W., Anna M. and Eliza W. Roberts	Fairfax Deeds F-7:335	This instrument is a deed of gift from three of the Roberts siblings and one of their children to the three other siblings. The parties of the first part relinquish their interest in the 130-acre tract known as "Cameron Farm."
1913	Anna M. Roberts	James W. Roberts and Eliza W. Roberts	Fairfax Wills Book 5: 258-259	Bequeaths her one thir-interest in Cameron Farm to her two siblings as "tenants in common."
1914	James W. Roberts	Eliza W. Roberts	Fairfax Wills Book 5: 491	Estate Inventory only. Eliza Roberts was the surviving heir; gained full interest in Cameron Farm
1915	Eliza W. Roberts	Edmund Hunt Roberts	Fairfax Deeds A-8:151	Eliza gives to her nephew all of the Cameron Farm, composed of two tracts north and south of the Washington and Southern right-of-way. Parcels are 7.62 and 118.6 ac respectively. Excludes the mill lot and mill race, which belong to Walter Roberts.
1929	Edmund Hunt Roberts and Bertha Roberts	Edgar D. Turner and Bruce Baird (trustees)	Fairfax Deeds L-10:419	Transfers all of the Cameron Farm property south of the Washington and Southern Railroad (excluding the mill lot and race and portions formerly deeded to railroad). Trustees are to sell in parcels whenever they judge prudent, and also may subdivide the property. Roberts reserve right to occupy main dwelling house until trustees give six-month notice to vacate.
1942	Edgar D. Turner and Bruce Baird (trustees)	Francis and Juliette Pope	Fairfax Deeds X-15:430	6.0 acres part of Cameron Farm property located south of millrace and east of Telegraph Road
1943	Francis and Juliette Pope	Albert Lee and Mildred Painter	Fairfax Deeds 402:1	6.0 ac part of Cameron Farm property, located south of millrace and east of Telegraph Road
1945 (?)	James W. and Mary E. Campbell	Harry and Josephine Baumgardner	Fairfax Deeds 480:534	3.7 ac portion of Cameron Mills tract, exceptng utilities easements, railroad easements and streets within the proposed Roberts Park Subdivision
1946	Edgar D. Turner and Bruce Baird (trustees)	Albert Lee and Mildred Painter	Fairfax Deeds 506:180	Three parcels of Cameron Farm, including an area north of the Cameron millrace and south of Southern Railroad ROW.
1946	Edgar D. Turner and Bruce Baird (trustees)	P. Gordon Cooper	Fairfax Deeds 516:73	10-acre triangular portion of Cameron Farm at southwest corner of property, bounded by Cameron Run, Telegraph Road, and what became Taylor Drive..
	Harry and Josephine Baumgardner	James Taylor	Fairfax Deeds 544:344	3.7 ac portion of Cameron Mills tract on south side of what became Taylor Drive
1947	Edgar D. Turner and Bruce Baird (trustees)	Katherine DeLashmutt	Alex Deeds 251:88	Lots 3 and 4 of Cameron Farm, comprising 40,000+ s.f. along Mill Road east of Roberts Lane.

Year	Grantor	Grantee	Instrument	Comments
1947	Edgar D. Turner and Bruce Baird (trustees)	Mabel Shea and Catherine Baron	Fairfax Deeds 618:318	Lot #3, Section 4 of Cameron Farm, total area of 29,067 s. f. on southeast corner of Mill Road and Roberts Lane
1948	Albert Lee and Mildred Painter	American Trailer Company	Fairfax Deeds 650:212-215	Three parcels totaling 14.32 acres bounded by Mill Road on the north and east and Telegraph Road on west, being lots acquired by Painters from Francis and Juliette Pope and Turner and Baird.
1949	James J. Taylor	Dudley and Marion Frank	Fairfax Deeds 727:375	3.7 acres, part of Cameron Farm
1950	Fairfax County Board of Supervisors	D. E. Bayliss Sr.	Fairfax Deeds 798: 163-165	10-acre triangular portion of Cameron Farm at the southwestern corner of the property, bounded by Telegraph Road, Cameron Run, and what became Taylor Drive.
1958	Edgar D. Turner and Bruce Baird (trustees)	Hubert Hoffman	Alex Deeds 480:181, 186	Part of Cameron Farm (Zone "E" and Outlet "A"), comprising 69.1457 ac. Bounded by Telegraph Road, Taylor Drive, American Trailer Company property; Alexandria Water Company property, Southern Railroad Company property, and Cameron Run.
1959	James and Dora Witt	Hubert Hoffman	Alex Deeds 484:88	3.7 ac previous sold by James Taylor to Dudley and Marion Frank. Metes and Bounds begin 630 ft SW of intersection of mill race and Taylor Drive; property bounded by Telegraph Road and Taylor Drive.
1962	David and Effie Bayliss	Hubert Hoffman	Alex Deeds 552:134	1.3 ac portion of the parcel conveyed to Bayliss by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 1950, the remainder having been taken for construction of I-495.
1966	Mabel Shea (Margaret Willick [Atty])	Catherine Baron	Alex Deeds 657:329	Shea relinquishes her interest in Cameron Farm Lot #3, Section #4, to her co-owner.
1966	Hubert Hoffman	Beltway Motor Inn, Inc.	Alex Deeds 659:184	This appears to be the Bayliss property (see above)
1967	Beltway Motor Inn, Inc. (Hoffman, Pres.)	Hubert Hoffman	Alex Deeds 675:453	Reconfigures and resubdivides contiguous lots south and west of Taylor Drive
1968	Hubert Hoffman	Old Dominion Bank	Alex Deeds 681:489,494	Assigns proceeds from renting all floors of Hoffman I building (to be constructed) to U. S. government. Building located at Taylor Drive and Telegraph Road.
1969	Catherine Baron	Hubert and Peggy Hoffman	Alex Deeds 695:297	Undivided interest in Cameron Farm Lot #3, Section 4 (29,067 sf) at corner of Mill Road and Roberts Lane

<b>Year</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1971	American Trailer Company, Inc. of Delaware	Hoffman Joint Venture	Alex Deeds 733:677	Hubert Hoffman, Jr. and Hubert Hoffman III (T/A Hoffman Cafeteria) lease all of Building #1 and Building #2 (to be constructed) and adjoining cafeteria facility
1972	American Trailer Company, Inc. of Delaware	Hubert Hoffman	Alex Deeds 743:47	Three parcels totaling approximately 12 ac, encompassing area between Hoffman's 69+ acre grant and Mill Road.
1990	Virginia American Water Company	Mill Two Associates Partnership	Alex Deeds 1288:874	Sells mill seat (1.83 ac): original Alexandria Water Company property
1992	Mill Two Associates Partnership	Hoffman Management (Roger Kiper, Trustee)	Alex Deeds 1362:1968	Instrument records exchange of property: Hoffman Management acquires former mill seat; Mill Two acquires property on NW corner of Eisenhower Avenue and Mill Road

Her son, "Captain" John West, Jr., inherited "the plantation on which I (Hugh) now live," but for most of his adult life, he probably lived at "West's Grove," somewhat east of the Hoffman project area, apparently on property that he purchased in 1762 (Williams and Soldo 2002). Documentary evidence suggests that he may have moved back onto the family plantation near the end of his life, since an entry in his estate accounts (Fairfax County Administrators' Accounts Book 9:225) shows a payment to his mother, Sybil West "for the use of her plantation House, Plantation utensils and house furniture from the year 1771 to the year 1780 inclusive, pursuant to the reservation made by the said Sybil when she gave up the possession of them to Capt. John West."

Thomas West, eldest son of "Captain" John West, inherited the bulk of his father's properties near Alexandria, including the Carr-Simpson tract, in 1776 (Fairfax Wills Book D:4-6). At that time, his grandmother, Sybil West, was still alive and in possession of family homestead, as suggested by a 1783 census that listed both as "heads of families" in Fairfax County. Sybil was listed as a lone head of household, but with no dwelling or other buildings; Thomas' household, on the other hand, included eight "souls" (United States Bureau of the Census 1908:86). The 1783 census data also provide the only available picture of the physical components of the Wests' plantation, which included a dwelling and six other buildings of unspecified function. Although the current archeological investigations of the Cameron Farm site identified several outbuildings, as will be discussed in a later chapter, none could be identified definitively as relating to the West family plantation.

Hills (1993:73, 74) has asserted that Thomas West appropriated as his residence the former Cameron Ordinary, a building depicted on a 1791 map of the District of Columbia, and that the ordinary-turned-residence was utilized by subsequent property owners. However, analysis of other sources challenges that assertion. The census data cited above suggest that Thomas West was living, with his grandmother, in the dwelling that his grandfather Hugh West had constructed, well before the date of the map. Moreover, a Roberts family descendant, citing family papers, has noted the recent discovery of a diary written by a member of the Roberts family ca. 1899. In his discussion of the property, the diarist notes that the West family mansion was still standing and in relatively good condition in 1848 when the Roberts' acquired the property, but that it had been converted for use as a barn. This suggests that the Roberts' predecessors on the property, Richard Windsor and (possibly) John Ricketts before him, had constructed a separate dwelling. By 1899, the remains of the mansion had disappeared from the landscape (Jean Roberts Harris, September 2003).

Beginning in the 1780s, Thomas West began to sell off pieces of the Carr-Simpson property, in part to satisfy his creditors (Figure 21)(Table 5)(Williams and Soldo 2002). Included in these transactions was a 1790 transfer from Thomas West to William Bird. West leased to Bird an eight-acre parcel, together with all "houses, buildings, woods, ways, passages, waters, watercourses, etc.," specifying that Bird could dig a mill race to power "any mill or mills which the sd William Bird. . .may build. . ." [emphasis added](Fairfax Deeds T-1:113). The deed further specified that the canal/mill race was to be constructed no closer than 10 ft to Thomas West's house, nor closer than 20 ft to **Thomas West's "vault"** [emphasis added]. Although the deed did not specify the function of this feature, the investigations of the Hoffman property subsequently verified that that the structure was indeed the West Family burial vault (Williams and Soldo 2002; Williams 2003).

### Stump and Ricketts

Deeds subsequently recorded in the Fairfax County Land Records suggest that William Bird disposed of half of his leased acreage to the milling partnership of John Stump and John Thomas Ricketts (Fairfax Deeds T-1:275-285; Hills 1993:56), and that the three subsequently consummated an

## PUBLIC SALE OF LANDS.

By virtue of a decree of the Court of the United States for the fifth circuit V. g. i. district, in the suit of Hepburn and Dundas against Thomas West, in chancery—will be sold on the premises to the highest bidder, at Public Auction, for ready money, on Monday the 20th of August next, at 12 o'clock A. M. if fair, if not, the next fair day at the same hour,

### A TRACT OF LAND,

situate on Hunting Creek, in the County of Fairfax and Commonwealth of Virginia, within one mile of the town of Alexandria, and near to the Cameron Mills, whereon major Thomas West now resides, supposed to contain from fifty to eighty acres.

*Also,*

on the same day will be offered for sale, *The residue of said Thos. West's Land,* lying on the northwest line of the patent of Carr and Simpson, adjacent to the tract before mentioned, not disposed of by the said Thomas West at the time certain mortgages were made by him to Hepburn and Dundas.

Richard M. Scott,

F. Peyton,

Amos Alexander,

1805  
d's

July 13. 1805

Figure 21. Sale notice for Thomas West's Cameron Farm (1805)

agreement to secure water rights for a mill that the partners apparently intended to build. This agreement specified that the amount of water should be sufficient to power the "whole works and machinery" then in common use in merchant mills (Fairfax Deeds T-1:288-302). Stump and Ricketts were to grind wheat commercially, while Bird would operate a second local "neighborhood" mill for processing corn, buckwheat, and other small grains for use in the surrounding community. These deeds strongly suggest that, prior to 1790, there was no mill on the property and that the structures whose remains comprise Site 44AX112 were constructed at some time between 1791 (date of Bird's acquisition of the property) and 1798, when Cameron Mills was depicted on the *Plan of the Town of Alexandria in the District of Columbia*.

## Early Nineteenth Century (1800-1865)

### Stump and Ricketts/Richard Windsor

The Cameron Mills complex and the Cameron Farm underwent a series of complex land ownership transfers during the early nineteenth century, producing a chain-of-title that has been well documented in several other reports (e.g., Cromwell et al. 1989:325-327). For a brief period, the West family continued to reside on part of the property, since Thomas West bequeathed to his son that part of Carr and Simpson grant "on which I now live" (Fairfax Wills Book 1:499). However, Thomas West's continuing financial troubles apparently were responsible for the West family's eventual loss of the Cameron property, as Figure 21 and Table 5 demonstrate. Between 1804 and 1834, the Stump and Ricketts partnership gradually acquired the remainder of the West property and operated the mill complex. John Stump was a prominent entrepreneur whose family lived in Harford County, Maryland (Figures 22 and 23), and engaged in the milling business along the Susquehanna River. He apparently was the "silent partner" who financed the operation (Fairfax County Chancery Records, *Stumps' Executors vs. David Ricketts* [*Stump vs. Ricketts*] 1833:Deposition of John Stump; Cromwell et al. 1989:48), while Ricketts, a successful Alexandria businessman, actually operated the mill.

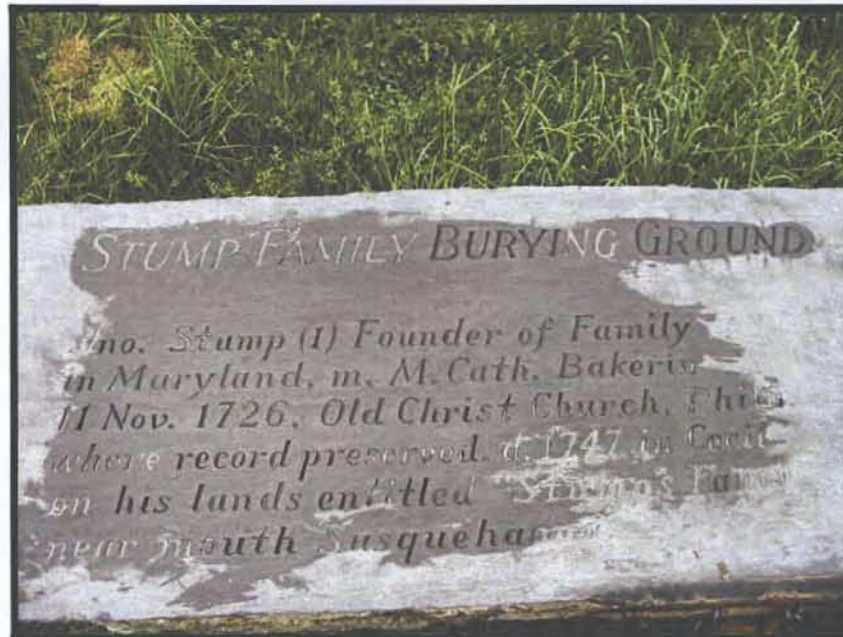


Figure 22. Modern stone inset into the wall of the Stump Family Burying Ground, now located within Susquehanna State Park near Havre deGrace, Maryland



Figure 23. Grave of John Stump, co-owner with John Ricketts of the Cameron Mill, located in the Stump Family Burying Ground, Susquehanna State Park, Maryland

Stump and Ricketts' milling enterprise continued through the first third of the nineteenth century. During that time, the Ricketts interest in the business passed first to David Ricketts, son of the original partner (in 1807), and then to his son John Thomas Ricketts, who finally sold the family home and the mill interest in 1834 to Richard Windsor, a mill owner in the village of Accotink (Wigglesworth 1977:47). Stump's heirs, who resided in Maryland, sold their interest in the operation to Windsor in 1837 (Cromwell et al. 1989:49-50; Fairfax Deeds B3:109, D3:215; *Stump vs. Ricketts* 1833: Deposition of Robert Wilson). What was occurring on the property, and who actually lived there during this period is questionable. Cromwell et al. (1989:50) note that the Stump and Ricketts partnership initially was very successful and was able to weather the strained economic conditions that accompanied the Embargo of 1807 and the War of 1812 and its aftermath. However, from approximately 1820 on, the value of the business and the buildings on the property dropped steadily as market conditions changed. Renters like James Cloud and Jonathan Janney actually may have operated the mill, at least sporadically, during these years. When Richard Windsor purchased the Cameron operation, the total price that he paid for the entire enterprise was only one-third of what its assessed value had been in 1820 (Cromwell et al. 1989:50).

### Reuben and Robert Roberts

In 1848, the Cameron property again changed hands, when Richard Windsor sold the (now) 146-ac parcel of land called "Cameron," including the mills, to Reuben and Robert F. Roberts, brothers from the Burlington area of New Jersey (Table 5)(Fairfax Deeds M3:215; Lamborn 2003). According to family history, the Roberts' association with Benjamin Hallowell prompted the purchase of Cameron Farm. Hallowell, a public-spirited Quaker educator who ran a school in Alexandria that Robert Roberts once had attended, was the driving force behind the establishment of the Alexandria Water Company. He reportedly convinced the Roberts' to purchase the Cameron property, thus ensuring the reliability of the water source that would feed the water company's customers--the headrace for

Cameron Mills (Harris 2003). The Roberts family and their heirs retained title to most of the property until the mid-twentieth century (Burke and Hoppe 2003). In partnership with Edmund Hunt of Mount Holly, New Jersey, who joined them in 1848, the Roberts' heirs operated one of the mills until 1919. In 1851, they sold the eastern mill building and a 30-ft perimeter lot immediately surrounding it to the newly formed Alexandria Water Company; the extra land was intended to allow the water company to construct appurtenant structures, such as a pump house. After that date, the formerly unified Cameron Farm operated as two properties, each of which left the principal archeological signatures that are discussed in subsequent chapters of this study.

Cameron Farm. Nineteenth century documents clearly demonstrate that the "Cameron Farm" was an active agricultural complex. In 1850, three families occupied adjacent houses on the property: Reuben Roberts, the miller; Joseph Allen, a male [*sic*] driver; and Robert Roberts, whose occupation was designated as "farmer" (United States Census, Population Schedule for Fairfax County 1850). Three years later, the brothers agreed to subdivide the farm into two parts (Fairfax Deeds U-3:342). Reuben Roberts assumed title to the northern half of the property that was bounded by the Telegraph (Colchester/Occoquan) Road, the Little River Turnpike, and the Orange and Alexandria Railroad right-of-way; Edmund Hunt subsequently purchased this property when Reuben Roberts died in 1861. Robert Roberts retained the southern portion, which encompasses the present project area.

Various documentary sources, including historic maps, document the configuration and the components of the Cameron Farm/Mill complex at mid-century. An undated survey for the Manassas Gap Railroad right of way (Figure 24)(Alexandria Archaeology [AARC] files [Cameron Mills]), which traversed the property along approximately the same route as the current Eisenhower Avenue, depicts the mill, a "cow house" and a "barn" immediately south of the millrace, two dwelling houses, and some "frame houses" around Roberts Lane as landmarks for the survey. Edmund Hunt's extensive diary also mentions a "shuck house" that was used for the storage of straw, and in 1851, a "hot bed" that was used to sow vegetable seeds in January. The latter entry suggests the existence of some sort of greenhouse or other protective shelter for seedlings. Most of the cultivated fields and pastures were located between the mill and Cameron Run, in an area that sometimes flooded as a result of tidal action and/or excessive runoff during heavy rains (Hunt Vol. 1, 1848; Vol. 3, 1851). Ruth Lincoln Kaye (1987:15), in her discussion of Cameron Mills Farm, also suggests that there may have been a dock or pier on Cameron Run, where grain was loaded directly from the mill. Dr. John Roberts, interviewed in 1987 when he was in his 90s, recalled that the Roberts children could fish for herring and "row a six-foot wooden skiff up to the lock (unidentified)." The author of that article (MacDonald 1998) also noted that "boats [that] came up the tail race (of the mill) from Great Hunting Creek."

Hunt's diaries also provide insights into other aspects of life at Cameron Farm during this period. The complex produced not only such staple commodities as wheat, hay, and corn, but also garden vegetables (beans, turnips, potatoes, tomatoes, cabbages, and fruits), some of which were marketed in the District of Columbia. Livestock, purchased from sources as far away as the Shenandoah Valley, also were raised on the property. Constant attention was required to operate these diverse activities smoothly; a moderate-sized labor force, composed of family members and hired help, utilized a variety of farm machinery to cultivate the farm. However, life was not all work. Hunt and other family members went hunting, made day trips to Washington and Georgetown, went shopping and attended various entertainment events (including an "Ethiopian concert") in Alexandria, and maintained close contact with Quaker communities and meetings (e.g., Woodlawn, Waterford, Sandy Spring) throughout the greater Maryland-Virginia region (Hunt Vol. 1, 1848).

The Alexandria Water Company. The Alexandria Water Company, of which Reuben Roberts was a co-founder, was established to ensure an adequate supply of potable water for the expanding population of Alexandria City. The 1851 agreement between the Roberts brothers and the directors of



the company specified that the Roberts' would construct a dam upstream across Cameron Run and would "repair and improve and put into complete order the present mill race belonging to the [sd] Cameron Mills" (Fairfax Deeds Book M3:215). The company's Annual Report for 1851 notes that the Roberts brothers in fact completed that task. The company's first two annual reports also indicate that the water company modified the mill itself considerably, including replacing the old millwheel with a new iron one, constructing a "solid foundation" to support the new wheel, **widening the mill races** (emphasis added), and "several other improvements" (Alexandria Water Company *Annual Report* 1851:9; 1852:6).

The extent to which Federal occupation of Northern Virginia affected the water works, the gristmill, and farming operations at Cameron is unclear. Edmund Hunt either did not keep diaries during these years, or they are missing. The records of the Alexandria Water Company, whose Board of Directors was at least partially replaced by Union loyalists during the war, do not mention the mill facilities (Alexandria Water Company *Annual Report* 1861-1865). A. D. Bache's (1861) map of Federal encampments around Alexandria (Figure 25), which shows two New York regiments—the 31<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> infantry--encamped on the property, provides the only direct evidence of military involvement. Other Civil War era maps (AARC [United States War Department 1864-1866; 1865])(Figure 26) depict only building configurations and road lines, and even these vary in their alignments. They show that most of the buildings on the property concentrated at the southern end of Block 2 (see Figure 7).

## **Late Nineteenth/Mid-Twentieth Century (1865 – 1945)**

### Roberts and Hunt (Cameron Farm/Mills)

The Cameron Farm and mill complex continued under dual ownership throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth century. The Alexandria Water Company continued to own the so-called "Mill Lot" and the water rights to the millrace, while Edmund Hunt and descendants of the Roberts family continued to operate the second mill until the 1919. The Industrial Schedule of the 1880 Federal Census indicated that in 1879 Hunt and Roberts' mill employed eight people with a total payroll of \$3,000; that the total value of the mill and all materials on hand was \$62,800; that the mill produced primarily cornmeal, feed and flour, 95 per cent of which was destined for the commercial market; and that the 22 ft fall over the mill's single 18 ft wide overshot wheel was capable of producing 40 hp (Bureau of the Census, Industrial Schedule, Falls Church District 1880b:492). Clearly, Hunt and Roberts' mill was a large enterprise, even during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

During the same period, Cameron Farm also continued as a relatively large and prosperous farm, although the production emphasis shifted somewhat. The 1880 Federal Agricultural Schedule indicated that the 130 ac operation was valued at \$20,000, with \$3,000 of that value represented by livestock. Hay, wheat, Irish potatoes, apples, peaches and truck produce were among the commodities produced on the farm. However, the largest category of products could more properly be called "dairy products," including nearly 23,300 gallons of milk from 47 cows and 700 eggs from 100 chickens (Federal Census, Agricultural Schedule, Falls Church District 1880a:20).

James Roberts, grandson of Robert Roberts, documented the scope and nature of the activities at Cameron Farm around the turn of the twentieth century. Writing in a 1945 letter that also contained two maps (Roberts to Harris 1945), he indicated that the partnership of Hunt and Roberts operated both the mill and an associated feed supply outlet, and that the mill had been modified during the late nineteenth century to accommodate steam power. Both the letter and the accompanying sketches (Figures 27 and 28) document the relative locations of other buildings on the property. In addition to

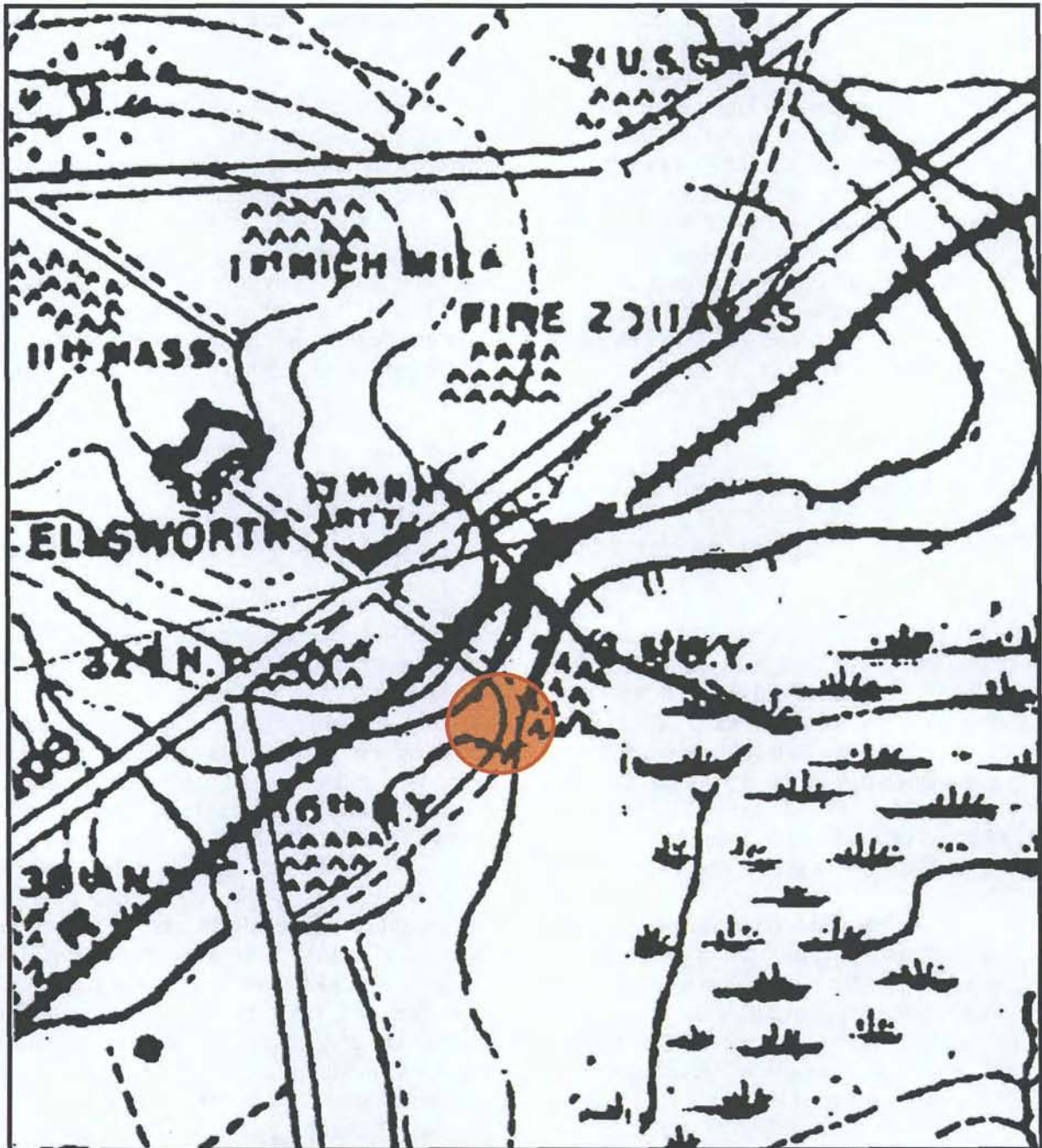


Figure 25. Portion of A. D. Bache's (1861) survey map of Alexandria and environs, showing New York regiments encamped on and adjacent to the Cameron Farm and mills area

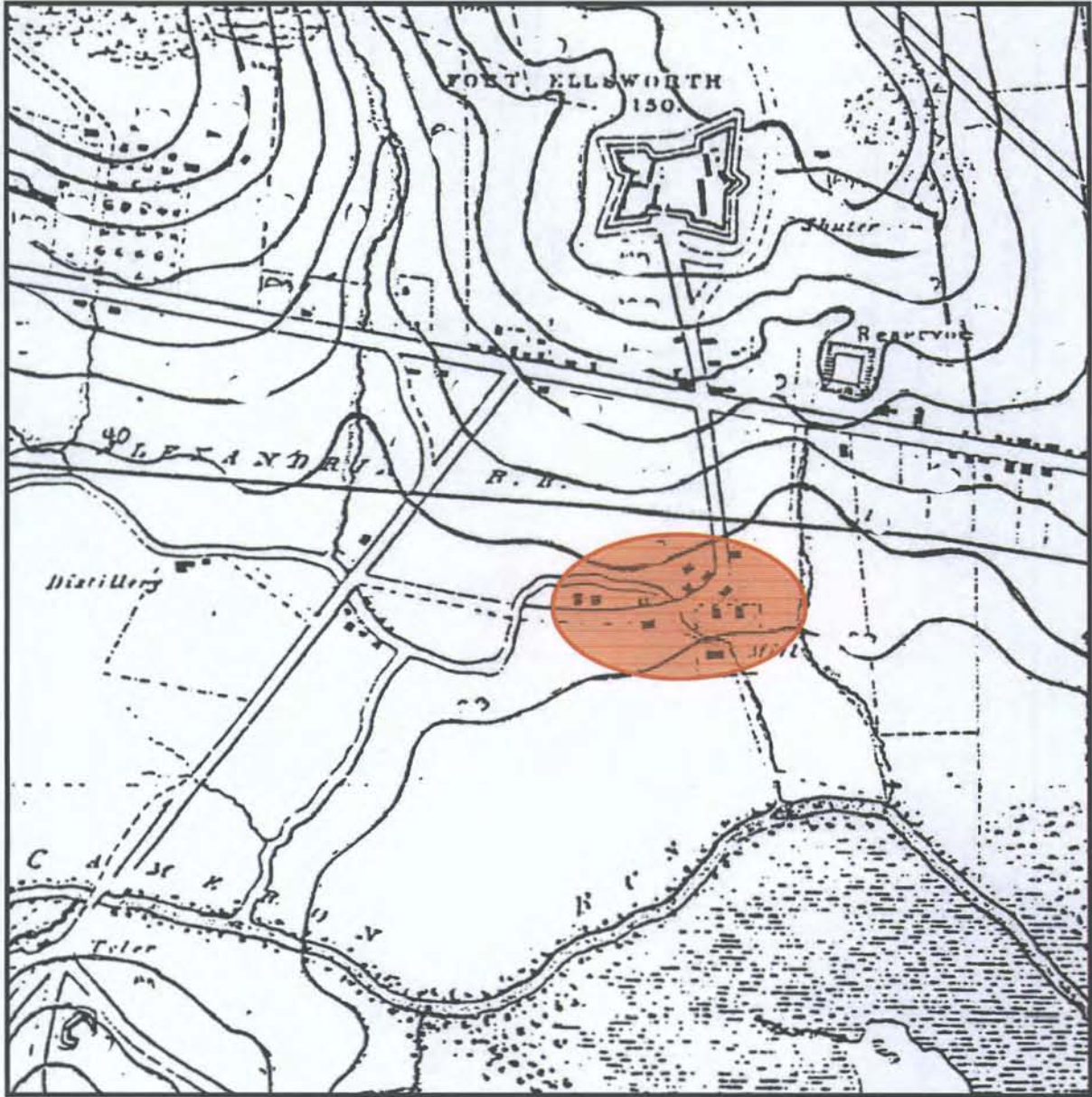


Figure 26. Ca. 1864 map of the western end of Alexandria, showing the configuration of buildings on the Cameron Farm/Mills property

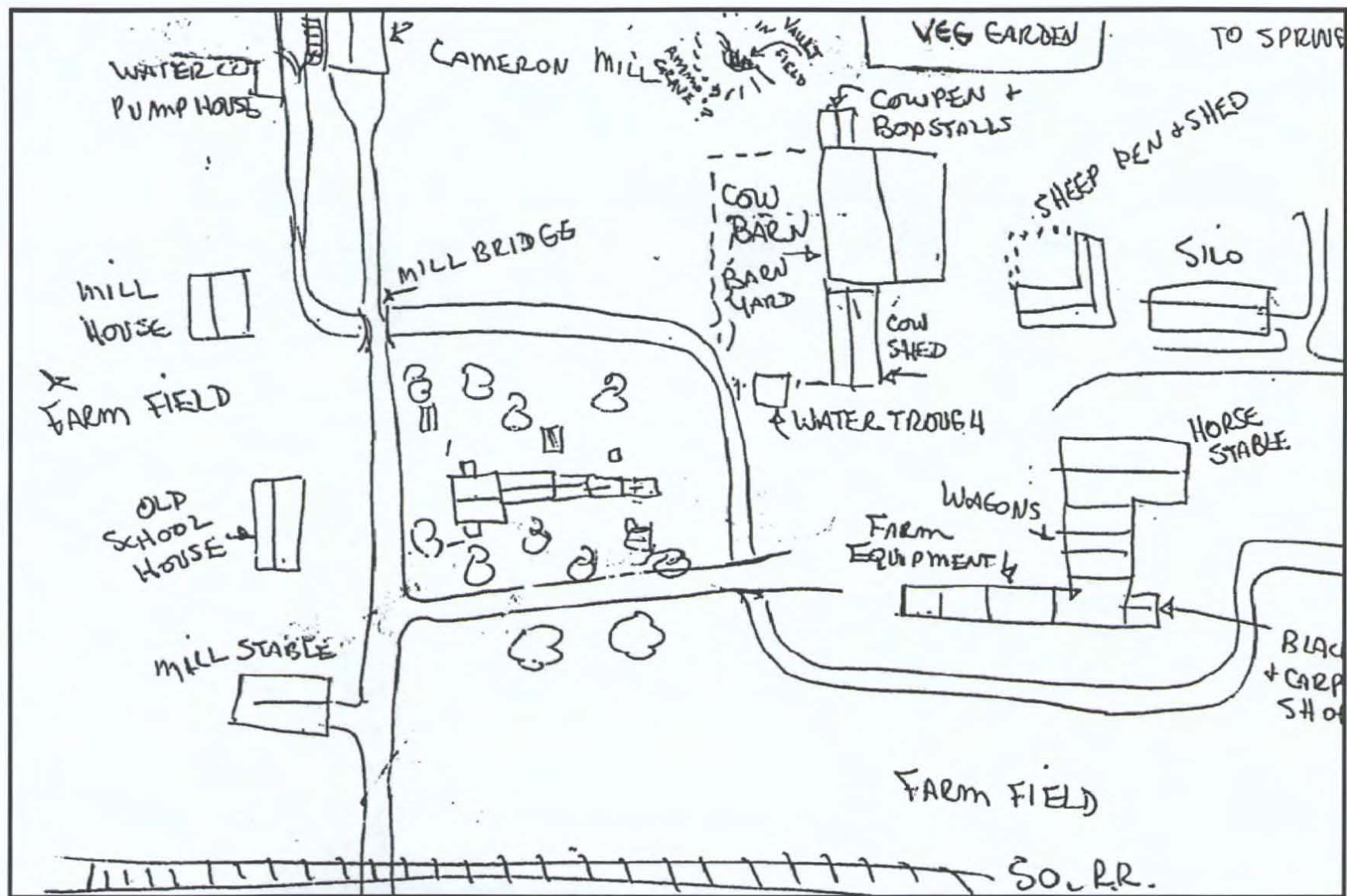


Figure 27. James Roberts' map of the landscape at Cameron Farm and Mills ca. 1900

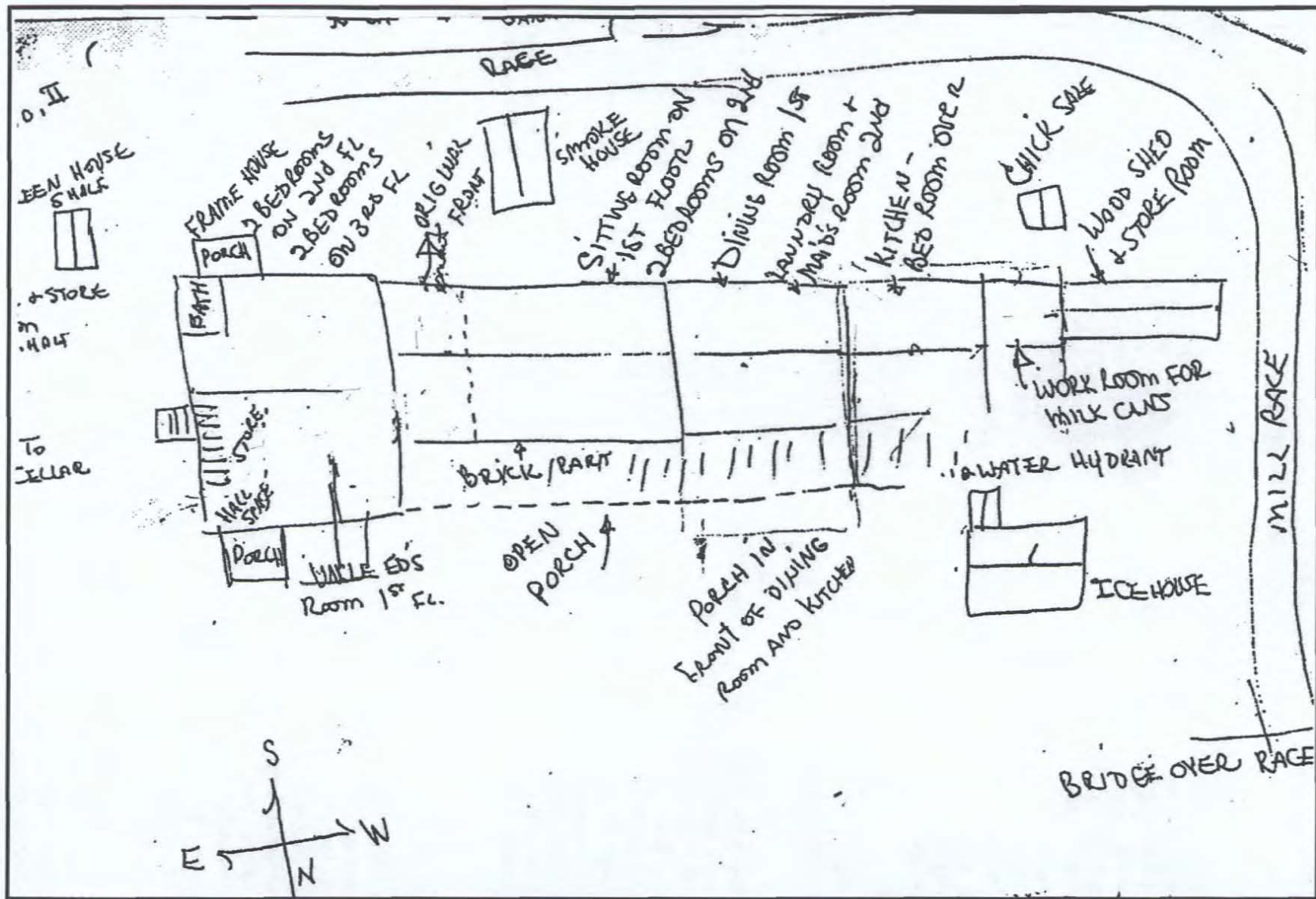


Figure 28. James Roberts' plan view of the Cameron Farm house and associated outbuildings, with functions of various components identified

the three-part primary residence and the mill/water company complex (partially razed in 1928), these included a brick mill stable (burned in 1917); a frame school house (destroyed ca. 1908); a mill residence; a cow barn and shed; a horse stable (burnt ca. 1914) with various shed additions to house farm equipment and a blacksmith and carpenter shop; a sheep pen; a below-ground silo; a greenhouse and storeroom; a smoke house; an ice house; and additional service buildings. These structures all clustered along Roberts Lane and the farm/mill entrance road that entered the property from Telegraph Road south of the millrace. The remaining portions of the farm south and west of the domestic/agricultural/industrial core were cultivated farm fields and pastures, as a ca. 1927 aerial photograph (Figure 29) indicates.

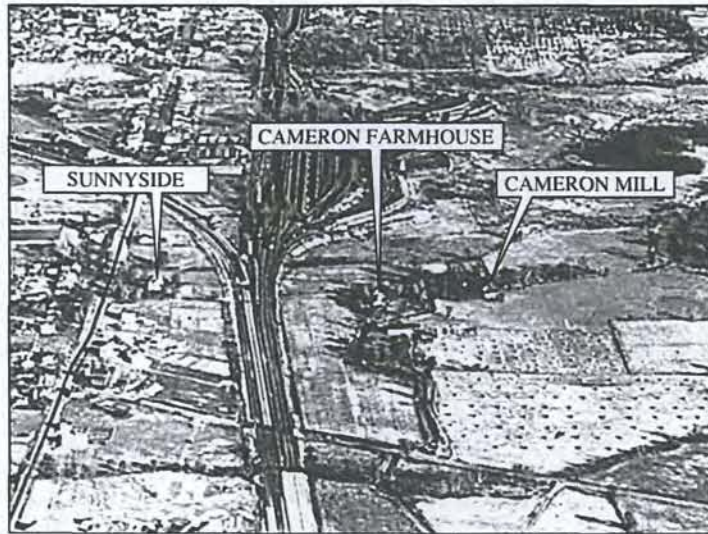


Figure 29. Ca. 1927 aerial view (orientation east) showing the Cameron Farm, Cameron Mills, and "Sunnyside" (Special Collections, Alexandria Public Library)

The nature of the association between the Roberts family and the Cameron Farm and mill changed in 1929, when Edmund Hunt Roberts and his wife transferred their rights in the lower portion of Cameron Farm to Edgar Turner and Bruce Baird, trustees. Turner and Baird were tasked with managing the entire property for the benefit of the Roberts' family by subdividing and selling parcels of the lower (e.g., south of the Washington and Southern railroad complex) part of the farm. The 1.83 ac Mill lot and Millrace continued as the property of the Alexandria Water Company. Fairfax County land records (Fairfax Deeds Book 480:534) suggest that an attempt also was made to establish a subdivision known as "Roberts Park" in the area north of the Southern Railroad tracks, but this subdivision apparently never materialized. The section of the farm that lay north of the railroad, which had become known as "Sunnyside," was not included within the present project area; thus, the chain-of-title for that area was not pursued further.

### Alexandria Water Company

The Alexandria Water Company continued its ownership of the second mill building throughout this period. The company's annual reports reveal the types of changes that were made in the physical plant, particularly those designed to repair and prevent damages to appurtenant structures caused by such problems as freshets, heavy rains, and animal activity. The company's reports from this period mention three specific improvements: (1) the installation of a "dam and watergates just east of Occoquan Road (presently, Telegraph Road), and an "apron on which waste waters are thrown" (Alexandria Water Company *Annual Report* 1861); (2) the repair and straightening of the mill race (Alexandria Water Company *Annual Report* 1871:6); and (3) construction of a "tumbling dam" at the head gate (Alexandria Water Company *Annual Report* 1876:7). They also apparently added a second race; a memorandum written ca. 1870 by R. S. Miller, then president of the company, noted that the banks of the new race should be started "18 in - 2 ft below the line of the original surface," and that the bottom of the race should be "secured from breakage by puddling." He further noted that, if the soils adjacent to the banks are sandy or gravelly. . .the foot of the banks should be secured by some heavier material." Photographs of the mill complex taken during the 1930s show clearly that part of the headrace was lined with stone.

## Late Twentieth Century (1945-2000)

Despite its transfer to the management by trustees, Cameron Farm remained essentially undeveloped until at least the end of World War II, when the trustees, Turner and Baird, apparently began to sell parts of the property (Table 5). Roberts' descendants occupied the house through at least World War II, but the house was deteriorating—one descendant remembered that “Cameron was a scary place” and “barely livable” during her childhood (Burke and Hoppe 2003). Post-war aerial photographs (Figure 30) show that the Cameron Farm house still was extant in 1955, but that the rest of the property had undergone rapid and radical change. Part of the northern half of the tract housed an extensive trailer park, and a variety of other industrial buildings eventually were constructed along Mill Road and along Telegraph Road (Figure 31). The later photograph also suggests that infilling had begun along the floodplain of Cameron Run.

Two major land acquisitions are important for understanding property development during the post-World War II period. These two purchases, more than any others, initiated the process of consolidating and developing the subdivided Cameron Farm property. In 1948, the American Trailer Corporation purchased three parcels, comprising a total of 14.32 acres, from Albert Lee and Mildred Painter (Fairfax Deeds 650:212-215). The Painters had acquired these three tracts, located south of the old millrace and extending eastward from Telegraph Road to Roberts Lane (the old road to the Cameron Mill), from various individuals who had purchased them directly from Turner and Baird, the Roberts family's trustees (Fairfax Deeds X-15:430; 402:1; 506:180). On this combined parcel, the American Trailer Corporation established the trailer park that completely filled the northern third of the old Cameron Farm, except for the immediate farmhouse complex (Figure 30). In 1958, Hubert Hoffman acquired a tract of 69.1457 ac directly from Turner and Baird (Alexandria Deeds 480:181, 186). Hoffman's acquisition was located directly south of the American Trailer Corporation holdings, and encompassed most of the acreage between the trailer park and Cameron Run. Between that purchase and 1972, Hoffman acquired all but one of the other small parcels that today comprise the Hoffman Management, Inc. property along Eisenhower Avenue.

Commercial development followed. As Table 5 suggests, the buildings referred to as Hoffman I and II were constructed during the late 1960s and early 1970s, and much of the surrounding property was given over to providing parking spaces for the buildings' tenants. Figures 31 and 32 depict the nature and extent of even more recent commercial development, particularly on the parcels formerly occupied by the Cameron Farm residential complex; these warehouse type structures, constructed on concrete slab foundations, were removed only during the mid-late 1990s. The most recent phases of development on the Hoffman properties involved construction in 2001 of a combination retail and cineplex complex just east of the two existing Hoffman I and II office buildings.

In common with other areas investigated in the West End of Alexandria (Cromwell 1989; Cromwell et al. 1989; Bromberg and Shephard 1994; Walker et al. 1996), the mid-late twentieth century construction episodes on the Hoffman properties entailed a significant degree of landform modification through moderate to severe grading and/or filling, installation of utilities, building construction, and road realignment. Knepper and Pappas (1990), for example, documented evidence of both grading and filling during their investigations of the mill site in Block 3. Given the area's original sloping topography, it is likely that such modification would have involved primarily grading in the northern portions of the project area, and filling episodes in the southern half of the property along the former stream channel of Cameron Run. In fact, varying degrees of fill, ranging between 4.5 ft in Block 7 and 22 ft in Block 10, subsequently were documented through soil bore analysis and on-site examination of such surface features as the remnant concrete sidewalks (probably associated with the post-World War II trailer park) west of Block 1. Only the configuration of the Alexandria Water



Figure 30. 1955 aerial photograph of the Hoffman property, showing location of extant Cameron Farm house and the American Trailer Company's extensive trailer park

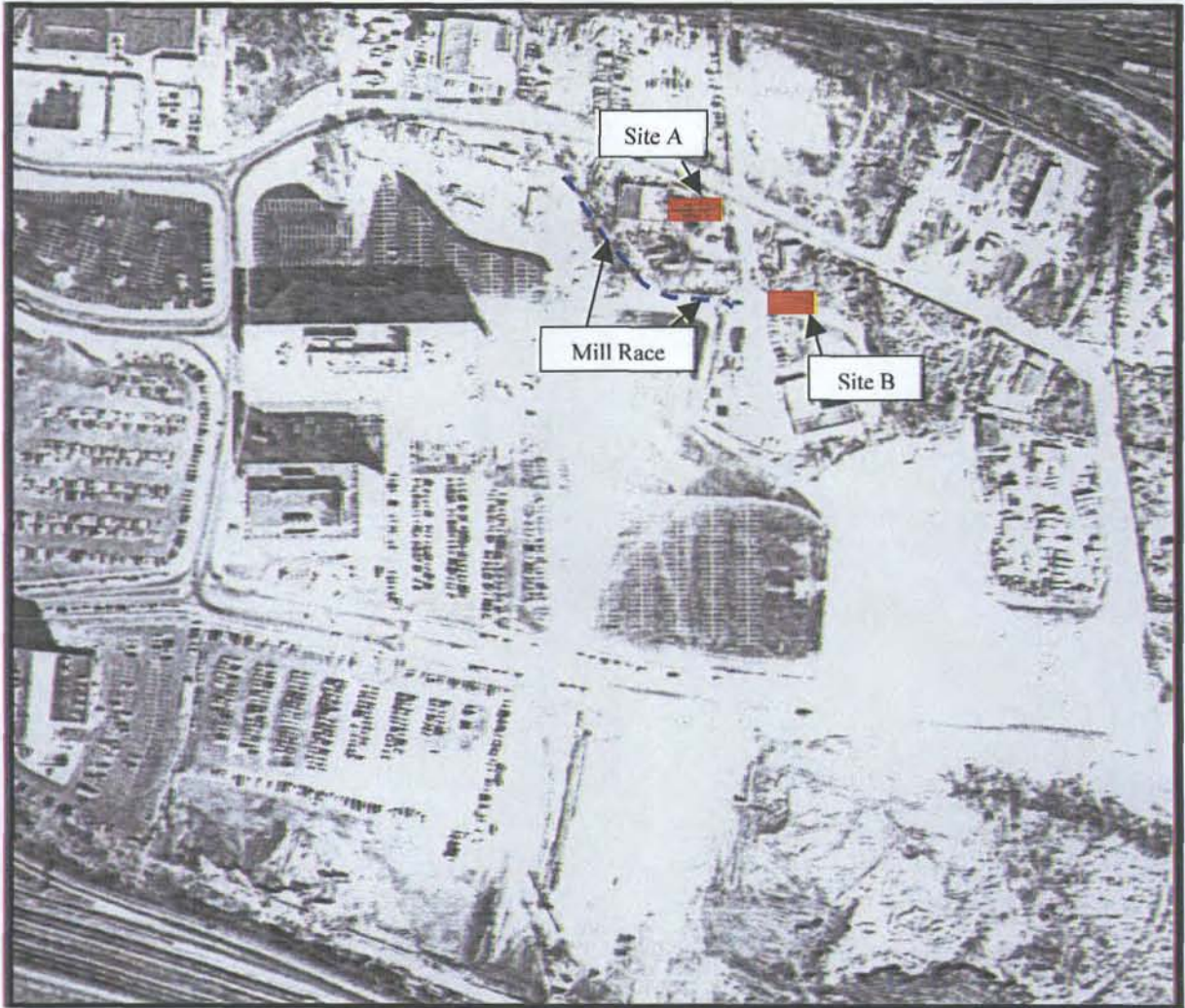


Figure 31. 1973 aerial photograph of the Hoffman property and adjacent parcels, showing intensified commercial/industrial development

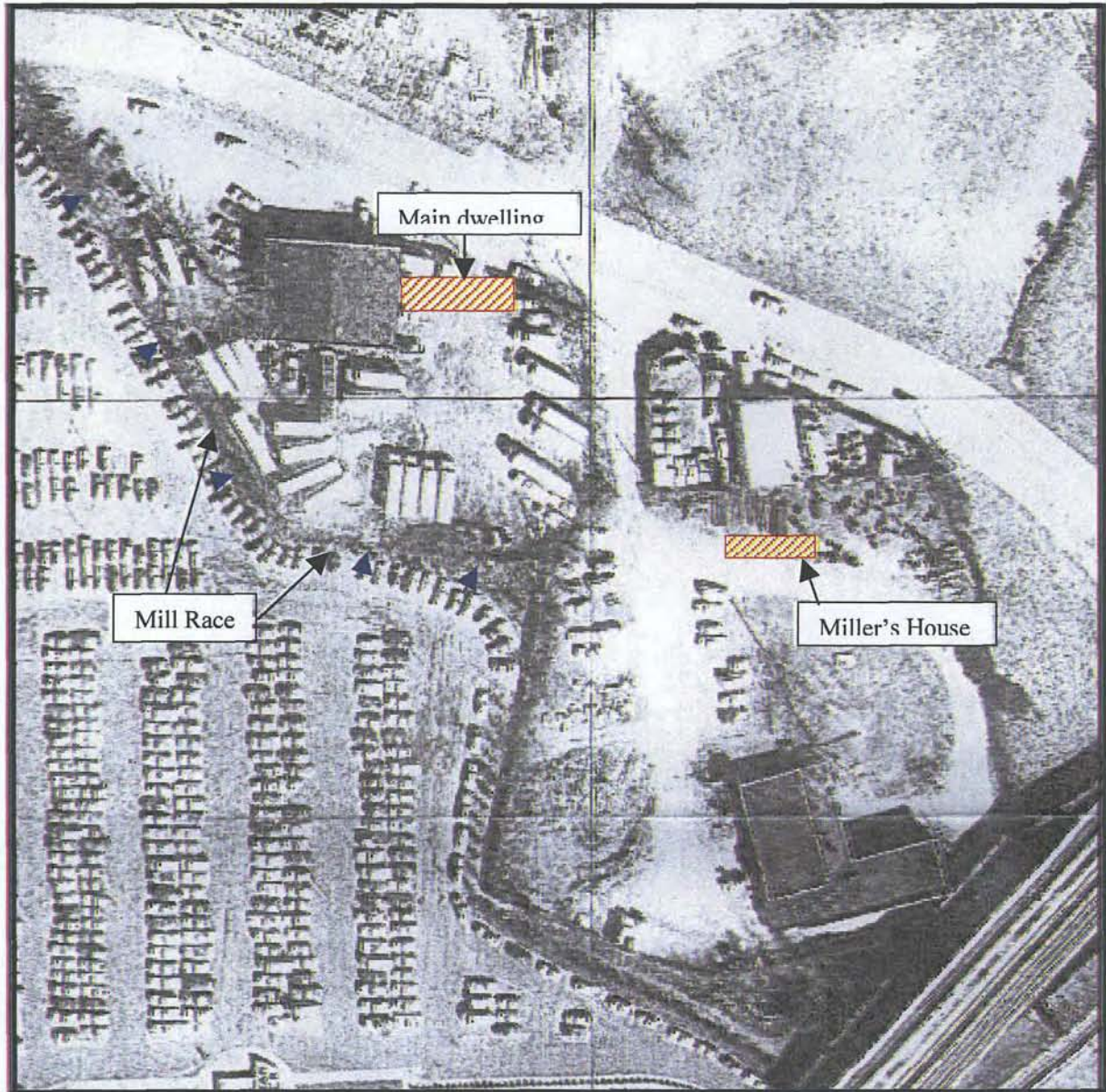


Figure 32. Ca. 1990 aerial view of the former Cameron Farm and Mill parcels, showing the nature and extent of recent commercial and transportation developments on those properties

Company/Cameron Mill millrace (Figure 30) remained essentially the same, although it was infilled to provide additional developable land surface.



# RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS: 44AX112 (CAMERON MILLS)

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### Archival Results

#### Previous Investigations

Knepper and Pappas' (1990) archeological investigations of the Cameron Mill complex in 1990 identified the principal elements of the Cameron Mill/Alexandria Water company buildings, as well as structural remains of a probable domestic building in the northern half of Block 3 close to Mill Road (Figure 3). However, the 1990 investigations found no evidence of appurtenant, non-contiguous structures associated with the operation of the mill itself. The excavations conducted in the course of the present study identified two such features: the mill headrace and a pier or wharf that is interpreted as part of the overall commercial operation represented by the two mills at Cameron.

#### Site-Specific Historic Background

As discussed in Chapter V, early land records (Fairfax Deeds T-1:113, 275-285, 288-302) confirm that both of the mills that formed the complex known as Cameron Mills and depicted on the *Plan of the Town of Alexandria in the District of Columbia* (Figure 33) were built between 1791 and 1798 by partners William Bird, John Stump, and John Thomas Ricketts. As the 1798 map clearly shows, the complex included an extensive headrace that tapped Cameron Run far upstream of the mill site; two mill buildings; and a tailrace that flowed directly south into Great Hunting Creek at the "Head of Navigation." An 1833 court case involving a suit by David Stump's heirs against John Thomas Ricketts (*Stump vs. Ricketts*) referenced a deed (Fairfax Deeds Z2:179) that partitioned the property formerly held in common by both partners in the mill venture. That instrument described one part of the boundary between the two parcels as extending along a road and fence line that ran immediately west of and parallel to the tailrace of Cameron Mill. Such a trajectory effectively defined a corridor that extended south from the mill to Cameron Run, most likely to facilitate transport of the mill's output to Cameron Run, which was navigable, at least for shallow-draft craft through the end of the nineteenth century. From that point, flour and meal could be transferred to shallow-draft vessels or lighters that ferried them down Great Hunting Creek directly to larger sea-going vessels or to wharves along the Potomac River. Such a scenario implies that some kind of dock or pier facility would have been located on Cameron Run, as both Kaye (1987:15) and MacDonald (1998) have suggested.

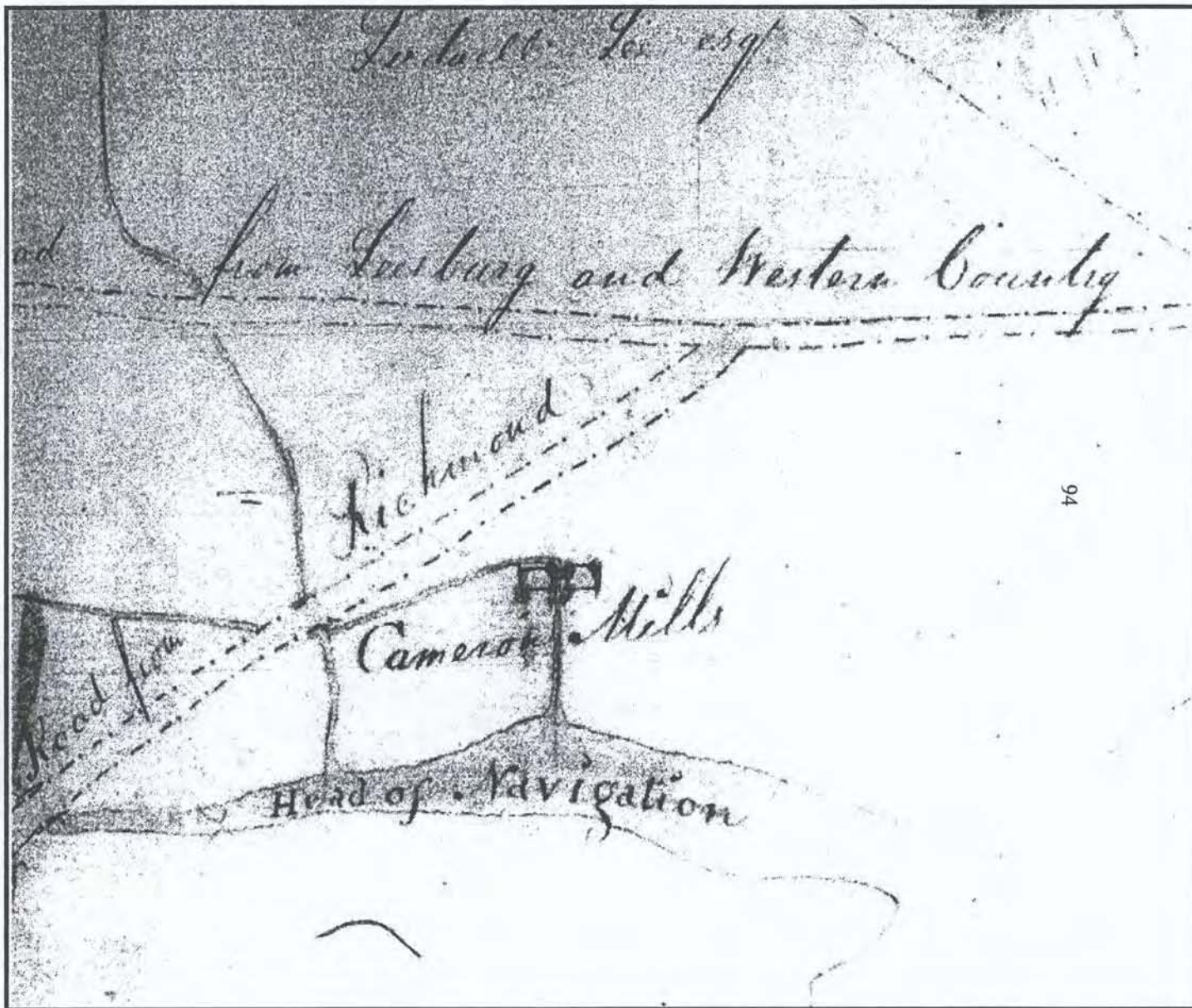


Figure 33. Excerpt from 1798 Plan of the Town of Alexandria in the District of Columbia, showing the Cameron Mills complex in relation to Great Hunting Creek and the local road network

Stump and Ricketts' heirs maintained ownership of the two mills through the first third of the nineteenth century, although Knepper and Pappas (1990) indicated that other millers may have leased and operated the complex. The heirs finally sold their rights in the 1830s to Richard Windsor, who already operated a mill on Accotink Creek (Wigglesworth 1977:47; Fairfax Deeds B3:109, D3:215; *Stump vs. Ricketts* 1833). After only nine years, Windsor re-sold the 146-ac "Cameron" parcel, including the mills, to two brothers from New Jersey, Reuben and Robert F. Roberts (Table 5)(Fairfax Deeds M3:215).

With the acquisition of the Cameron property by the Roberts brothers and a brother-in-law, Edmund Hunt, the histories of the two mill buildings diverged. Edmund Hunt and descendants of the Roberts family continued to operate the smaller of the two mills through 1917 (Roberts to Harris 1945; *Alexandria Gazette* 1928). However, in 1851, the partners sold the larger mill to the newly formed Alexandria Water Company, an organization with which various members of the family remained involved for some time thereafter. The company provided water for the city through a gravity-fed system that drew its supply from a stone-lined reservoir atop Shuter's Hill, utilizing water pumped uphill from Cameron Mill's race to the reservoir. The 1851 deed required the Roberts' to construct a dam upstream across Cameron Run and to repair and improve the existing millrace, tasks that apparently were completed within the year (Alexandria Water Company Board Minutes 1851; Fairfax Deeds Book M3:215). For its part, the water company modified the mill considerably by replacing the old (presumably wooden) common mill wheel with a new, 18 ft wide, iron overshot wheel, and constructing a "solid foundation" to support the new one (Bureau of the Census, Industrial Schedule, Falls Church District 1880b:492). The company also widened the millraces and completed "several other improvements" (Alexandria Water Company *Annual Reports* 1851:9; 1852:6), one of which likely included constructing a 37 x 73 ft pump house. A 16 ft high masonry foundation and a 6 ft frame superstructure were the chief architectural components of this structure (Alexandria Water Company *Annual Reports* 1852:5). Two late nineteenth century photographs of the complex (Figures 34 and 35) clearly show the water company's low building with its brick chimney standing on the former site (if not the actual foundation) of Stump and Ricketts' merchant mill.

Although its Board of Directors was at least partially replaced by Union loyalists during the Civil War (Alexandria Water Company *Annual Reports* 1861-1865:*passim*), the enterprise retained its ownership of the so-called "Mill Lot" and the rights to water from the millrace through the war years. The company improved and modified its physical plant during and after the war, as its annual reports attest. Many changes were necessary to repair and/or prevent damages to appurtenant structures caused by such problems as freshets, heavy rains, and animal activity. Improvements mentioned specifically in the company's reports included installing a "dam and Watergates" east of Occoquan Road and an "apron on which waste waters are thrown," repairing and straightening the mill race, constructing a "tumbling dam" at the mill's head gate, and either adding a second race or rerouting the original one (Alexandria Water Company *Annual Reports* 1861; 1871:6; 1876:7). R. S. Miller, the company's president, set specific requirements for the new race, including the stipulation that its banks were to be modified and reinforced. Nineteenth and twentieth century photographs of the mill complex (Figures 35 and 36) clearly show that part of the headrace was lined with stone.

The two mills continued to stand in tandem (Figure 37) until 1928, when the water company, which purchased the former Roberts mill, razed the structure on grounds that it constituted a fire hazard. Thereafter, only the company's pumping facility occupied the (now) 1.82 ac site (Figure 38). The Virginia American Water Company eventually disposed of its property in 1990 to Mill Two Associates Partnership (Alexandria Deeds Book 1288:874), which in turn exchanged the parcel with the Hoffman interests for one of comparable value at the corner of Eisenhower Avenue and Mill Road (Roger Kiper, Personal Communication, June 2003). As for the headrace to the mill, which had formed the western and southern perimeter of the domestic yard area of the Cameron Farmhouse



Figure 34. Ca. 1889 view of Cameron Mill and the Alexandria Water Company's pump house (orientation north) (Special Collections, Alexandria Public Library)



Figure 35. Ca. 1889 view of Cameron Mill and the Alexandria Water Company's pump house (orientation south) (Special Collections, Alexandria Public Library)



Figure 36. Ca. 1931 view of the millrace and Alexandria Water Company complex, following demolition of the Roberts mill (orientation south)(Special Collections, Alexandria Public Library)

(Figures 27 and 28), aerial photographs (Figures 31 and 32) suggest that the race and the house site were leveled and filled some time after 1960, when the upper portion of the property was prepared for commercial development.

### Results of Archeological Investigations

Two principal components of the Cameron mill complex were identified and documented during Phase I testing in Blocks 2, 3, and 10 of the Hoffman property. The initial Phase I test trenching (1999) on the northern portion of Block 3 exposed a section of the mill headrace, as did subsequent mechanized testing along the course of the proposed Jay Street (1999) and at the western edge of Block 2 (2000) (Figure 39). In 2001, Goodwin & Associates, Inc. also monitored the proposed extension of storm water drainage lines within the lower half of Block 3, south of the mill site itself, to ascertain whether any portion of the mill's tailrace had survived. At the same time, the

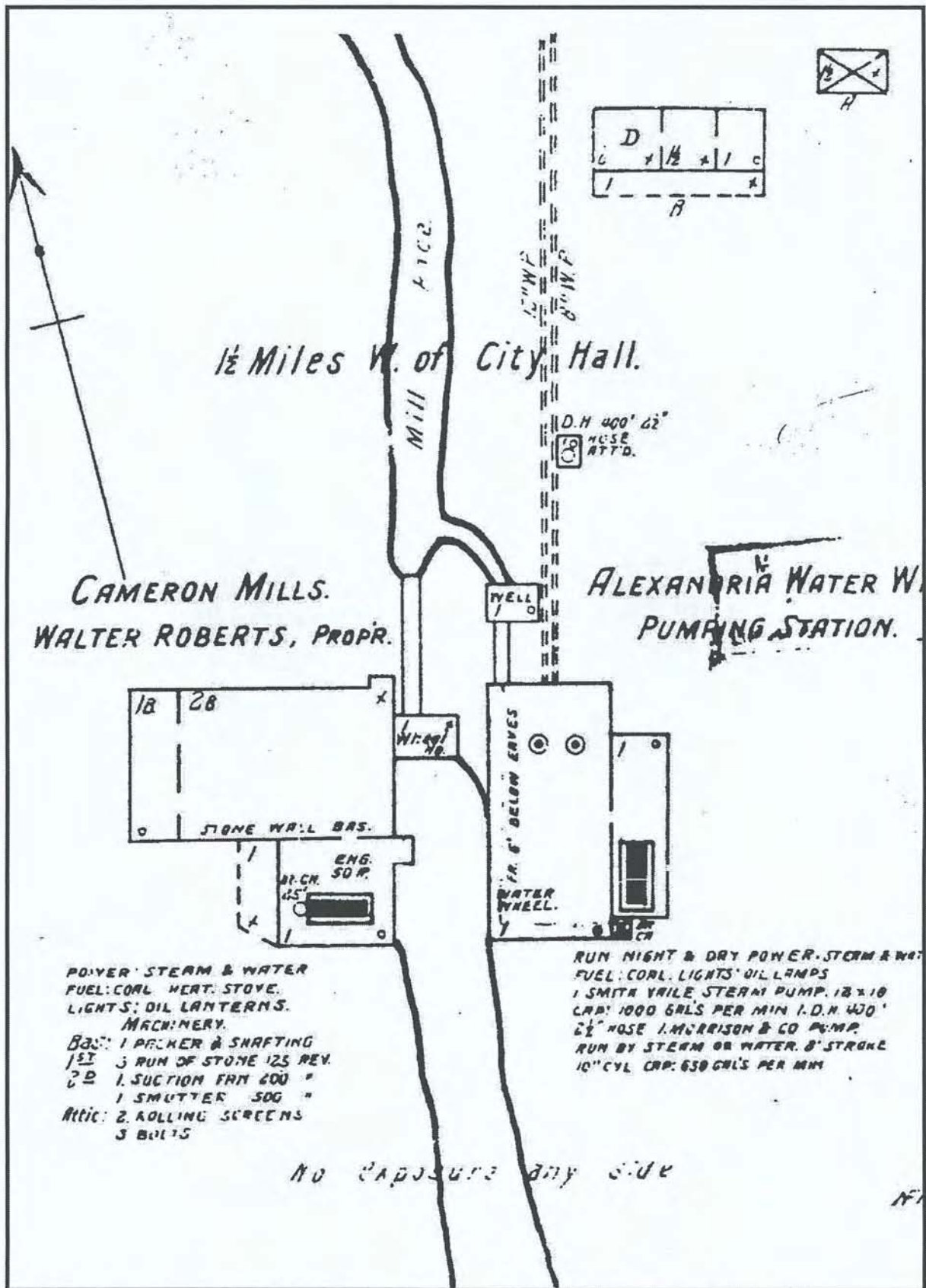


Figure 37. Sanborn map of Cameron Mills in 1902 (from Knepper and Pappas 1990)

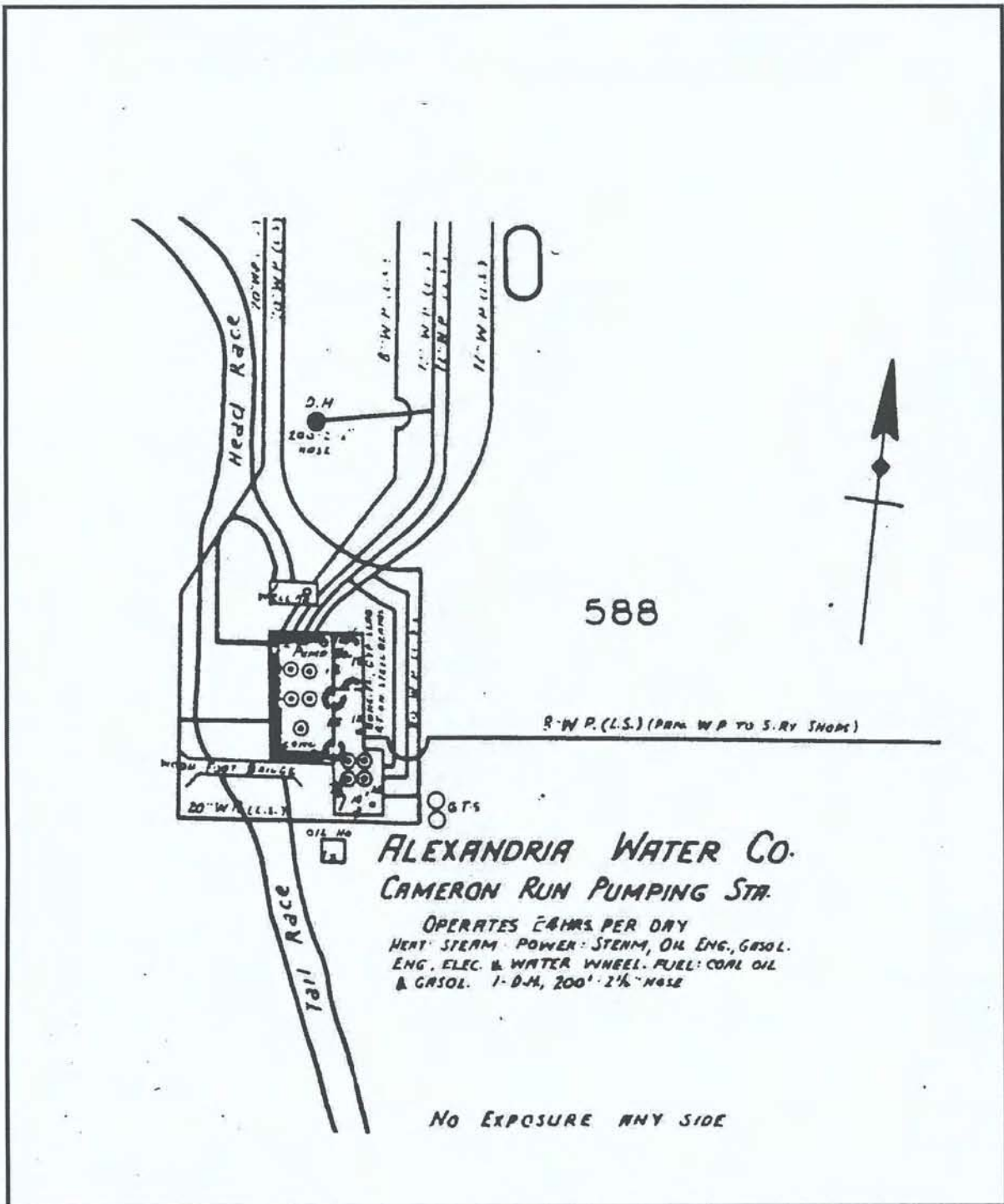


Figure 38. Sanborn map of the Alexandria Water Company's Cameron Run Pumping Station in 1941 (from Knepper and Pappas 1990)

installation of a storm water junction box in Block 10 prompted Phase I testing in that area to locate a possible pier or wharf.

Blocks 2-3 (Head Race). A total of five mechanized test trenches (two within Block 3/Jay Street and three within Block 2) intersected the Cameron Mill headrace.

*Trench 3/3.99.* Early in 1999, a single 50-ft mechanized trench (Trench 3.99) was excavated south of the end of the remnant of Roberts Lane, the road that originally linked Cameron Mills and Cameron Farm with the Little River Turnpike to the north. At a depth of about 2.5 ft below the extant surface (bs), the trench encountered a rough-cut stone wall (Feature 3.99-01), that measured approximately 2 ft wide and extended diagonally (roughly east/west) through the trench. The trench thus subsequently was expanded to the east and west to delineate this feature, and was excavated to a greater depth to determine the base of the wall. This additional work exposed the top of an approximately 25 ft section of the wall that curved slightly to the south; the base of the feature was found at a depth of 5.5 ft below the surface (ftbs).

The deep fill deposits surrounding and south of the wall feature consisted of mixed organic silty and clayey soils (Figures 40 and 41); artifact samples from these strata contained temporally mixed cultural material that ranged from fragments of early nineteenth century underglazed floral polychrome pearlware to twentieth century melted plastic, bottle glass and aluminum screw-type bottle caps. The sample assemblage clearly indicated that this feature had been filled relatively recently. During excavation and recordation of Feature 3.99-01, water actively seeped in; the water level in the open trench eventually settled at a depth of about 3.5 ft bs. This phenomenon clearly indicated that the millrace was still active, despite its having been infilled.

Historic photographs proved useful in interpreting Feature 3.99-01. The view of the former mill site taken in 1931 shows clearly that the millrace was lined with large cut stones (Figure 36). The location of that portion of the stone mill race lining exposed in Trench 3.99 appears to coincide with the area where the mill race made its final curve southward towards the mill after running east across the yard behind the Roberts house. Although no definite archeologically derived date can be assigned to the stone millrace lining, documentary sources suggest that its installation probably occurred after the Civil War, perhaps during the major renovations of the early 1870s.

*Trench 3/5.99.* Trench 5.99, located approximately 110 ft west of Trench 3-99 to test the Jay Street corridor, also intersected the mill's headrace. The surface of the exposed millrace was recognized at a depth of approximately 2 ftbs as a 20 ft wide, unlined prism. The fill deposits that overlay the millrace channel (Figure 42) consisted of mixed black (10YR 2/1) coarse sand, yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) coarse sand, and yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay with gravel inclusions. This upper level fill, which contained modern materials like plastic, plywood, Coke bottles, and lawn furniture as well as building debris such as bricks and roofing slate, clearly represents the generalized filling of the mill race area after 1963. At a depth of 40-45 inches below the surface (inbs), a deposit of very dark gray (7.5YR 3/1) clayey silt with a high organic content and additional modern debris was encountered; this represented the top of the silted-in mill race prism. At its base, which was encountered at a depth of 75 inbs, the race prism narrowed to a width of 8 ft. Excavation again substantiated that the race channel still retained water, which slowly rose to a level of approximately 4 ftbs.

*Test Trenches (2000).* When investigations resumed in Block 2 in the spring of 2000, nine mechanized trenches were excavated to identify landscape features and building foundations that might have been associated with the domestic yard area south of the main Cameron Farm dwelling. This area previously had been cleared for investigation after an existing commercial building along Mill Road was removed from the area in August, 1999. Because the ca. 1963 warehouse structure had been constructed

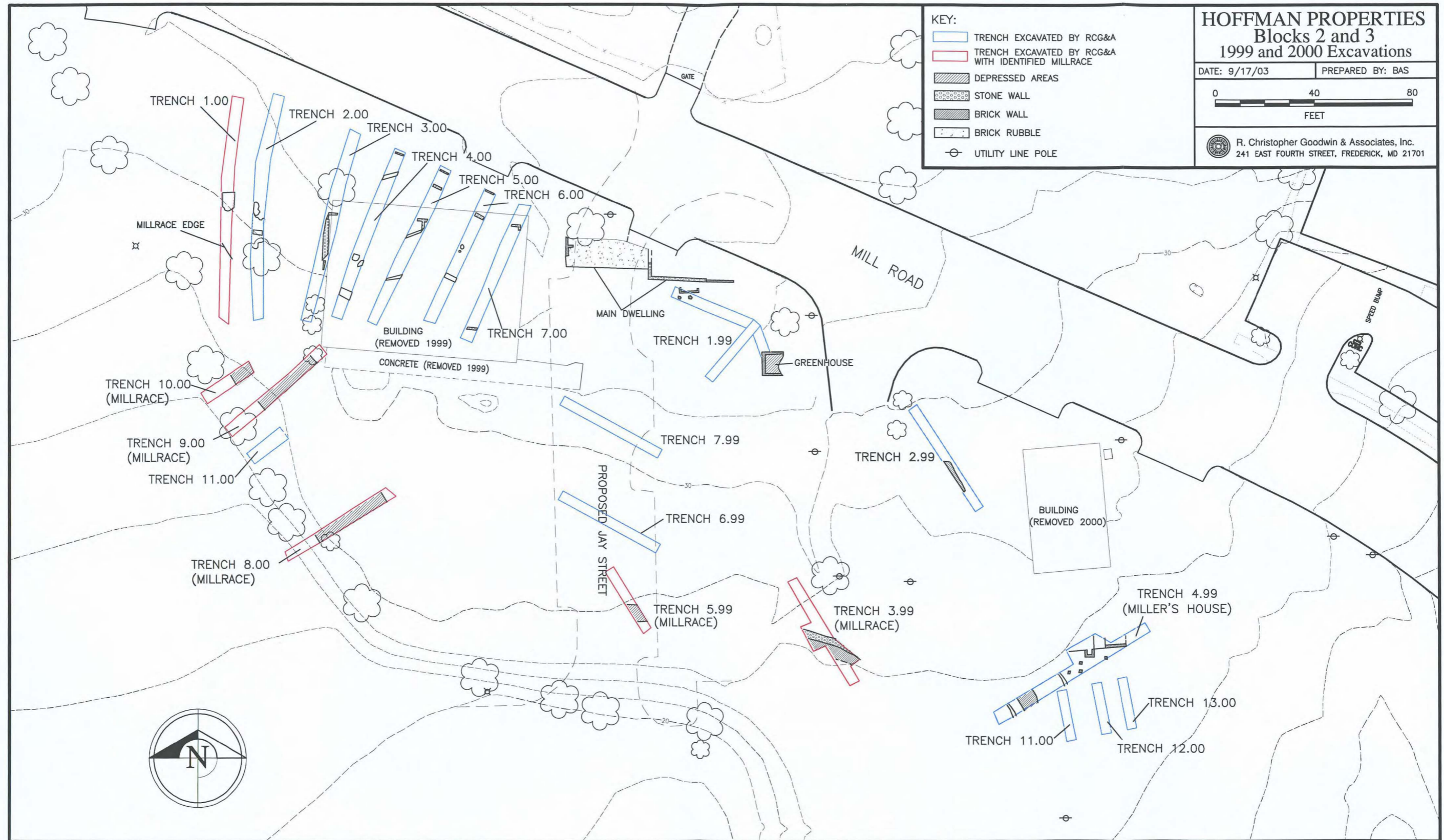
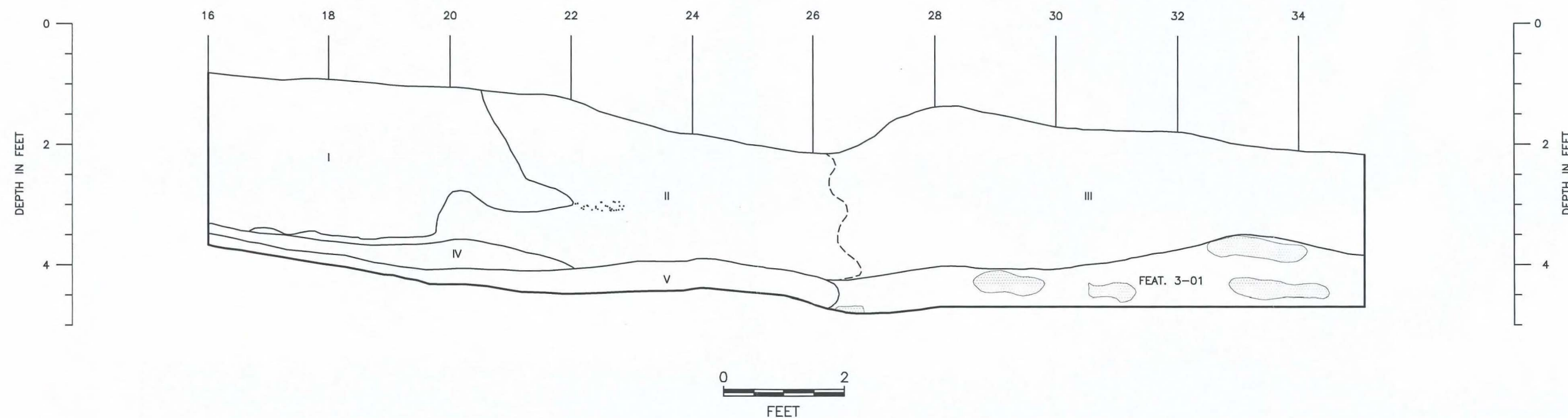




Figure 39. Base map of Hoffman property showing locations of test trenches associated with Cameron Mill components





- I. MOTTLED 10YR 3/1 VERY DARK GRAY SILTY SAND WITH LARGE COBBLES AND SMALL PEBBLES, 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN LOAMY CLAY, 10YR 3/1 VERY DARK GRAY SILTY SAND (15%), AND 10YR 4/4 SANDY LOAM WITH SMALL PEBBLES (15%)
- II. 10YR 6/8 BROWNISH YELLOW SANDY LOAM WITH HIGH PEBBLE AND COBBLE CONTENT
- III. 10YR 4/3 BROWN SANDY LOAM
- IV. 2.5Y 7/4 PALE YELLOW SANDY SILT MOTTLED WITH 10% 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY
- V. 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY

- FEAT. 3-01. UNMORTARED, COURSED FIELDSTONE
-  FIELDSTONES
-  COAL RICH LENS (30% COAL)


<b>HOFFMAN PHASE I/II</b> <b>44AX182: Cameron Farm</b> <b>Profile - North Wall</b> <b>Trench 3.99</b>	
DATE: 6/23/03	PREPARED BY: BAS
 <b>R. Christopher Goodwin &amp; Associates, Inc.</b> 241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100 Frederick, MD 21701	

Figure 40. Cameron Mills (44AX112): Profile of Trench 3/3.99, showing the millrace profile and Feature 3.99-01, its stone lining





Figure 41. Cameron Mills (44AX112): Trench 3/3.99: Photograph of part of Feature 3/99.3-01 and the overlying stratigraphic profile

on a concrete slab foundation, it was felt that sub-surface disturbance within the building footprint and the surrounding yard area was sufficiently non-intrusive so that some sub-surface features might remain intact. Although the primary focus of these tests was to identify features associated with the farm dwelling, three mechanized trenches (2/1.00, 2/8.00, and 2/9.00) also intersected portions of the millrace along the southern and western perimeters of the former domestic yard area.

*Trench 2/1.00.* Trench # 1 in Block 2, located in the far northwestern portion of the Block 2 portion of the Hoffman project area, was oriented roughly north-south (13° east of grid north). The unit measured approximately nearly 100 ft feet in length and averaged between 5.0 and 6.0 ft wide, but was later expanded at its mid-section to define the perimeters of some features that extended beyond its original boundaries.

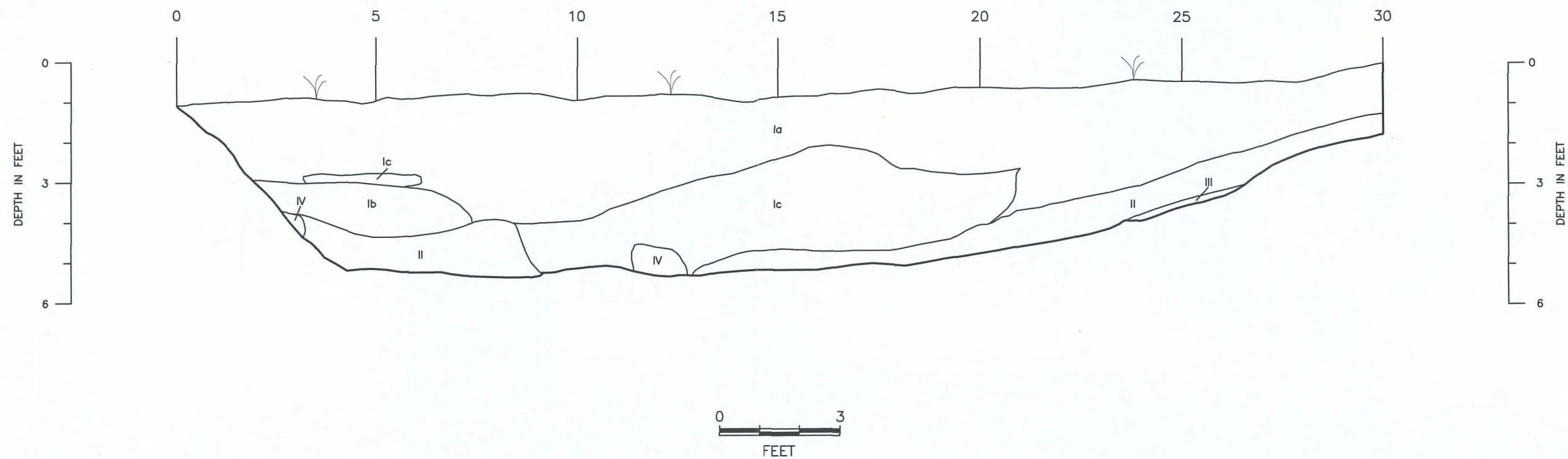
The filled-in millrace, which initially was recognized after approximately 1.75 ft of modern fill and overburden had been removed, extended diagonally through Trench 2/1.00 approximately 67 ft south of the northern end of the unit. In plan view, the feature appeared as a 1.25-1.75 ft wide "channel" of 10YR 3/1 very dark gray clay that cut through a surrounding matrix of 2.5Y 5/4 light olive brown clay mottled with 2.5Y 4/1 dark gray clay. The entire channel had been disturbed by extensive root action. A partial profile of this feature (Figure 43) suggested that at least one fill episode (represented by Stratum V) had occurred prior to the time that this area of the Hoffman property had been leveled and filled.

*Trench 2/8.00.* Approximately 45 ft long, this trench was excavated on a diagonal (approximately 45° degrees east of grid north) to intersect the projected course of the millrace as it turned east at the southwestern corner of the Cameron Farm domestic yard area. As the profile (Figure 44) shows, removal of an asphalt cap showed that modern fill (Stratum I) had been introduced over and filled in the silt and sandy clay layers that represented the top of the millrace. Cultural materials noted in the overlying 2.5Y 5/3 olive brown to 2.5Y 7/1 light gray fill included fragments of cinder block and pieces of wire, concrete and whiteware. At this point, the millrace feature measured nearly 28 ft in width, and the silt fills extended to a maximum depth of 8.4 ft before bottoming out on a layer of mottled, gleyed 5/1 greenish-gray clay (Stratum IV). The gray clay base stratum resembled that encountered at the bottom of the millrace prism in Trenches 3/3.99 and 3/5.99

*Trench 2/9.00.* This trench, also 45 ft long, was placed midway between Trench 2/8.00 and the southern end of Trench 2/1.00 to ascertain the nature and structure of the millrace at this location. The race feature occupied the eastern 32.5 ft of this trench, at which point its width had been truncated by a twentieth century concrete block wall. In profile (Figure 45), the millrace appeared similar to that recorded in Trench 2/8.00. Strata I and II, which overlay the characteristic upper 10YR 2/1 black silty clay fill levels of the race, represented two mid-late twentieth century fill episodes; cultural materials noted within these overburden levels were almost identical to those contained within similar fill levels in Trench 2/8.00. The total combined depth of the modern fill overburden and the millrace fill was 7.6 ft below the surrounding ground surface.

*Interpretation/Conclusions.* The features and combined profiles recorded in the five trenches that intersected the Cameron Mills headrace generally reflected modifications made to the millrace in the latter half of the nineteenth century; its gradual abandonment in the early years of the twentieth century; and its burial in the last half of the twentieth century. The stone race lining noted in Trench 2/3.99 (Figures 40 and 41) likely was installed in the 1870s as the Alexandria Water Company sought to ensure adequate water velocity and flow to its pump house. Maintaining the integrity of the race walls would have been particularly important at points like this one, where a forceful flow of water against an acute curve (in this case, a nearly 90° turn to the south from an extended eastward stretch) might have caused unreinforced earthen walls to slump or breach, thereby reducing or eliminating water velocity.

The very wide, concave, upper silt levels above the millrace prism appear to reflect at least several decades of disuse of the millrace. Despite the fact that the Cameron gristmill ceased operations in 1917 and was torn down in 1928 (*Alexandria Gazette* 1928), Sanborn maps and contemporary photographs demonstrate that the Alexandria Water Company maintained its use of the millrace as a water source at least until 1941 (Figure 38). After its abandonment, however, the race (even if partially filled in) would have acted as a catch basin for silt and organic debris, particularly that carried downstream during high water periods. It is likely that, as the race prism itself filled with silt, succeeding organically rich "alluvial" deposits of silt, sand, and organic debris gradually expanded out to create a wide, intermittently wet swath along both sides of the race itself. Nonetheless, the route of the millrace still could be discerned ca. 1954, as Figure 30 demonstrates.



- Ia. 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN COARSE SAND MOTTLED WITH 15% 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY (FILL)
- Ib. 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY (FILL)
- Ic. MOTTLED 10YR 2/1 BLACK COARSE SAND (30%), 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN COARSE SAND (30%), AND 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY (10%) WITH 30% GRAVEL INCLUSIONS (DEPOSIT POSSIBLY RELATED TO FEATURE 3-01)
- II. 7.5YR 3/1 VERY DARK GRAY CLAYEY SILT WITH HIGH ORGANIC CONTENT
- III. 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY (POSSIBLE SUBSOIL)
- IV. 2.5Y 3/3 LIGHT OLIVE BROWN SANDY CLAY

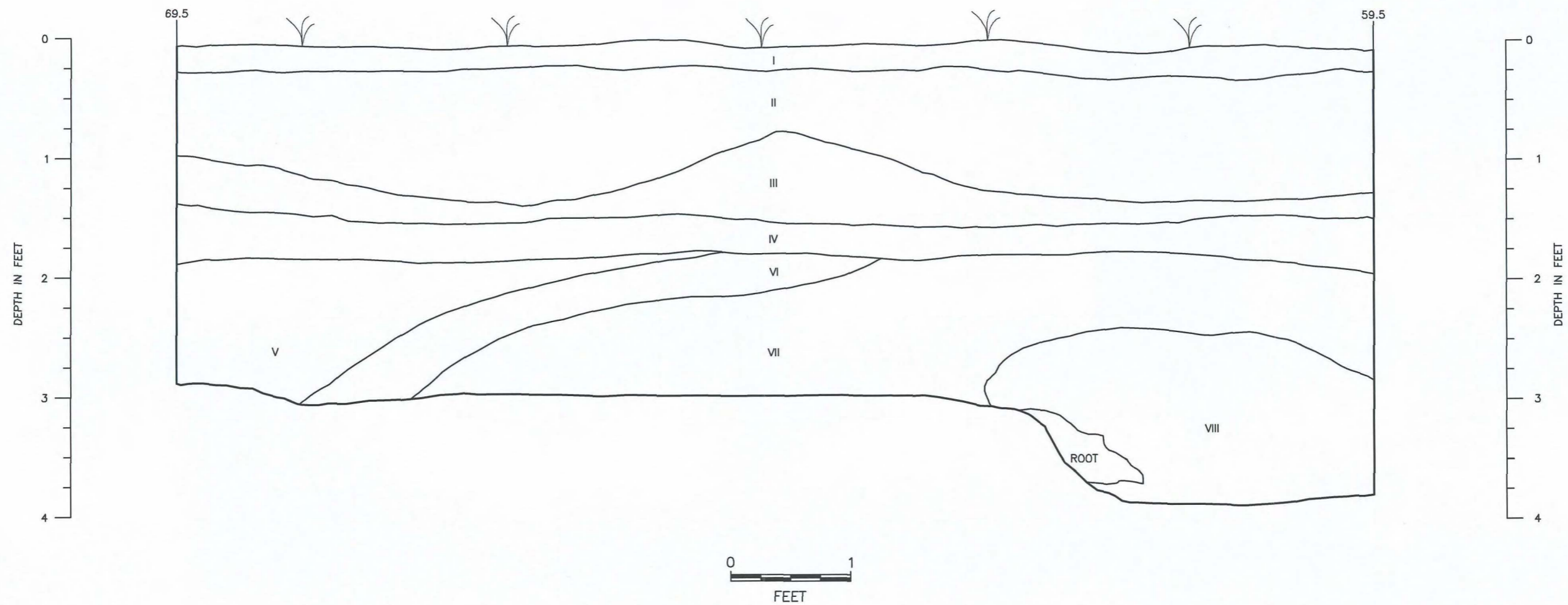
**HOFFMAN PHASE I/II**  
**44AX182: Cameron Farm**  
**Profile - South Wall**  
**Trench 5.99**

DATE: 6/24/03      PREPARED BY: BAS

 R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.  
 241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100    Frederick, MD 21701

Figure 42. Cameron Mills (44AX112): Profile of Trench 3/5.99, showing the profile of the Cameron Mill headrace





- I. GRAVEL
- II. MODERN FILL
- III. 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN COMPACT CLAY
- IV. GRAVEL, CONCRETE, AND ASPHALT FILL
- V. 2.5Y 4/4 OLIVE BROWN CLAY MOTTLED WITH 2.5Y 6/1 GRAY CLAY WITH MACHINE CUT BRICK INTRUSIONS
- VI. 10YR 3/1 VERY DARK GRAY CLAY WITH ROOT INTRUSIONS
- VII. 10YR 4/1 DARK GRAY COMPACT CLAY
- VIII. 10YR 5/4 LIGHT OLIVE BROWN CLAY


<b>HOFFMAN PHASE I/II</b> <b>44AX112: Cameron Mill</b> <b>Profile View - West Wall</b> <b>Block 2 - Trench 1.00</b>	
DATE: 7/24/03	PREPARED BY: BAS
 R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. 241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100 Frederick, MD 21701	

Figure 43. Cameron Mills (44AX112): Trench 2/1.00: Partial profile of west wall between 59.5 – 69.5 ft south, showing mill race feature











Because such swampy areas do not provide adequate support for most commercial uses, it became necessary to introduce the uppermost modern fill levels atop the silted-in millrace channel when this section of Block 2 was developed commercially. Infilling and grading also created additional useable surface, which, by 1973, was being utilized for parking heavy vehicles (see Figure 31).

Block 3 Monitoring (Tailrace). In direct contrast to the headrace of the Cameron Mill, its tailrace apparently never was canalized or otherwise reinforced. Instead, as two late nineteenth century photographs (Figures 34 and 46) show, the tailrace seemed to be more of a meandering stream that provided a convenient water source for livestock pastured in the meadows on the Cameron Run floodplain. The 2001 monitoring program in Block 3 was designed to identify any remaining traces of the tailrace prism.

The testing strategy adopted for Block 3 required monitoring and documentation of stratigraphy within two approximately 60 ft stretches of a proposed bifurcated storm water drainage line. The two monitor units were designated as sequentially numbered "trench sections."

*Trench 3/1.01, Section 1.* The western leg of the bifurcated storm water drainage system was designated as Trench 1. This excavation averaged only 4.5 to 5 ft below the extant grade of the block. Both of the soil profiles recorded within this trench showed characteristics that suggested major disturbance (Figure 47). At the northern end of the monitored trench section, Stratum I was composed of a 4 ft thick layer of 10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown micaceous sandy clay with 10 per cent gravel inclusions; trench excavation did not penetrate below this stratum. The absence of any discernable topsoil level suggested that previous grading had removed the A horizon in this area.

Evidence of filling was noted at the southern end of Trench 1. Stratum II, which consisted of mixed 10YR 4/2 dark grayish brown loam (topsoil) and 10 YR 5/6 yellowish brown sandy clay loam subsoil (0.0 – 1.5 ftbs), overlay the same type of soils that had been recorded as Stratum I in the profile taken 40 ft to the north. The mixed fill overburden noted in this second profile reflected late twentieth century attempts to level the original grade within Block 3 and render the area more suitable for development.

No pre-modern artifacts or significant features were noted within Trench #1, Block 3.



Figure 46. Cameron Mills (44AX112): Undated photograph of livestock grazing on floodplain of Cameron Run adjacent to the probable tailrace of the Cameron Mill complex)(Special Collections, Alexandria Public Library)

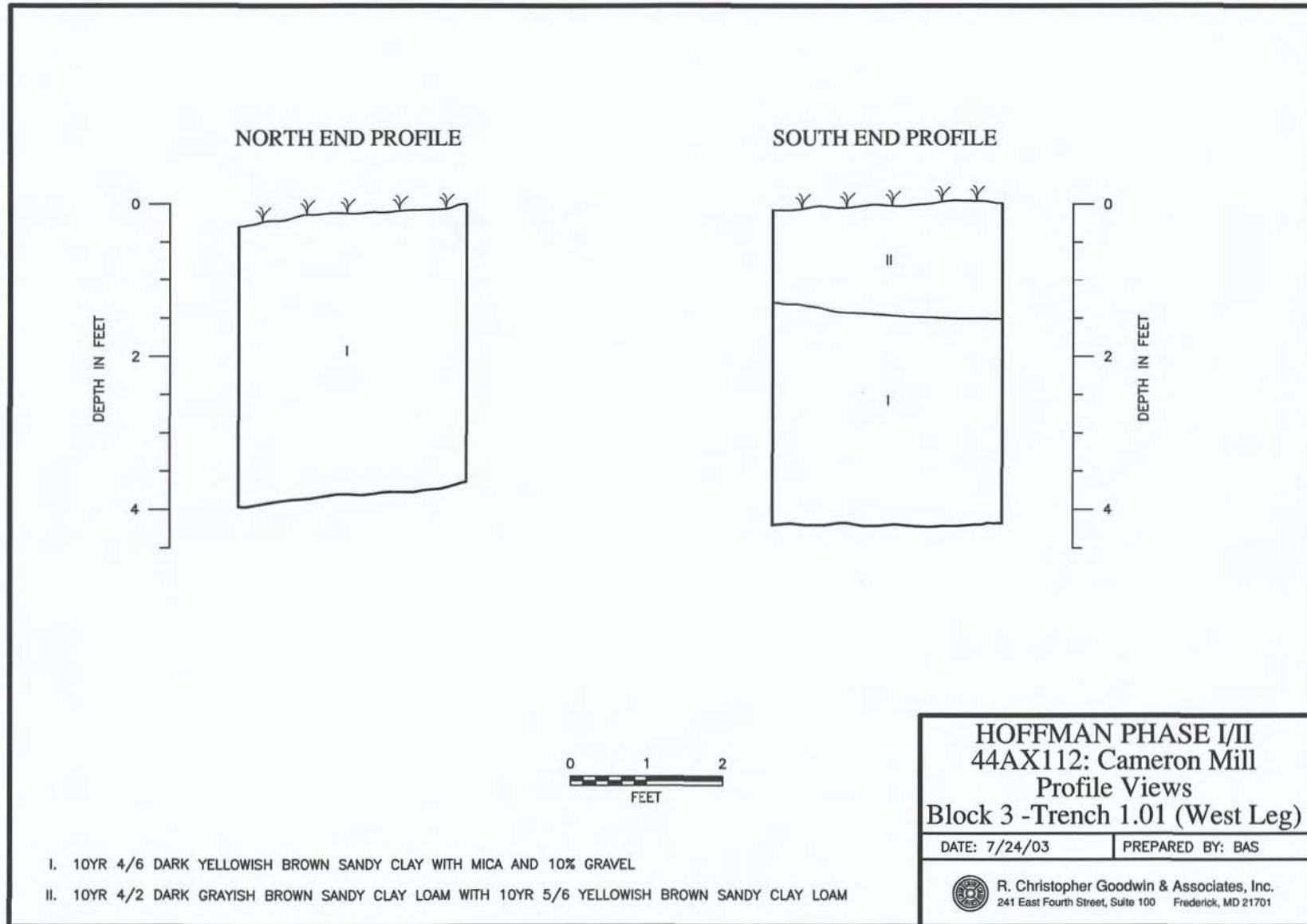


Figure 47. Cameron Mills (44AX112): Trench 3/1.01 (West): Representative profiles

*Trench 3/2.01, Section 2.* Trench 2 penetrated more deeply than did Trench 1, ranging in depth between 11 and 15 ftbs (Figure 48). Two basic strata were noted in the soil profiles recorded in this trench. Stratum I consisted of a heavily disturbed 2.5Y 7/1 light gray sandy silty clay fill that contained large quantities of gravel and cement mix; this stratum represented recently (2000) introduced fill that had been compacted to support a construction staging area. The depth of this fill ranged from 2.5 ftbs at the northern end of the monitored section of the trench to approximately 11.5 ftbs at its southern end. Stratum II was a mixture of 10YR 3/2 grayish brown, 10YR 6/8 yellowish brown, and 10YR 6/3 pale brown clays. Intrusive modern elements were present within both strata, including such items of modern trash as plastic bags, copper tubing, and nylon rope. Such trash inclusions, which were present to a depth of 15 ft BNG, documented the recent deposition of garbage during modern construction activities and utility line construction.

Three features exposed during the excavation of Trench Section 2 further demonstrated the degree of modern disturbance that has occurred within Block 3. These included: (1) a 10 in diameter cast iron storm drain, first noted at a depth of approximately 11 ftbs and later removed; (2) a modern cast concrete storm box at the extreme northern end of the trench, designated as datum by Engineering Sciences during their 1990 Phase I investigations of the Cameron Mill site; and (3) an old open storm drain located at the extreme southern end of the trench. No historically significant features were noted within Trench 2, nor were any pre-modern artifacts recovered from this unit.

Monitoring the excavation of the planned bifurcated storm drain system within the southern half of Block 3 (Figure 39) demonstrated that the areas through which these trench lines passed had been heavily disturbed by previous utility construction and compaction activities. Neither trench penetrated below observed disturbed soil levels. If indeed a formal, engineered tailrace had been present within this portion of the Hoffman property, it is likely that recent landscape modifications had obliterated it.

Trench 10/1.01 (Pier/Wharf feature). The testing strategy adopted for Block 10 entailed placing a single mechanically excavated test trench (Trench 1) within the footprint of a planned storm water filter box that was designed to channel surface runoff from the proposed parking lot. As originally planned, the limits of Trench 1 were approximately 33 ft (10 m) long and 4 ft (1.3 m) wide; at the outset, this trench ranged in depth from 11 to 15 ftbs (3.2 to 4.5 mbs). However, these dimensions later were modified following the discovery of Feature 1, to expose underlying features more fully and to comply with OSHA regulations that require shoring or "stepping back" deep excavations. When complete, an area of approximately 182.38 sq ft immediately surrounding the feature had been cleared; the "stepped out" sections increased the total excavation area to 908 ft<sup>2</sup> (Figure 49).

Four strata were observed along various sections of the profile in Trench 1; Figure 50 depicts two representative profiles taken along the southern and eastern walls of the original trench prior to its expansion. Both profiles depict Stratum I as a layer of mottled 10YR 5/8 yellowish brown and 10YR 4/1 dark gray sandy clay ranging in depth from 3 – 5 ftbs. Strata II and III in the south wall profile consisted of 2.5Y 5/1 gray - 2.5Y 4/1 dark gray sandy clay, respectively; along the east wall of the unit, these strata appeared to merge into a single 4 ft thick layer of 10YR 4/1 dark gray sandy clay mixed with 50 per cent 2.5Y 5/1 gray sandy clay. The profile taken along the eastern wall also demonstrated the highly disturbed nature of this fill episode, in that it contained felled whole trees and other pieces of modern debris, including large fragments of cast concrete pavement and asphalt (Figure 51). The underlying Stratum III in the east wall profile corresponded almost entirely to Stratum IV, a 7.5YR 5/8 strong brown sandy clay noted along the south wall, except that it contained occasional small fragments of brick. The water table, probably the result of groundwater that had

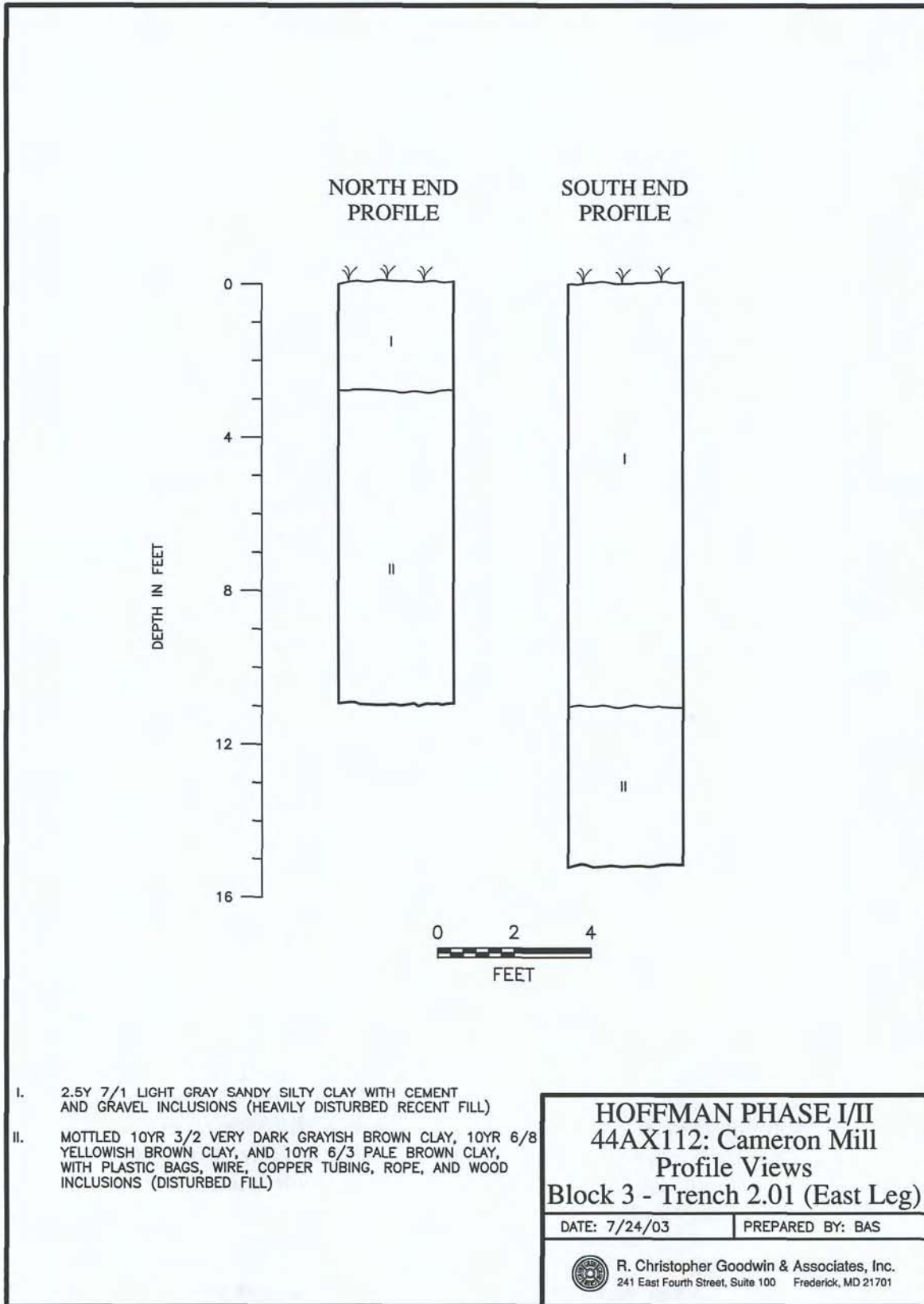


Figure 48. Cameron Mills (44AX112): Trench 3/2.01 (East): Representative profiles

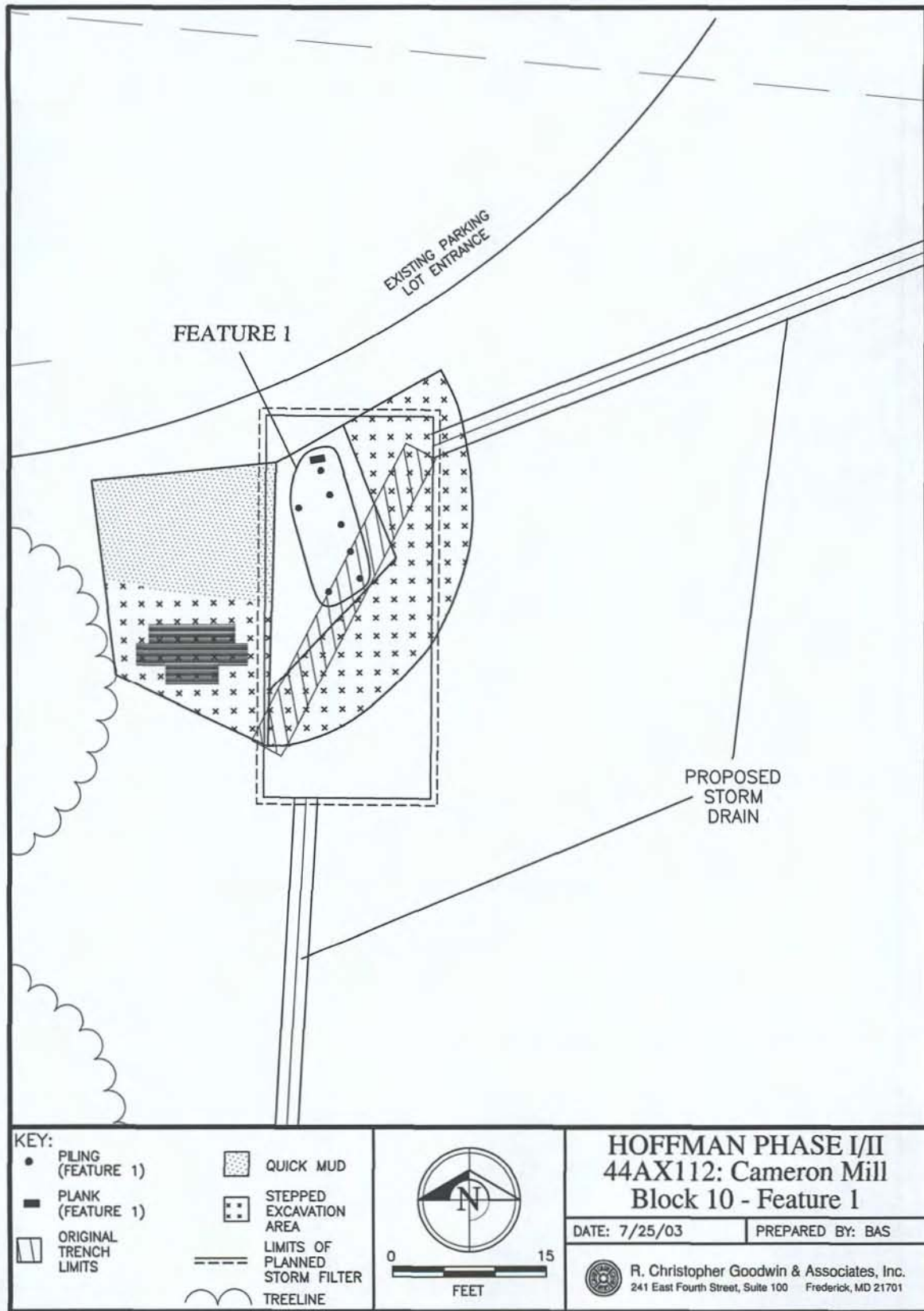


Figure 49. Hoffman property, Block 10: Plan view of proposed and actual excavation areas

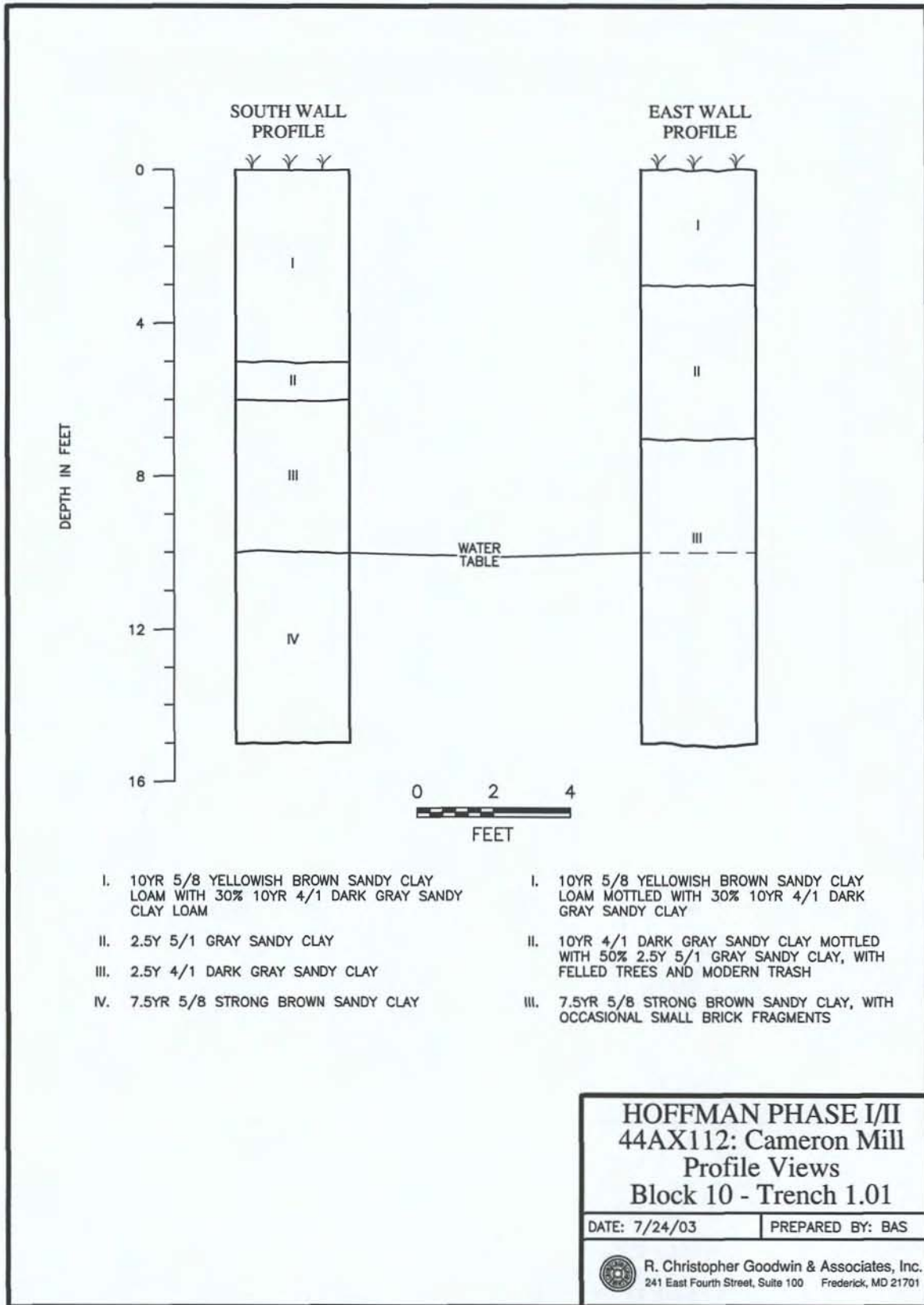


Figure 50. Hoffman property, Trench 10/1.01: Representative profiles, south and east walls of original trench



Figure 51. Hoffman property, Trench 10/1.01: General photograph of excavation, showing depth and nature of fill overburden

seeped into the former channel of Cameron Run, began to affect the progress of excavation at an elevation of 10 ftbs (4.5 ft amsl [above mean sea level]).

The stratigraphic profiles and the accompanying photographs demonstrate the severity of previous disturbance and landform modification within Block 10. The fills noted within this block closely resembled, in both depth and composition, the materials removed from the southern half of Block 4 during installation of utility lines and preparation of the AMC Cineplex pad. All soils, except Stratum III, were composed of fill that had been used to reclaim the formerly swampy areas along the silted-in streambed of Cameron Run, a watercourse that was re-channeled extensively for construction of the adjacent Capital Beltway (Interstate 95) during the early 1960s. This unconsolidated fill provided a sufficiently stable level surface to accommodate light commercial use of the blocks bordering Cameron Run as asphalt-paved parking areas.

Structural elements of Feature 1, identified as the remains of a small pier, first were recognized within the northwest wall of the initial backhoe cut. These elements initially were virtually indistinguishable from the wood debris within the overlying fill levels. Although they were dislodged by the edge of the backhoe blade, it was possible to determine their approximate vertical and horizontal positions by mapping the relative positions of the associated soil stains in the walls of the unit. This measurement showed that the tops of the two posts were located at a depth of approximately 11.5 ftbs (Figures 52 and 53), and that Stratum IV, the 7.5YR strong brown sandy clay, had covered them. Their vertical location within this clay matrix suggested that Stratum IV may represent the gradual buildup of silt deposits within the former channel of Cameron Run.

Two vertical posts were removed intact from the excavation unit; both were in excellent condition due to the saturated matrix from which they were recovered. Each post was approximately 5 ft 6 in long and measured between 4½ and 5 inches in diameter. Both had been partially stripped

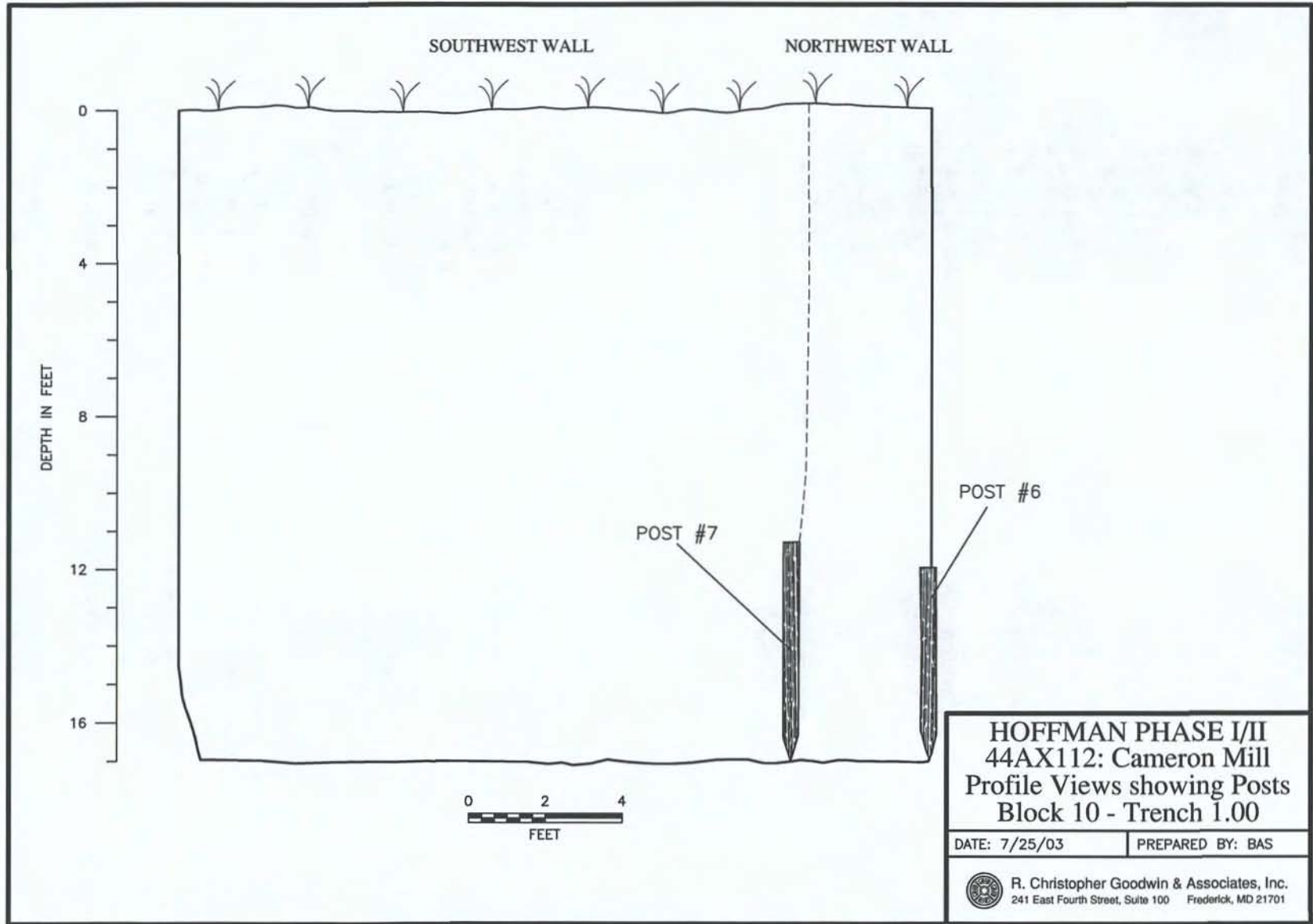


Figure 52. Cameron Mills (44AX112): Trench 10/1.01: Schematic view of vertical placement of wood piers

of bark and shaped using a broad or other type of axe, and their lower ends had been sharpened to a point to enable them to penetrate the soils during construction of the pier (Figure 54). Because no preservatives such as creosote had been used to inhibit rot or attacks by marine borers, the tops of the posts apparently had decayed or disintegrated, probably down to the former water line. Although neither post contained any hardware (e.g., nails, screws, bolts or wood pins), some evidence of joinery was present in the form of 4½-in, square-cut mortise-like joints that apparently were designed to accommodate horizontal braces (Figure 55). All of these mortise joints were located below the presumed waterline. One such joint was present on Post #6 (the outer row); Post #7 (middle row) featured two opposing joints. The presence of a pebble deeply embedded in the shaft of Post #6, above the location of the mortise joint, reflected both the force with which this support had been driven into the subsoil and the depth to which the post had been driven.

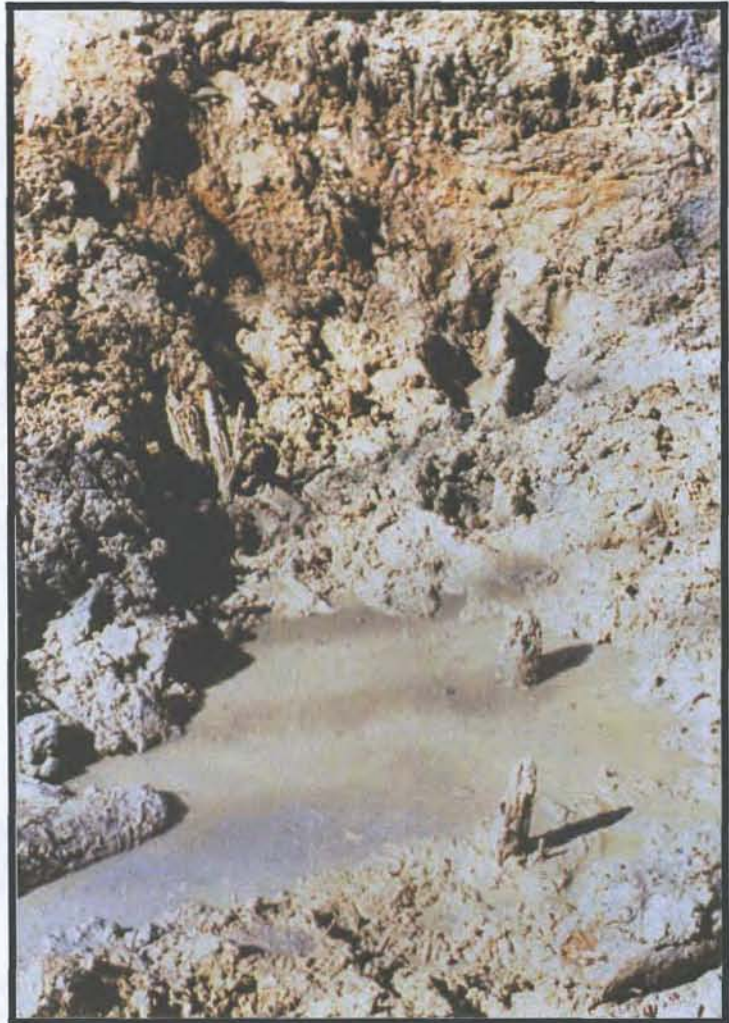


Figure 53. Cameron Mills (44AX112): Trench 10/1.01: Photograph showing two exposed upright posts *in situ*

Mechanical excavation of an enlarged area around the initial post features ultimately revealed the remnants of seven posts arranged in two parallel lines. In the northernmost wall of the excavated/cleared area a fragment of what appeared to be planking or pier decking also was noted (Figure 53). The precise location of each post was plotted using a Topcon EDM unit. The four *in situ* posts in the easternmost row (Nos. 1-4 and, by extrapolation, No. 6) all were spaced between 2.5 and 3.3 ft apart, for an average interval of 2.54 ft. Those in the second parallel row, both of which were located exactly 3.322 ft west of the first row, were spaced at an interval of 8.693 ft.

Consultations with maritime archeologists at Goodwin & Associates, Inc. who have first-hand knowledge of marine related wharf and dock structures, indicated that the easternmost row of closely spaced uprights probably marked the outer edge of this pier structure, and that the second row of posts probably supported an intermediate beam that prevented the middle of the pier deck from sagging (Dr. Samuel Turner, Personal Communication, 2001). If this hypothesis is true, the entire pier (including at least one additional unexposed row of posts) probably would have measured approximately 7.5 ft in width, and likely would have resembled similar piers whose remains still can be seen along the Potomac River waterfront in Alexandria (Figure 56).



Figure 54. Cameron Mills (44AX112): Trench 10/1.01: Photograph showing pointed end of post



Figure 55. Cameron Mills (44AX112): Trench 10/1.01: Photograph showing mortise impressions in post



Figure 56. Remnant piers/wharves for small craft: Potomac waterfront at foot of Gibbon Street, Alexandria, Virginia

At the request of Alexandria Archeology, following initial measurement and photodocumentation, the two recovered pier elements were placed in heavy-gauge plastic bags to retard evaporation and desiccation. They subsequently were transported to the Goodwin & Associates, Inc. laboratories in Frederick, Maryland, where they were immersed in a dilute alcohol solution to retard further disintegration. The Alexandria Lyceum ultimately accepted the pier uprights for use in a future exhibit, and they were transferred to the Jefferson-Patterson Park and Museum in Maryland for permanent conservation.



## CHAPTER VII

# RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS: CAMERON FARMHOUSE AND YARD (44AX182)

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Phase I and II investigations of the various components of the Cameron Farm complex (Site 44AX182) were conducted in several stages between January of 1999 and May of 2000. Each stage of investigations was initiated as the Hoffman Management group filed site development plans, with specific areas of investigation determined by the logistical needs of the overall development plan. Work plans for each stage were prepared in consultation with the City of Alexandria's professional archeological staff, which monitored progress on the site and consulted regularly throughout the project.

Three discrete but related areas were identified for investigation through this process: (1) the principal Cameron Farm dwelling house and its immediate dependencies; (2) the outer domestic yard, encompassing the area between the main dwelling house and the Cameron Mill headrace; and (3) the miller's house and associated features. This chapter presents the results obtained from investigating the first two of these components or areas; the excavations at the Miller's House component are discussed in Chapter VIII.

### **Principal Dwelling House and Dependencies (Area A)**

#### Archival Background

Members of the Roberts family occupied the main house at Cameron Farm as their principal dwelling from 1848 through at least the first half of the twentieth century. Documentary sources suggest that the original portion of the dwelling may have been constructed during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, as the house itself was mentioned in the deeds that conveyed the farm from the Ricketts and Stump heirs to Richard Windsor in the 1830s. The previous owners of the property, the West Family, had occupied a complex that is thought to have been located somewhat south and west of the nineteenth century Cameron Farm complex. The Roberts family reportedly used one or more elements of the eighteenth century West plantation as agricultural dependencies.

Early twentieth century photographs (Figures 57-59) show that the dwelling had a "telescoped" design. The Roberts family added the large two-story section on the east end of the original 1½-story central brick dwelling when they acquired the farm in 1848. The west wings, which housed a dining room, kitchen, pantry and other workspaces, were added to the central brick block during the 1920s (Jean Burke, Personal Communication, March 2000); they are not visible in the 1927 aerial of the property (Figure 29). A variety of outbuildings stood within the "domestic" yard immediately adjacent to the farmhouse, including an icehouse at the western end of the "front" (north) façade, and two outbuildings on the "rear" (south) façade that James Roberts identified as a



Figure 57. North façade of principal dwelling at Cameron Farm during the late nineteenth century, showing telescoped arrangements of building components and the icehouse structure (far right)(orientation south) (Special Collections, Alexandria Public Library)



Figure 58. South façade of principal dwelling at Cameron Farm during the late nineteenth century, with millrace and fence lines in foreground, showing the greenhouse and the porch on the easternmost addition (orientation northwest)(Special Collections, Alexandria Public Library)



Figure 59. South façade of principal dwelling at Cameron Farm during the late nineteenth century, showing the smokehouse at far left (orientation northwest)(Special Collections, Alexandria Public Library)

greenhouse and a smokehouse. Roberts' 1945 description and sketches of Cameron Farm (Figures 27 and 28) clarified the functions of each building and component of the house proper as he had remembered it ca. 1905. These documents guided the placement of mechanized test trenches and test units, and facilitated the interpretation of the various archeological features that were encountered during the excavations.

### **Phase I/II (1998-1999) Results**

Initial Phase I efforts involved placement of a single exploratory trench (Trench 3/1.98) in the vicinity of the main dwelling and its outbuildings during the fall of 1998. The discovery of substantial features in this area, and the filing of plans by Hoffman Management, Inc. for a new road right-of-way through this general location led to an expansion of the Phase I effort and some preliminary Phase II evaluative testing of several house site features (Figure 60) early in 1999.

The excavation of Trench 3/1.98, placed south and west of the (then) intersection of Mill Road and Roberts Lane to intersect the predicted location of the principal dwelling house, revealed a complex of related structural and landscape features (Table 6), including several brick features just below the ground surface at the northern end of the trench (Figure 61). The shallow stratigraphy at this location suggested that extensive grading had occurred, probably when the farmhouse complex was demolished.

Trench 3/1.98 subsequently was expanded northeast and northwest to delineate these features more accurately and to look for additional structural remains. The expanded area revealed the western

**Table 6. Features exposed in Block 3, Trench 1 99 and extensions (Cameron Farm)**

Trench #	Feature #	Associated Artifact Assemblage	TPQ/Date Range	Analysis, comments
3/1.99	01	Surface-collected: whiteware (transfer-printed, annular), redware, dip-molded and machine made container glass, cut and wire nails	TPQ: 1890/ Mid-to-late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Brick drains, associated with structure (Features 07 and 08)
	02	Surface collected: creamware, pearlware, whiteware, machine-made bottle glass, .22 cal shell casing	TPQ: 1898/ Early to late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Well-defined gravel and sand deposit, possible driveway or walkway
	03	Surface collected: construction hardware, including bolts, wire nails, machine made container glass	TPQ: 1898/ Twentieth century	Sand and mortar concentration, probable deposit related to recent construction
	04	N/A	Twentieth century	Utility trench; conduit still present
	05	Surface sample: Plumbing fixtures, drain pipes, asbestos shingle, sheet metal, aluminum foil	Twentieth century	Concentration of brickbats; probable construction or demolition debris
	06	Surface sample: 66 skeletal remains of large mammal	N/A	Bone deposit within dark brown/yellowish brown stain feature; brick and coal fragments in soil matrix
3.99-1 NE	07	Surface sample: ceramics (pearlware, whiteware; luster decorated redware), architectural debris (cut nails, door hardware); mold-blown and machine-made container glass; kaolin pipe bowl fragments; crown closure bottle caps; spark plug; window sash weight	TPQ: mid-20 <sup>th</sup> century/ Early 19 <sup>th</sup> to mid-20 <sup>th</sup> century	Brick foundation wall (dependency) associated with F 01 (brick drain)
	08			Brick flooring (dependency) associated with F 01 and F 07
3.99-1 NW	09	Unidentified iron fragments	N/A	Brick pier footer
	10	N/A	N/A	Brick pier footer
	11	Tested (TU1). Produced 2 1800 large-head Liberty pennies, straight pin, cut and wrought nails, ceramics (pearlware, creamware, redware and whiteware), marble, slate pencil	TPQ: 1890 Early to mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century	C-shaped brick foundation; possible porch support
3.99-1 N	12	N/A	N/A	Remnant brick wall (10 ft long; 2 courses wide)
	13	N/A	N/A	Stone foundation wall with corner at western end. Width: 16 – 18". Length: 20 ft E-W (probably truncated on eastern end; 5 ft N-S)
	14	N/A	N/A	Brick footer possibly associated with F-11
3.99-1 S	15	N/A	N/A	Disturbed area @ eastern end of F-13. Metal pipe and wires protruding through disturbed area
3.99-1 W	16	N/A	N/A	Brick drain (associated with Feature 01)
	17	N/A	N/A	Possible brick step or stair feature
	18	Creamware, pearlware (handpainted underglaze, blue floral motif), brass button, Kaolin tobacco pipe	TPQ: ca. 1780 First ¼ 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Isolated brick rubble concentration
	19	Sample: Machine made container glass, architectural debris to 69 inbs; unidentified bone and hard paste porcelain at base of rubble fill	TPQ: ca. 1898 Twentieth century (rubble fill)	Cellar hole 35 x 17' with associated brick foundations
	20	N/A	Modern	Iron pipe
	21	N/A	N/A	Builder's trench associated with F-13

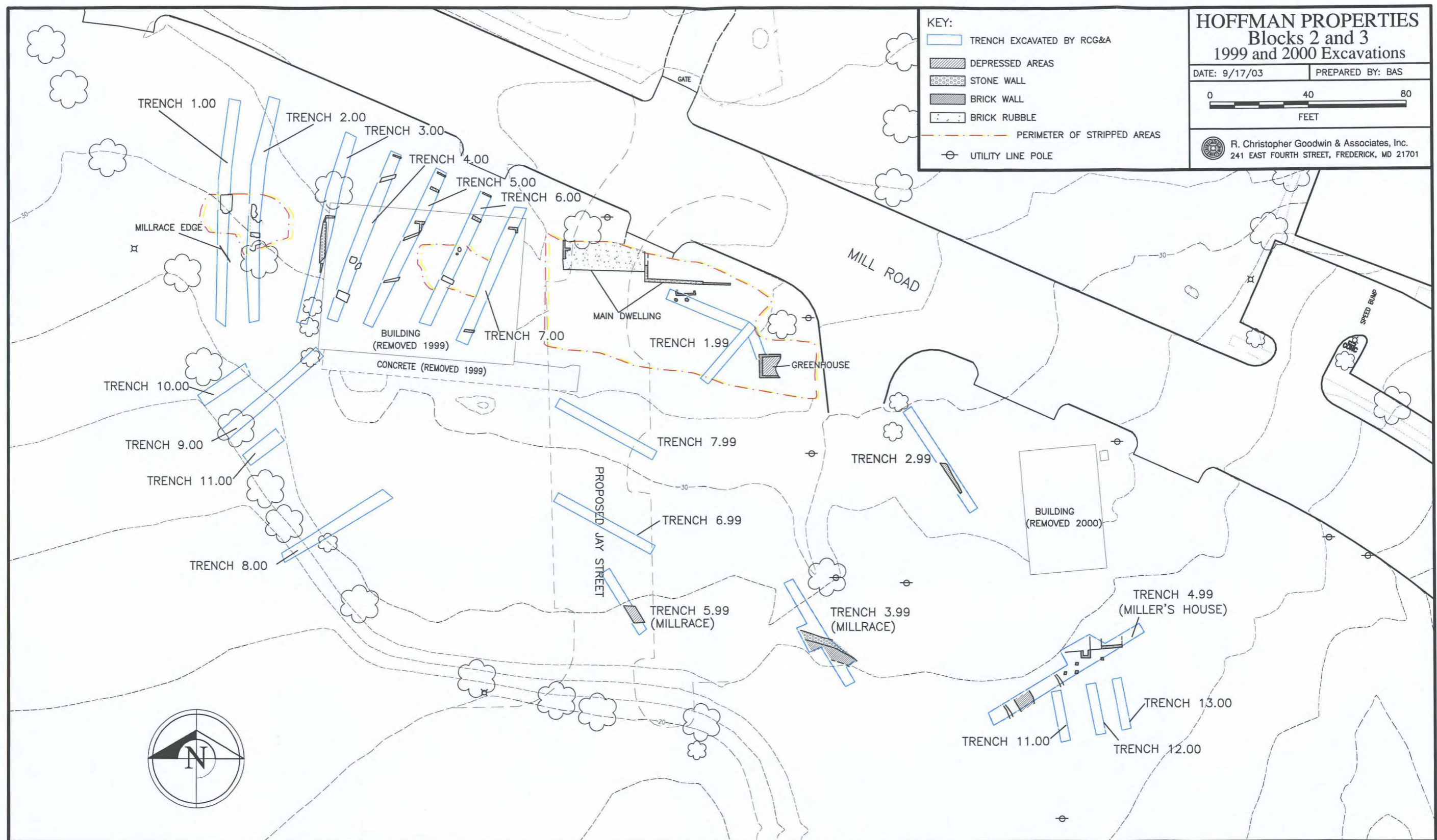
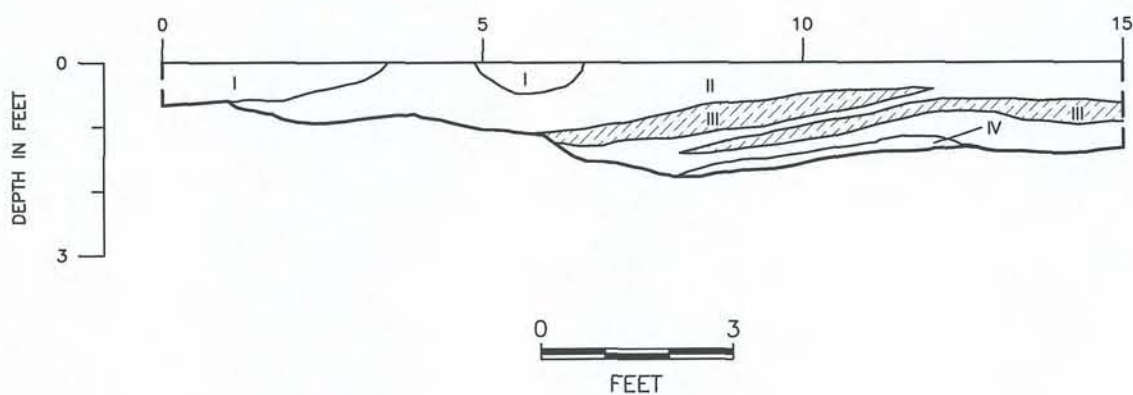


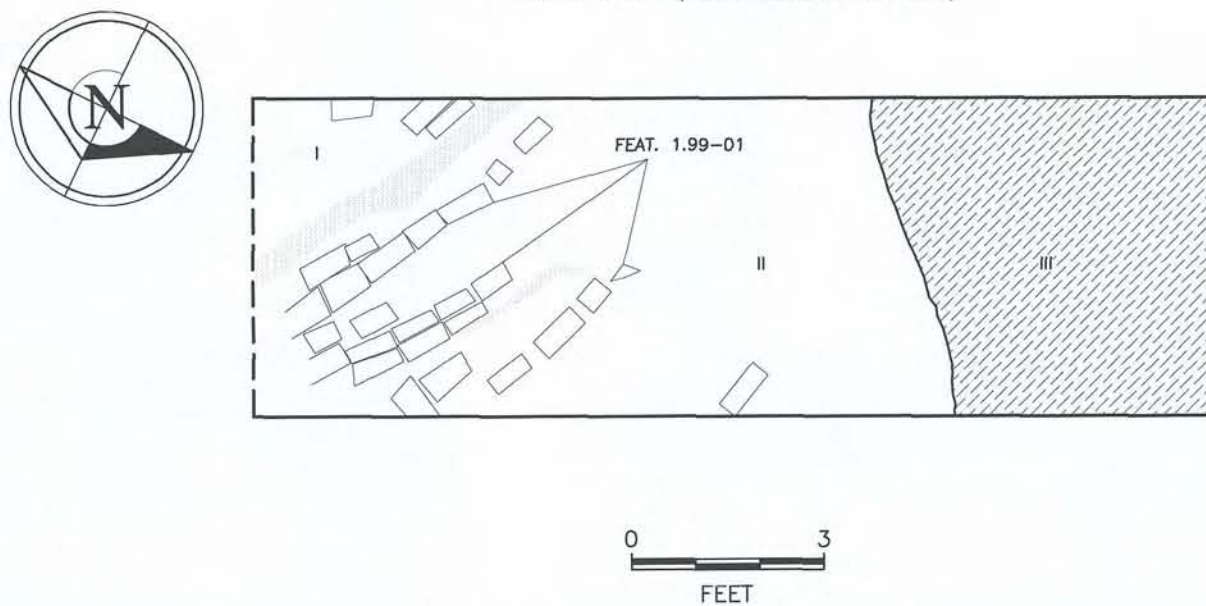
Figure 60. Locations of mechanized test trenches, Phase I and II investigations at Cameron Farm (44AX182)



SOUTHEAST WALL PROFILE (NORTHERN 15 FEET)



PLAN VIEW (NORTHERN 15 FEET)



- I. 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN COARSE SAND
- II. 10YR 3/2 VERY DARK GRAYISH BROWN SANDY LOAM
- III. 10YR 4/1 DARK GRAY SANDY LOAM (FEATURE 1.99-02)
- IV. 10YR 5/1 GRAY SANDY LOAM
- ▨ GRAVEL LENS
- ROOT
- ▭ BRICK

HOFFMAN PHASE I/II  
44AX112: Cameron Mill  
Plan and Profile Views  
Block 3 - Trench 1.99

DATE: 6/23/04

PREPARED BY: BAS



R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.  
241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100 Frederick, MD 21701

Figure 61. Partial profile and plan view, Trench 1.99, showing feature complexes and diminished stratigraphy due to modern grading and filling in and around the project study area



portion of a brick foundation and adjacent brick drain that enclosed a paved brick area (Features 1-01, 1-07 and 1-08)(Figure 62), as well as two brick footers and the corner of a second brick foundation 40 ft west of the first one (Features 1-09, 1-10, 1-11). Historic maps and photographs suggested that these structural features represented an outbuilding and part of the south façade of the Roberts house.

Late nineteenth century photographs of the south elevation of the main dwelling (Figure 58) showed a small brick building near the southeastern corner of the main house in the approximate location of a building that James Roberts had labeled as the “greenhouse” in 1945. The brick foundation and piers at the western end of the extended excavation area (Figure 63) were interpreted as components associated with the Roberts family’s principal residence. Although historic photographs showed what appeared to be ground-level cellar windows in the middle (oldest) section, no evidence of a cellar was found during this stage of excavation. Therefore, the exposed brick features were assumed to represent the foundation of the easternmost section of the house. The orientation of the corners and walls identified in Trench 1 suggested that the remainder of this section of the dwelling, and those dependencies that had stood north of the house, extended north and east into the right-of-way of Mill Road. Phase II evaluation was recommended to determine the extent and integrity of the architectural features within the area that would be impacted by the construction of Jay Street.

The expanded area of exposure during the Phase II portion of this project re-exposed some components, identified additional structural features, and produced a large generalized sample of artifacts that reflected domestic occupation beginning in the first half of the nineteenth century. The additional structural features included an approximately 25 ft long stone foundation (Feature 1-13), oriented at a 98° angle and located between 15 and 23 ft south of Mill Road. This remnant wall represented the foundation of the easternmost section of the three-part Roberts house, which was a 2-story frame addition. Only the bottom course of stone remained; the 16-18 in wide wall apparently had been repaired with bricks in several places.



Figure 62. Site 44AX182, Trench 3/1.98 (Extended): Features 1-07 and 1-08, the foundation and laid brick floor of the presumed greenhouse dependency



Figure 63. Site 44AX182, Trench 3/1.98 (Extended): Portion of stone foundation, and apparent brick porch support for 1848 portion of Roberts house (orientation north)

Two additional groups of features were associated with Feature 1-13. A small C-shaped brick foundation was exposed several feet south of the eastern end of the stone foundation, with two brick footers further south (Figure 63). This cluster of features appeared to mark the location of an entranceway/porch that is visible in some photographs of the house. East of the stone foundation, and aligned at the same angle, was a 10-ft long, two course wide, remnant brick wall (Feature 1-12); of which only one or two courses remained intact. This foundation may represent an earlier porch at the eastern end of the house, the foundations of an earlier addition, or perhaps a separate structure that predated the stone foundation. None of the historic photographs of this end of the house, however, depict any structural appendages.

Adjacent to the western end of the stone foundation was a cellar hole filled with brick rubble (Feature 3/1.98-19) located between 20 and 35 ft south of Mill Road, 15 ft east of an extant cement block storage building, and 4 ft north of the stone foundation (Figure 64). This cellar hole was 34 ft long and also was aligned at 98°. No intact foundation was found along its southern edge, but a partial wall, three bricks wide, was found along its western side. This cellar hole clearly represented the middle, and oldest, section of the Roberts house, which photographs depict as a 1½-story brick building. Exposure of the surface west of the cellar hole revealed no evidence of the third part of the house, a frame kitchen addition at the western end of the complex. Construction and subsequent demolition of the ca. 1962 cinder block storage building likely destroyed most vestiges of this kitchen addition.

A supplementary test trench was mechanically excavated through the rubble fill of Feature 19 to ascertain the depth of the cellar, to look for an intact wall on the south side, and to expose potentially intact floor deposits. Two remnant courses of the south foundation of this building were identified at a depth of 66 inbs (Figure 65); the rudimentary builder's trench behind the wall had been filled with a culturally sterile mixture of coarse sand, gravel and small cobbles. As previously discussed in Chapter IV of this report, this same foundation/cellar hole was relocated and partially cut



Figure 64. Site 44AX182, Trench 3/1.98 (Extended): Overview of Roberts house foundation, including Features 1-09 – 1-13 and Feature 1-19 in background. (Orientation northwest)

through during the installation of a water line in February, 2000. The two other features associated with the complex of foundations exposed at that time (Figures 18 and 19) were reopened and studied in greater detail during the Phase II investigations conducted between April and May 2000.

Investigation of these features produced an artifact assemblage that was recovered primarily from the deposits above the structural features. Analysis of the assemblage from Trench 3/1.99 reflected a generally nineteenth to twentieth century domestic occupation. The surface-collected assemblage included drainpipe fragments, porcelaineous bathroom tiles, plate glass, machine-made container glass, alkaline-glazed stoneware, edged and transfer-printed whiteware, unglazed earthenware flowerpots, and wire nails.

Four test units were excavated to delineate selected structural features more closely. Test Unit 1 was located within the C-shaped brick foundation that was thought to represent the base of a porch/entryway into the eastern section of the house. The shallow stratigraphy within this unit consisted of a 4-in thick lens of brown (7.5YR 4/4) sand mottled with brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) silty sand that overlay sterile subsoil. Artifacts from this deposit, recovered from within the footers for the porch/entranceway, included two Liberty Head pennies, one dating to 1800; late eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century ceramics; a high density of nails and window glass; a marble; and a shoe buckle. It is tempting to interpret the relatively early dates of the materials from this sub-assemblage either as indicating that this portion of the house was constructed during the early nineteenth century or that the Roberts family had built upon an earlier foundation or in the location of an earlier structure. However, the presence in the same sample of later ceramics, coupled with the shallow depth of the deposit itself, renders such an interpretation somewhat speculative.

Test Unit 2 was placed to investigate the deposits at the base of the foundation of the central brick portion of the Cameron Farmhouse, after the overlying brick rubble fill had been removed. This

unit revealed a thin (0.5 in) deposit of very dark grayish brown to very dark gray (10YR 3/2 - 3/1) silt containing coal ash, burnt wood and brick fragments; only window glass was recovered from this matrix, which probably relates to the fire that reportedly destroyed the house. Below this was a 1 in thick layer of yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) clayey coarse sand with brick fragments. Only two bones and one fragment of ceramic were retrieved from this stratum, which represented the cellar floor and was underlain by sterile subsoil.

Test Unit 4 was placed along the south side of the stone foundation (Feature 3/99.1-13) to test the builder's trench for that feature. Unfortunately, the wall had been truncated so severely that only a very shallow builder's trench remained. Filled with mottled dark brown and yellowish-brown sandy loam and sandy clay with some brick fragments, the feature yielded no artifacts, thereby precluding the assignment of a date or date range for the stone foundation.

Test Unit 5 was placed along the south side of the brick wall (Feature 3/99.1-12) east of the stone wall to locate a builder's trench that could help to date this portion of the structure. This foundation also had been truncated to such an extent that no builder's trench remained, again rendering it impossible to determine a construction date for the foundation.

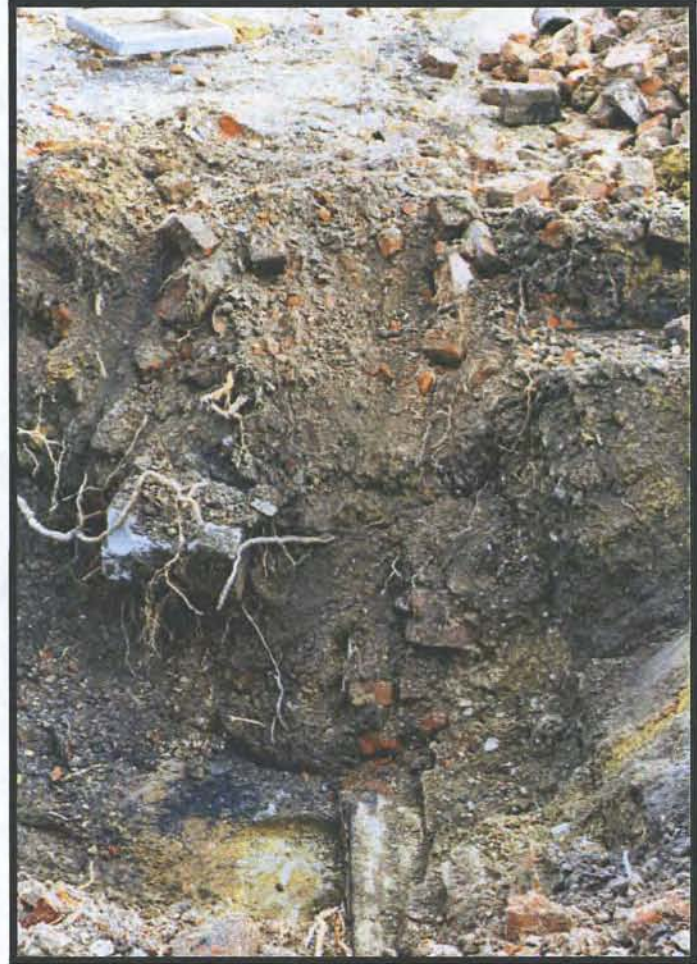


Figure 65. Site 44AX182, Block 3, Test Unit 2: Profile of stratigraphy within brick filled basement of original portion of the Cameron Farm House, showing ash level and remnant brick courses at bottom of unit

## Phase II (2000) Results

Early in 2000, excavations for a relocated water line extending from Block 4 northward to Mill Road exposed the southeastern corner of the rubble-filled cellar hole filled (identified temporarily as F-4, but identical with F-19) together with associated walls and other structural features (see Figures 17 and 18). The trench for the re-routed waterline split this complex of associated features and exposed components in both the east and west walls of the utility trench. Because these components were related architecturally/structurally, they were assigned a single temporary feature designation (F-4 [a and b]) to acknowledge their inter-relatedness.

Exposure of the east wall of the utility trench (Figure 18) revealed a complex of features that included a circular wall, a brick lined floor and a linear wall. As this portion of the feature was cleaned and disturbed soils were removed, a square sheet iron object, tentatively identified as a furnace "stoker box" and partially encircled by a single-course brick wall, was revealed. The wall surrounding this stoker box had been constructed when the box itself was installed. The circular wall

in turn abutted tangentially an east-west extending, double course, linear wall laid in American bond. The intervening cavity between the circular wall and the linear wall had been filled with rubble, and had been consolidated further by pouring a loose mortar over and into the rubble to fill any gaps.

What appeared to be several wall lines, possibly representing a remnant chimney base, were exposed in the west wall of the waterline trench, directly opposite and west of Feature 4-a. This complex of wall lines was designated temporarily as Feature 4-b (Figure 19).

Phase II investigations were initiated to investigate all of these features further and to identify additional ones during the spring of 2000. These investigations were carried out in a similar fashion to those of 1999, utilizing mechanical stripping and excavation followed by mapping and manual testing of specific features selected in consultation with the staff of Alexandria Archaeology (Figure 66). Three components of the immediate domestic complex of the Cameron Farm were studied: the main dwelling (Feature 1/99.19), the greenhouse (Feature 1/98.07, 08; 3/00.04), and the smokehouse (Feature 3/00.04). Three test units (TUs 8, 11, 12) were placed to investigate the smokehouse and greenhouse dependencies; Test Units 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 exposed specific components of the main house complex.

Smokehouse (Feature 3/00.54). Generalized stripping of the yard area surfaces south of the main Cameron farmhouse exposed a combination of brick and cobble features in the approximate location of the former smokehouse. The function and approximate location of this structure had been mapped and identified by Dr. John Roberts in 1945 (see Figure 28), and the structure also appeared in late nineteenth century photographs of the south façade of the farmhouse dwelling (Figure 59). Mechanical stripping and unit excavation showed that the 12 x 12 ft building had been located approximately 20 ft south of the original (brick) section of the main farmhouse. The northernmost portion of this foundation, laid in English bond with alternating header and stretcher courses, was generally intact, as was its brick floor, comprised of sequential rows of staggered stretchers. The building apparently was approached from the house site by a brick walkway and accessed through a 3.5 ft wide doorway in the northwest corner, archeologically represented by a single course of "rowlock" brick. A concentration of window glass and nails overlying the north wall of the structure immediately east of this doorway suggested that a window might have pierced the north façade of the building (although windows were not generally inserted into smokehouses). One brick and cobble drain, which converged with the building at the northwest corner, directed runoff westward and away from the smokehouse.

Test Unit 11 (Figure 67) was placed to intersect the northwestern corner of the smokehouse foundation and clarify the relationship of the drain, the walkway, the laid brick floor, and portions of the building foundation, including the rowlock brickwork. Stratigraphic profiles indicated that both the walkway and the cobble/brick drain were surrounded by and overlaid with the top stratum (0.8 – 1.3 ft bd) of the test unit, suggesting that these features post-dated the construction of the building itself. Removal of the structural material (i.e., the bricks and cobbles) from these features and examination of the soil matrix surrounding them yielded the largest (n=54) assortment of associated cultural materials, including construction hardware, ceramics (redware, stoneware, whiteware), bone, and buttons. The walkway and drain features apparently had acted to channel and trap colluvial soils and domestic artifacts that washed down from the area around the main dwelling. Removal of portions of the foundation and examination of the matrices below it (Strata 3 and 4) yielded a total of 13 artifacts; the small sample (n=6) of dateable ceramics in this sub-assembly included somewhat earlier types, like creamware (n=1) and hand-painted pearlware. Feature 56, an associated posthole located immediately west of the foundation corner, yielded only non-diagnostic nails and glass. When tested, another purported posthole (Feature 59) turned out to be a tree root run.

Test Unit 12 (Figure 68) defined the northeastern corner of the structure, but yielded little archeological evidence that could clarify the date of the building's construction. Absent such evidence, the most that can be supported by the scant artifactual and structural evidence is that the smokehouse probably was built during the first half of the nineteenth century, and modified thereafter.

Greenhouse (Features 3/99.1-07 and 08). Although the remains of the greenhouse that stood southeast of the main dwelling at Cameron Farm initially were identified and designated as Features 3/99.1-07/08 during the Phase I investigations in early 1999, they were not formally tested at that time. During the Phase II excavations in 2000, a formal test unit (Test Unit #8) was opened to determine, if possible, a date for this structure. This unit, which measured 2 x 4 ft, was placed to intersect and overlap the southwestern corner of the structure.

Previous investigations and clearing of additional overburden revealed a brick floor surrounded by a double-course brick wall approximately 18 in thick (Figure 69). To some extent, the structural similarities between this building and the smokehouse, including the presence of a fairly extensive drainage system and a laid brick floor, suggested that the two structures may have been constructed at approximately the same time.

Removal of the brick foundation and flooring materials (classed as Strata I/II) revealed that a thin layer of 10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown sand had been used to provide the underlayment for the brick floor. A total of seven artifacts were recovered from these strata, of which one, a fragment of Rockingham glazed yellow ware, provided a general *terminus post quem* of approximately 1830. Within Stratum IV, a 10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown clay loam, seven artifacts also were recovered, including a 5/64" diameter pipe stem and a fragment of colored-glazed whiteware; these two items again suggested a date falling within the earlier years of the nineteenth century. In terms of function, none of the artifacts recovered from this unit conveyed its assigned function of "greenhouse," but represented instead a fairly typical domestic assemblage.

It should be noted in passing that a rose quartz Morrow Mountain Stemmed projectile point/knife was recovered from the overburden layer surrounding this feature; however, due to its lack of context, its recovery added little to the site's occupational history.

Main Dwelling (Feature 3/1.99-19). Both James Roberts' sketch of the main Cameron farm dwelling (Figure 27) and photographs of the house taken during the late nineteenth century (Figures 56-58) demonstrate clearly the "telescoped" configuration of the main dwelling at Cameron Farm. The Phase I investigations in 1999 had suggested that twentieth century commercial development had removed the four westernmost frame components of the main dwelling (labeled by Dr. Roberts as the dining room, kitchen, work room and woodshed/storeroom), but that the structural elements associated with the original brick central block and the easternmost ca. 1848 two-story frame addition had remained relatively intact. Phase II work therefore focused on identifying and documenting what was left of the structure, and, if possible, dating the construction of its earliest component.

To achieve these objectives, additional mechanized clearing was undertaken to remove much of the rubble overburden from around, atop and within the previously identified rubble-filled cellar hole of the central brick portion of the dwelling, followed by the placement of five excavation test units at feature locations that were jointly agreed upon between the staff of Alexandria Archaeology and the project team (Figure 60). The process exposed/re-exposed all of the surviving foundation walls of the original (central) 1½ story brick dwelling, and components associated with the western foundation of the 1848 addition that the Roberts family had constructed.

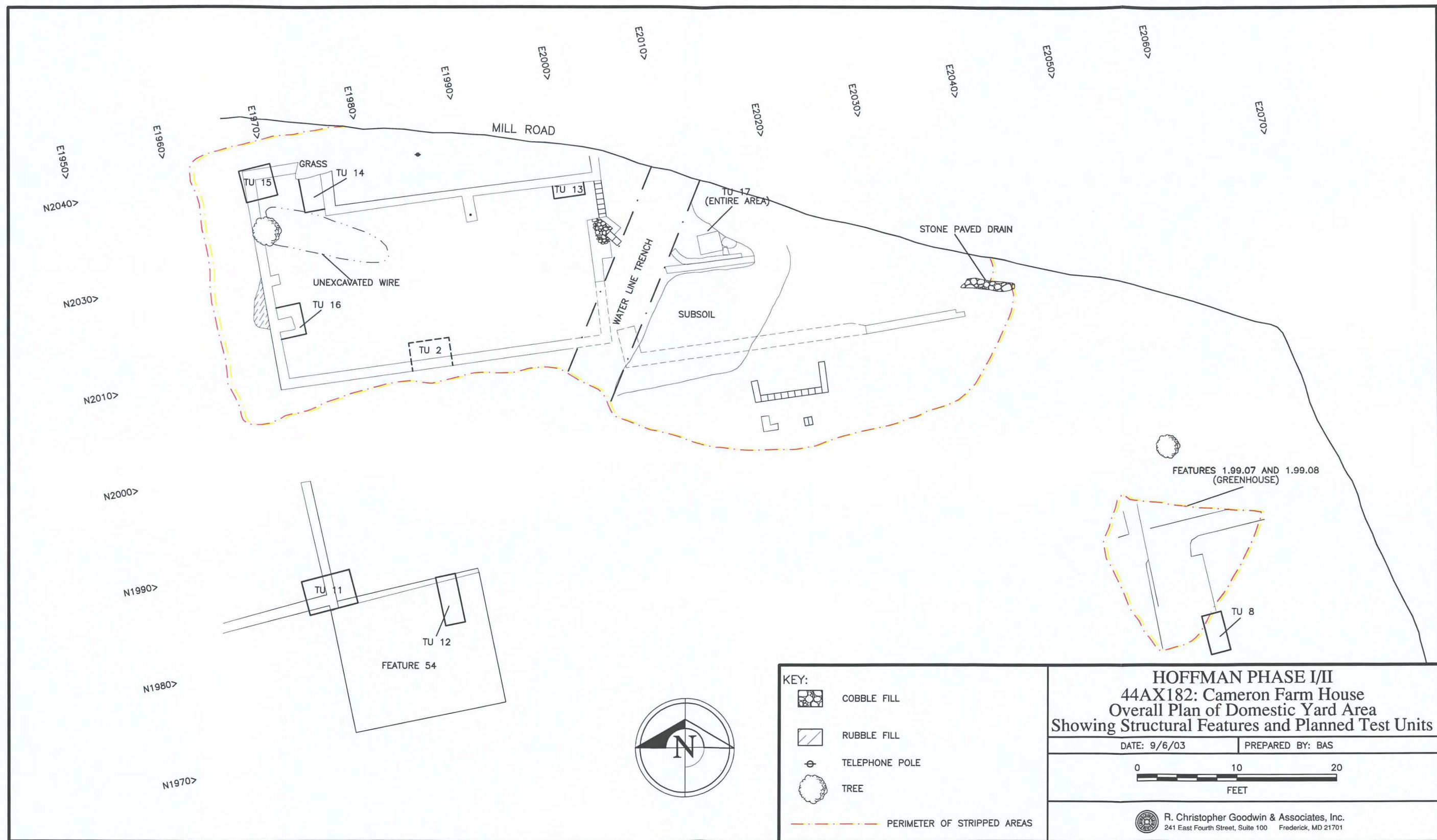


Figure 66. Plan view of the Cameron Farmhouse excavations, showing locations of principal components and placement of test units





Figure 67. Test Unit 11, smokehouse, showing detail of drains and rowlock brick indicating the possible location of the building's entrance (orientation south)



Figure 68. Test Unit 12, smokehouse, showing northeastern foundation wall and laid brick floor (orientation north)



Figure 69. Overview of greenhouse structure, showing laid brick floor, surrounding foundation walls (orientation northeast)

*Central block of original dwelling.*

The rectangular brick foundation of the original dwelling (previously designated as Feature 19 during the Phase I excavations and tested at that time) measured approximately 35 ft in length (east-west) and 17.5 ft wide (north-south). The Phase I/II testing regime of 1999 had demonstrated that the entire basement cavity was filled with a variety of architectural materials, primarily (75 per cent) brick, with other architectural elements such as plumbing materials, mixed in. The general nature of this fill suggested that the superstructure of this section of the house had collapsed or deposited *en masse* into the cellar hole.

Several major architectural elements were recovered from this debris fill, including five window or doorsills or lintels (measuring from 3.0 to 5.4 ft long, 0.7 ft wide, and 0.4 ft thick) and three well-worn entrance steps (3.8 ft long, 2.3 ft wide, and 0.5 ft thick). Some of the sills/lintels (Figure 70) had metal pegs (or holes to insert same) for attaching the element to the building.



Figure 70. Detail of stone window sills or lintels recovered from rubble fill in the basement of the main dwelling at Cameron Farm

The steps displayed mortise holes at their ends, possibly to receive upright wooden posts to support handrails (Figure 71). Both sills and steps were fashioned of a gray stone that resembled Aquia sandstone

*Building Foundation.* The surviving walls of the main dwelling foundation were 1.1 ft wide, 17 courses deep, and had been laid in American bond; the interior of the cellar had been whitewashed. Mechanical clearing of the interior basement fill exposed additional architectural features. A partially intact brick floor remnant was documented in the western half of the basement; this feature, which had been constructed principally of handmade brick laid in “rowlock” fashion, appeared to have been repaired with machine-made brick in some places. Two freestanding brick piers also were exposed at the midpoints of the northern (Figure 72) and western (Figure 73) walls of the foundation. These elements, possibly added post-construction, may have functioned as a sort of buttress to stabilize the main foundation walls.

Two openings also pierced the building foundation. Projecting from the northwestern corner, a deliberately designed bulkhead entryway (Feature 3/99.1.19-4), that measured on its interior approximately 5 x 6 ft, protruded northward from the main block of the structure and provided access to the basement from the outside. The second opening, which pierced the east foundation wall at the northeastern corner of the building, apparently had been cut through the foundation rather than being designed as an original feature of the main structure. This opening served to connect the main basement with the “coal hopper/stoker box” and its associated wall and floor complex (Feature 3/99.1.19-2) in the partial cellar beneath the 1848 addition to the original house.

Two test units (TUs 13 and 16)(Figures 72 and 73) were placed on the inside of the cellar at the base of the main foundation to clarify construction techniques, locate any possible builder’s trenches, and to obtain artifact



Figure 71. Detail of stone step recovered from rubble fill in the basement of the main dwelling at Cameron Farm, showing mortise holes for insertion of railings

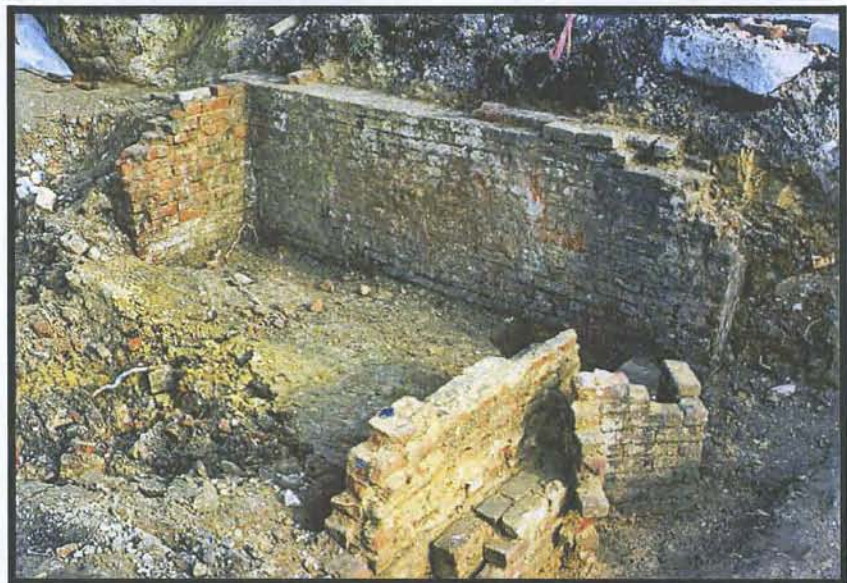


Figure 72. Test Unit 13, north wall, main house, showing brick pier and opening to 1848 addition basement



Figure 73. Test Unit 16, west wall, main house, showing brick pier as independent architectural element

assemblages that might establish the early chronology of the original portion of the dwelling. Both test units displayed similar stratigraphy. From the top courses of the remaining foundation wall, several strata of mixed (10YR 3/2 very dark gray and 10YR 4/3 brown) silty and sandy loam mixed and heavy architectural debris extended vertically for approximately 4 ft to the clay floor of the basement. As expected, the abundant (TU 13: n=29; TU 16: n=512) artifactual assemblages recovered from these upper fill strata represented a functional and temporal mixture of early nineteenth to mid-twentieth century materials. Items such as plumbing fixtures, electrical insulators, .22 and .38 cal. shell casings, and post-Prohibition alcoholic beverage bottles clearly established the *terminus post quem* for these fill levels as mid-twentieth century. Test windows that penetrated the underlying clay floor yielded slightly earlier nineteenth century materials, including transitional pearlware/whiteware, machine-cut nails, and mold-blown glass. No intact, archeologically discrete, sub-assemblages that clearly pre-dated an early nineteenth century time frame were recovered from these test units.

The test units along the foundation did, however, reveal one rather curious architectural feature. The entire brick foundation of this section had been constructed deliberately upon a base composed of unmortared river cobbles/gravels. The purpose of this cobblestone base course, which is clearly visible in Figure 73, is unclear. However, given the occasionally high water table and slow percolation and drainage through the dense clay subsoil in this area, one plausible explanation is that this cobble/gravel base could retard the process of moisture “wicking” into the brick foundation and thereby decrease humidity buildup within the building’s cellar (Katherine Grandine, Personal Communication 2003).

*Bulkhead Entrance.* Test units 14 and 15 were positioned to delineate the structural details of a 4 ft-square basement bulkhead entrance (Feature 3/99.19.4) located at the extreme northwest corner of the main dwelling (Figure 74). Historic photographs of the north face of the farmhouse



Figure 74. General view of northwest quadrant of main house, showing the location of the bulkhead entrance relative to other features discussed in this section

(Figure 57) indicate that a frame shed enclosure had been constructed at the western end of the porch to enclose this outside entryway.

The three exterior brick walls of this feature were two courses (approximately 9 in) wide, and the bulkhead opened directly into the basement/cellar of the original dwelling, although the walls of the two features did not interlock structurally. The finished edges of the main building foundation (Figure 75) demonstrate that the opening into the cellar at this point had been an original component of the building's design. The fact that the bulkhead walls were constructed separately from those of the main foundation implies that this bulkhead may have replaced an earlier similar feature. Moreover, the obvious break in the brickwork pattern so clearly visible in the bulkhead's eastern wall (Figures 75 and 76) raises the possibility that the bulkhead may have been repaired or modified after its original installation.

The fill removed from atop this feature (Figure 77) consisted primarily of construction debris, such as brick, plaster and mortar contained within a matrix of 10YR 4/3 brown or 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown loam similar to that removed from other test units within the building's foundation. The large (TU 14: n=317; TU 15: n=262) artifact assemblages from the fill strata recovered from these test units comprised a mixture of such nineteenth century materials as whiteware and mold-blown container glass with obviously twentieth century items such as plastic, automobile parts, and electric insulators.

A small test window was placed into the relatively undisturbed (e.g., non-fill) clay stratum at the base of the entryway. The unit yielded a total of 24 artifacts, including 10 fragments of a small polychrome handpainted pearlware/whiteware bowl with a floral motif (ca. 1810-1840); undecorated domestic gray salt-glazed stoneware; two fragments of an unglazed coarse redware chimney liner; at least one fragment of mold-blown container glass, and a construction spike. This assemblage would



Figure 75. Test Unit 14: Detail of east wall, bulkhead entrance, showing the lower “ramp” feature, and the junction between the main house foundation and bulkhead wall

seem to indicate the earliest use date for the structure as late in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, and it is temporally and stratigraphically comparable with that recovered from the test “window” excavated into the cellar’s clay floor in Test Unit 13.

*Heating system component/1848 Addition.* The two architectural features that initially had been located and mapped during the waterline relocation portion of the project were re-opened and delineated further during the Phase II work. Feature 3/99.19.1 (Figure 19) was a segment of the western foundation of the 1848 addition. Constructed immediately adjacent to the easternmost foundation of the main (original) dwelling, the foundation of the 1848 addition was only two bricks (approximately 9 in) thick. An interlocking “Z-shaped” feature, possibly a pier, composed of single bricks laid in common bond, overlay the 1848 foundation, but did not interlock with it. The cavity formed by part of the “Z”-shaped feature had been filled with a mixture of cobbles and cement, possibly to lend additional stability or support in this area of the building.

Feature 3/99.19.2 initially was identified as the base of a metal coal or ash hopper (Figure 78) related to the central heating system for the house; Roberts family descendants subsequently confirmed that there had been a furnace in the basement near the center of the building (Burke and Hoppe 2003). This portion of the basement was accessed through a doorway that had been deliberately cut through the east foundation wall of the original brick dwelling. The hopper base rested on a brick floor and it was enclosed within a circular wall, one brick thick. The circular brick wall in turn abutted a brick partition wall that defined the 1848 partial basement. The complete furnace apparatus, most of which had been removed, resembles closely the illustration pictured in Figure 79, a print that originally appeared in an 1857 history of manufacturing in the United States (Ferguson 1976:169). Structural elements of the lowest portion of the 1857 system bear a striking similarity to the features found in the ground, including the centrally placed ash hopper installed on a brick floor and the double brick walls that surround the ash/coal hopper. As the 1857 drawing illustrates, this type of system drew in cool air at the bottom of the brick chamber. This air supply

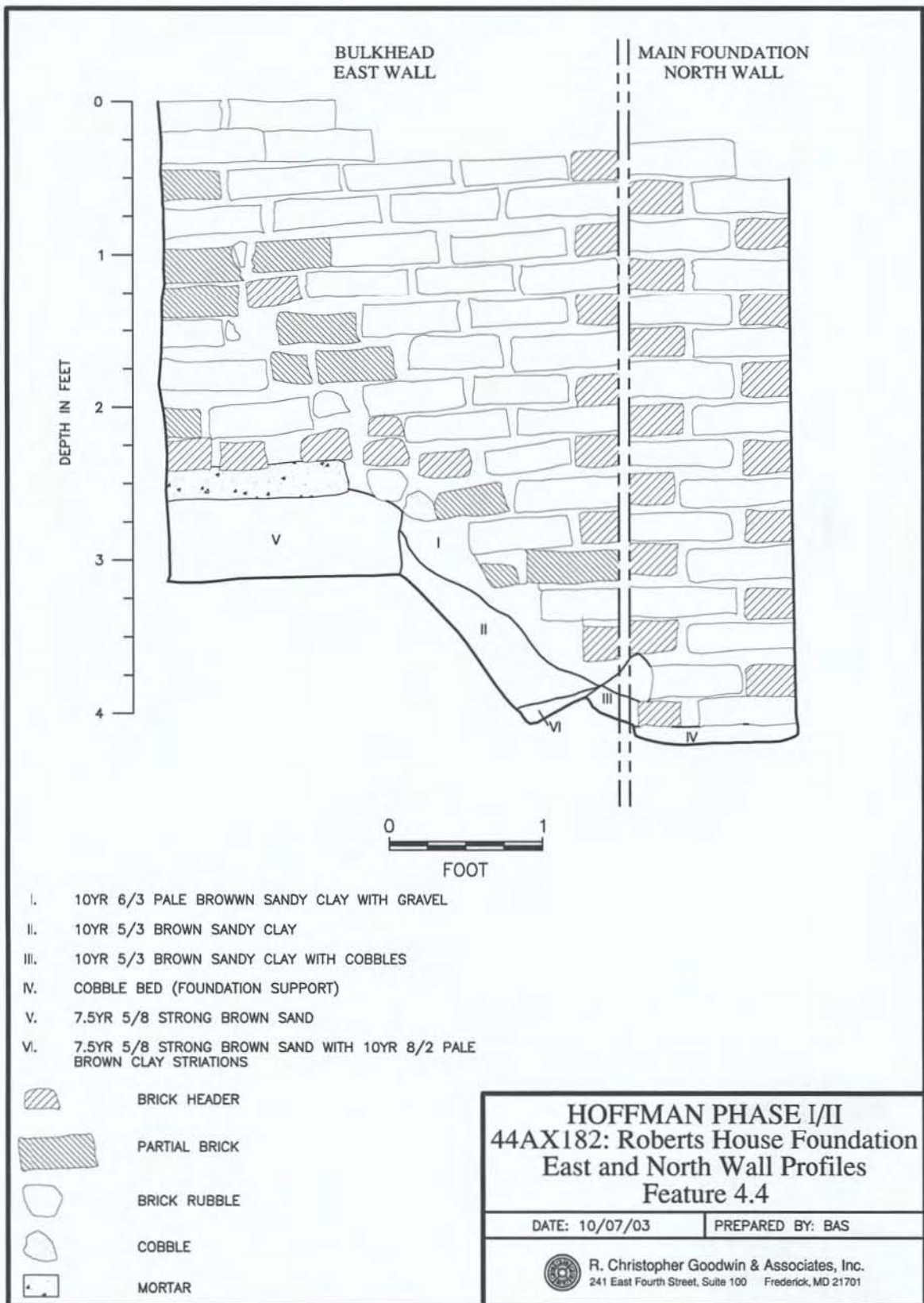


Figure 76. Test Unit 14: Profile of east wall, bulkhead entrance

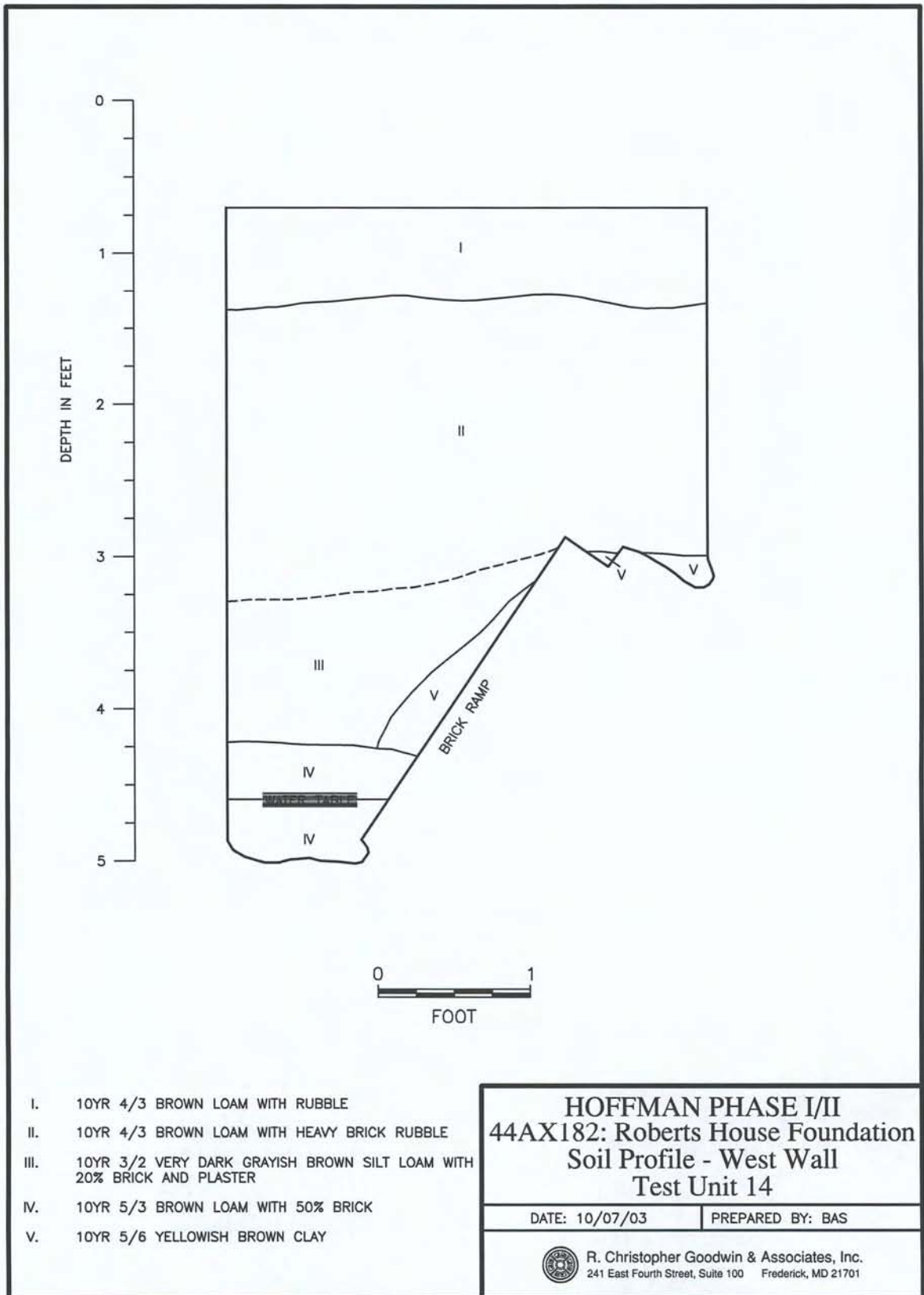


Figure 77. Test Unit 14: Profile of west wall, showing fill strata overlying ramp feature



Figure 78. Photograph of excavated coal hopper beneath the 1848 addition to the Cameron farmhouse

warmed as it circulated around the internal metal cones of the furnace, and then rose and circulated through the house by means of “hot air pipes” that exited from the top of the furnace chamber. However, because there was no device to force the warm air through the pipes and circulate it throughout the building, the house was always cold in winter, as Jean Burke (Burke and Hoppe 2003) observed.

#### Main Dwelling House: The Outer Yard Landscape (Block 2)(Area B)

The “domestic yard” space between the main house and the millrace was located within Block 2 of the Hoffman property. Eleven mechanized trenches (Figure 60) were excavated within this area during the supplemental Phase I testing program in 2000. To distinguish these new trenches from those trenches and units previously dug during the 1998 – 1999 Phase I effort, a numeric prefix designating the block and the year (\*/\*00) was used to identify each trench. Seven trenches were placed within the yard area south and west of the main dwelling; two trenches (#8.00 and #9.00) were excavated along the perimeter of this area specifically to trace the headrace for Cameron Mill; and two trenches (#10.00 and #11.00) were dug along the extreme western boundary of Block 2 to investigate and further define the boundaries of a possible eighteenth century crushed brick “floor” feature that was exposed during the excavation of Trench #9.00. Features and test units were numbered sequentially as they were encountered. Table 7 presents a list of features recorded in the mechanized trenches in Block 2

In general, excavation of these units produced mixed results and demonstrated once again that modern development in many areas of the block had been very destructive of the property’s

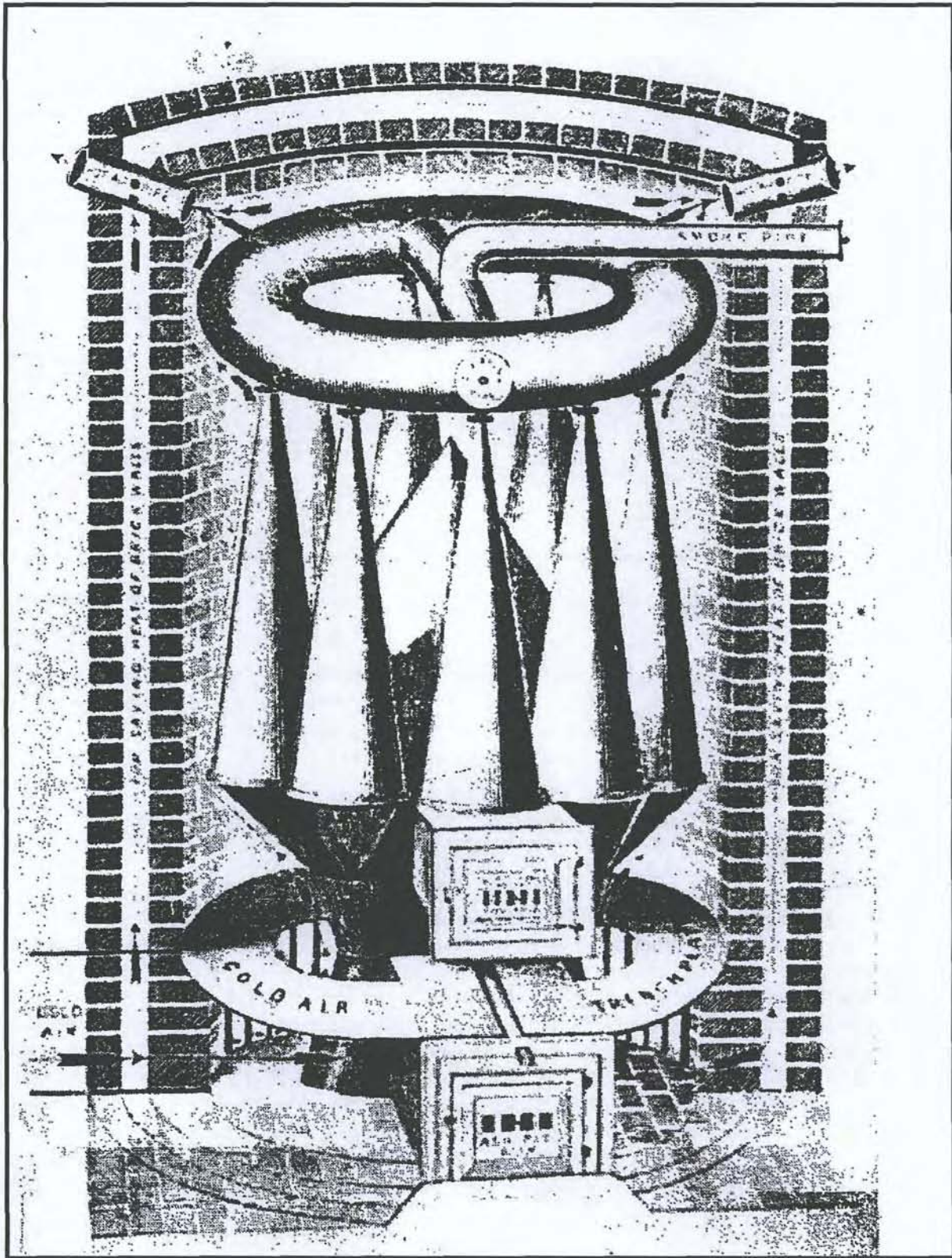


Figure 79. Illustration from Ferguson (1976), showing operation of furnace central heating system similar to the configuration identified in the basement area of the 1848 section of the main dwelling house

archeological resources. Figure 80 represents a schematic profile of an east west "slice" across Block 2, using generic profiles recorded for the seven mechanized trenches. The varying degrees of fill, including gravel that had been introduced as surfacing for parking areas and yellowish brown sandy clay with heavy cobble inclusions, coupled with the relatively shallow depths to subsoil, collectively illustrate the destructive nature of the activities that had occurred within Block 2 during the preceding four decades. Modern construction/demolition related disturbances were most intrusive near the center of the block (Trench 5.00), in the general area where the ca. 1960s-era cinder block warehouse had stood until its demolition during the summer of 1999. Pockets of cinder block rubble in the two adjacent trenches, at depths of between 15 and 21 in below the surface (inbs), also reflected the degree of disturbance that had resulted from modern construction and demolition episodes. As this profile suggests, the potential for intact archeological resources proved to be greatest along the eastern and western fringes of the block, where sub-surface disturbance had been somewhat less disruptive.

Trench 2/1.00. Mechanized Trench 1 was located on the western edge of Block 2 approximately 50 ft east of the eastern boundary of an existing Hoffman Center parking lot. Initial exposure of this 95 ft. long trench revealed several potential features; to delineate these stains and to establish horizontal continuity with features uncovered in Trench 2, part of this mechanized unit later was expanded east and west. Figure 81 details the numerous features that were exposed within this expanded area.

Ten features were identified in Trench 1 and its eastern and western extensions (Table 7), two of which were large, artifact-rich concentrations. Feature 1, a large dark stain with a strong odor, initially was thought to be a privy. Although the surface and an excavated quarter section of this feature yielded a large artifact assemblage (n=137) that included numerous nineteenth century ceramics, further testing revealed that the feature was shallow, and possibly represented a remnant A horizon that may have been located near the millrace (Feature 20) with its stagnant water. Feature 31, a second large stain that originally appeared to be part of Feature 1, was the result of tree removal in 1999; a random sample collected from the resulting spoil included 206 additional artifacts similar to those obtained from Feature 1. Feature 48 was a squarish stain located beneath Feature 1. Despite the presence of "early" material (e.g., creamware and pearlware) in the assemblage, the collective *terminus post quem* for this complex of related features suggested, at the very least, a late nineteenth to early twentieth century date (post-1891, based on a maker's mark that indicated the vessel's country of origin) for these deposits.

Seven features (#2, 37, 38, 39, 40, 46, and 47) were postholes and postmolds with a variety of configurations. These represented the remains of one or more fencelines, at least one of which was located adjacent to the millrace. Augering of several of these postholes produced few, if any, dateable materials.

Trench 2/2.00. Trench 2 was located approximately 15 ft east of, and roughly parallel to, Trench 1, and measured approximately 90 ft in length. Five features (#4, 5, 24, 44, and 45) were identified within the original trench. Although Feature 4 first appeared as a 6-8 ft long soil stain, further excavation revealed that it was two separate features: a dark oblong stain interpreted as a telephone pole hole, and a small rectangular stain. Two posthole/postmold features (#44 and 45) were located beneath Feature 24, which was a pipe trench with the broken pipe visible in its walls; the fenceline represented by these features therefore predated the installation of the utility pipe.

The features exposed within the original confines of Trench 2 prompted its expansion to the east, to encompass an area measuring roughly 15 x 25 ft. Eight features (#32, 33, 34, 35, 41, 42, 43, and 51) were identified in this area, including several postholes and post molds. The most

**Table 7. Mechanized trenches, features, and numbered test units excavated in Block 2 (2000)**

Block/ Trench #	Feature #	TU#	Associated Artifact Assemblage	TPQ/Date range	Analysis, comments
2/1.00	1	N/A (sample)			Possible privy (no) (56 ft s)
	2	N/A			Possible post hole (78 ft south)
	3	N/A	Concrete rubble, wet organic material		Probable fill of mill race (85-100 ft south)
	20	N/A			Dark organic linear stain: edge of millrace
	31	N/A Auger tested	Sterile soil at auger points; previous surface collection included 206 items; Primarily ceramics and machine made glass	TPQ: 1898 late 19 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Root hole created by unauthorized removal of trees (August 1999)
2/1.00 East Ext	36	N/A			Semi-rectangular dark stain west of Feature 4
	37	N/A			Intact fence post (mold) west of Feature 4
	38	N/A			Post hole associated with Feature 37
	46	N/A			Post mold
	47	N/A			Post hole for Feature 46
2/1.00 West Ext	39	N/A			Post mold (burnt)
	40	N/A			Post hole for Feature 39
	48	N/A			Square greyish stain (beneath NW quadrant of Feature 01.
2/2.00	4	N/A			Possible east edge of Feature 1 (Trench 2/1.00)(44 – 53 ft south)
	5	N/A			Probable utility line trench; appears as scatter of mottled soil and artifacts at 57-62 ft south
	6	N/A			Wet organic fill (82-92 ft south)
	21	N/A			Dark organic linear stain: edge of millrace
	24	N/A			Possible post hole and mold below utility line trench (Feature 5)
	44	N/A			Post mold
	45	N/A			Post hole for Feature 44
2/2.00 East Ext	32	N/A			Laid stone “corner” foundation
	33				Post hole with post, east of Feature 32
	34	N/A			Square post hole
	35				Post mold within Feature 34
	41				Post hole (small circular black stain)
	42				Semi-ovate stain with artifact concentration

Block/ Trench #	Feature #	TU#	Associated Artifact Assemblage	TPQ/Date range	Analysis, comments
	43				Squarish black stain east of Feature 42
	51				Builder's trench for Feature 32 (Stone foundation)
	52				Robber trench for Feature 32 (Stone foundation)
2/3.00	N/A	N/A			Complex of cement and cinder block features associated with building demolished 8/99; features not numbered.
2/4.00	7	N/A			Concentration of historic artifacts @ 9-14 ft. south
	8	N/A			Amorphous dark stain with artifacts; probable rodent burrow @ 46 – 51 ft south
	9	N/A			Dark stain with artifacts and brickbats @ 61-65 ft south
2/5.00	10	STP-2			Dark stain with artifacts @ 26 – 31 ft south; probable tree root
	11	STP-1			Dark stain with artifacts @ 28-35 ft south; parallel to Feature 10; utility pipe trench
	12	N/A			Dark Stain with artifacts @ 47-51 ft south
2/6.00	13	2			Possible post hole @ 26 – 27.5 ft south
	14	N/A	Whiteware and tobacco pipe fragments		Dark stain with artifacts @ 28 – 34 ft south
	15	N/A			Pocket of brick and mortar @ 37 – 41 ft south
	25				Semi-square, possible postmold near Feature 13
	50	3			Postmold within Feature 25
2/6.00 West Ext	26				Dark linear stain parallel to modern foundation
	27		Pearlware fragments		Dark amorphous stain with domestic artifacts
2/6.00 East Ext	28	4	Domestic artifacts, brick rubble		Dark amorphous stain; sheet midden
	29				Dark amorphous stain north of Feature 28; complex includes concrete pier
	30				Dark semi-rectangular stain with laid brick
	50	3			Eroding sandy soil with high density cobbles; possible utility trench
2/7.00	16				Defined area of brick and mortar; possible surfacing
	17				Defined area of brick and mortar; possible surfacing; south of Feature 16. Cast concrete block separates f-16 and F-17.
2/8.00	18				Dark organic area (millrace feature)
2/9.00	19				Dark organic area (millrace feature)
	22				Possible linear brick feature; possible foundation
	23	1, 5, 6			Brick rubble concentration
2/10.00	23				Continuation of brick rubble concentration
2/11.00	23				Continuation of brick rubble concentration

interesting of these was Feature #32, the remnant foundation of a small (estimated dimensions approximately 9 x 9 ft) mortared stone foundation and its shallow associated builder's and robber's trenches (Features 51 and 52). The foundation was made of a non-local sedimentary stone, possibly slate or gneiss. The severely truncated western and northern walls had been removed in the past (Figure 82). Because neither the foundation itself nor its remnant builder's trench yielded any significant temporally diagnostic cultural materials, assignment of a date or affiliation to this feature was not possible.

However, a relative chronological scenario established by aspects of nearby posthole features suggested that Feature 32 might be associated with a relatively early occupation of the property. Features 34 and 35 (Figure 82) represented a very deep posthole/postmold complex that was located approximately 5 ft west of Feature 32. This related complex, together with three other similar features (Features 33, 37/38, and 39/40) spaced at approximately 10 ft intervals, described a fenceline that extended southeast to northwest across the western portion of the Block 2. Features 34/35 were bisected, and half the contents of each sub-feature were excavated as separate components to obtain chronological data on their installation. In general, the sparse assemblage from these features yielded a generic "late nineteenth-early twentieth century" temporal association. Excavators in the field also noted that stones similar to those comprising Feature 32, the nearby wall, apparently had been utilized to brace the late nineteenth century fencepost. Thus, the evidence suggested that the small structure represented by Features 32/51/52 had been built and demolished prior to the installation of this fence.

Trench 2/3.00. Trench 3 was located 30 ft east of Trench 2; the larger interval was required needed in order to preserve a straight trench alignment. The principal features identified in this roughly 85 ft long trench were two concrete footers and a cinder-block foundation that represented the remains of the commercial building that occupied this site through the summer of 1999. No additional pre-modern features were identified in this trench.

Trench 2/4.00. Trench 4, measuring approximately 75 ft long, was placed in the central portion of Block 2 to intersect the area formerly occupied by the three westernmost wings of the Roberts house. A number of modern pipe trenches and part of the cinder block foundation of the recently demolished late twentieth century commercial structure were exposed. A complex of cast iron sewer pipes also obscured the foundations of this structure. Because no pre-modern features were identified, the trench was backfilled immediately after mapping. The results of this test confirmed that mid-twentieth century construction or demolition activities had effectively obliterated any traces of the westernmost wings of the Cameron Farmhouse.

Trench 2/5.00. Trench 5 was excavated in the east-central portion of Block 2. This 70 ft long trench also was placed to intersect potential foundations of the westernmost portions of the Roberts' dwelling. Two modern pipe trenches and four fragmentary cinder block foundations were encountered. The two northernmost foundation walls appeared to represent ancillary construction features associated with the recently demolished twentieth century building; the two remaining cinder block walls appeared to represent either the northeast corner or an interior division of that structure. No other features were noted, and the trench was closed immediately after mapping.

Trench 2/6.00. Trench 6, which measured 62 ft in length, was placed in the eastern portions of Block 2 to test for landscape or structural features associated with the near yard of the Roberts dwelling in the vicinity of the former Roberts Lane. A number of landscape and refuse features were encountered during the initial excavation. To delineate these features and portray the immediate area more accurately, Trench 6 also was expanded east and west. The eastern extension encompassed an area of approximately 150 sq. ft., and it merged with the western perimeter of Trench 2/7.00. The

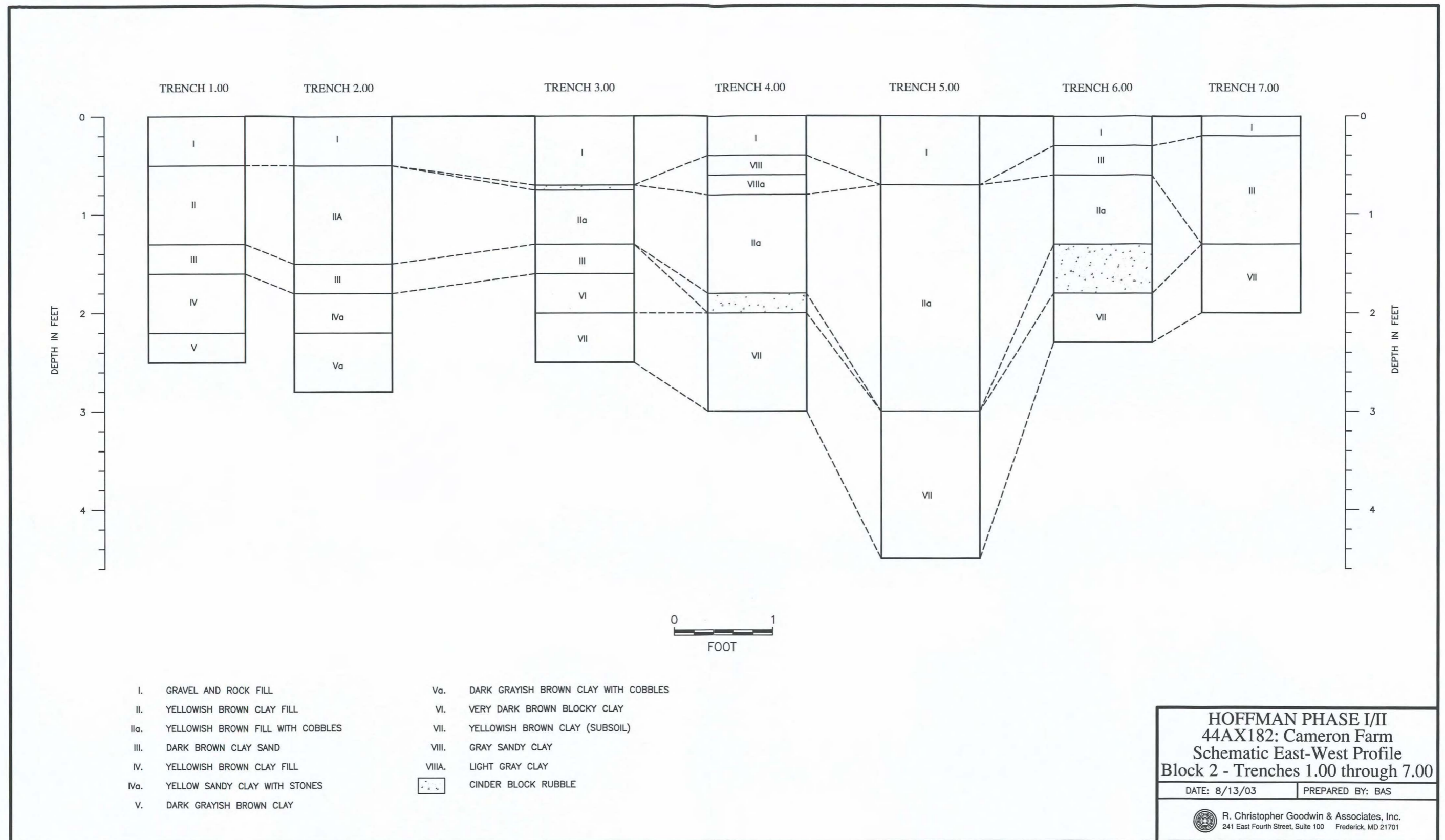


Figure 80. 44AX182, Block 2: Schematic Stratigraphic Profile (East-West transect)



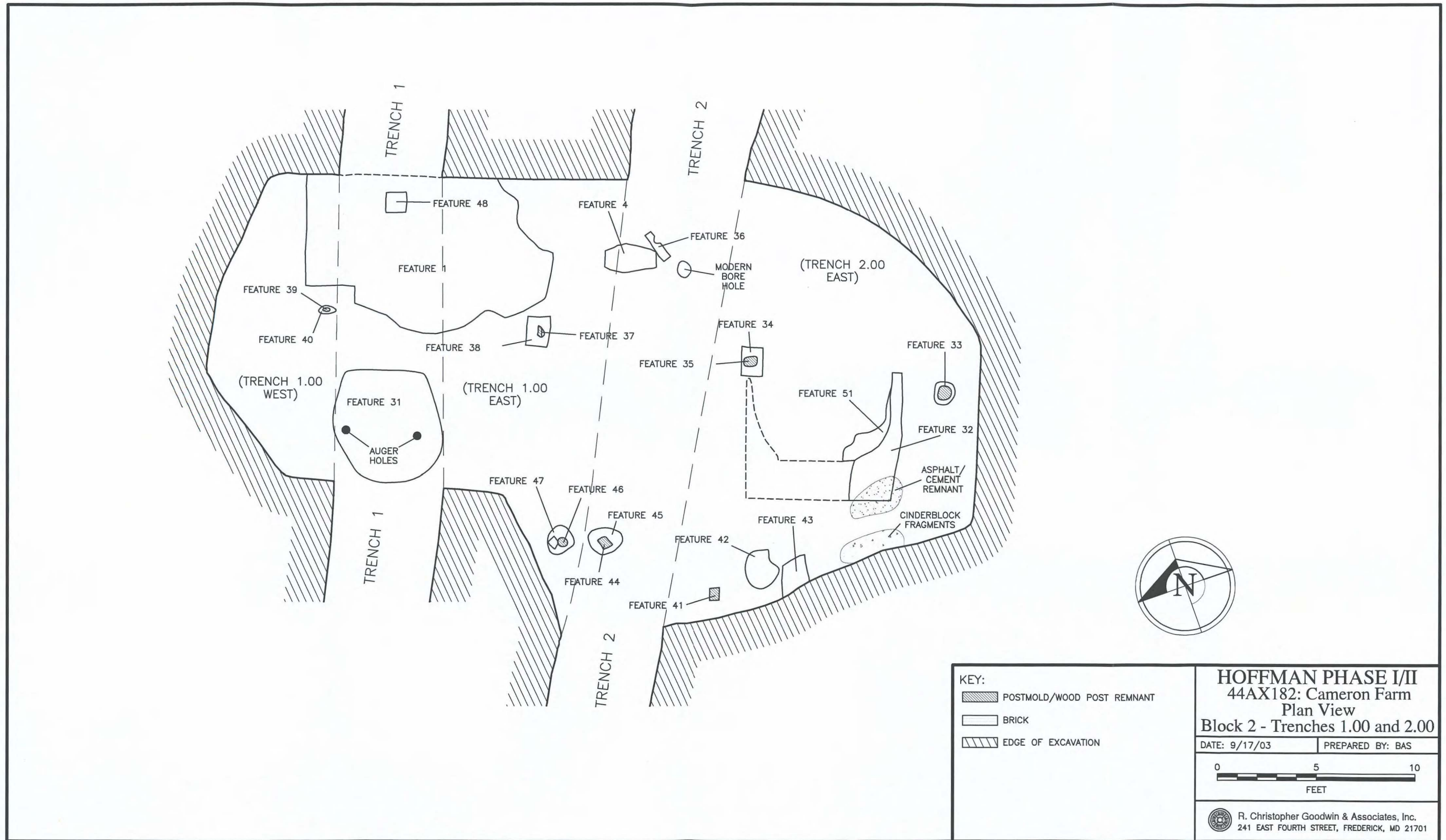


Figure 81. Detailed plan view of Trenches 2/1.00 and 2/2.00, showing locations of test units and principal features



western extension encompassed an area of approximately 180 sq. ft. between the original border of Trench 6.00 and the remnant cinderblock foundation of the recently demolished twentieth century commercial structure. Shovel scraping of the western trench extension also produced a large (n=91) generalized assemblage of mid-late nineteenth century domestic artifacts that was dominated by transfer-printed whiteware and pearlware. A partially marked whiteware base ("Challinor:" 1842-1896 [Godden 1964:137-8]) and fragments of buff-bodied alkaline-glazed industrial stoneware suggested a general late nineteenth century for this deposit.

Thirty-one features were identified within Trench 6 and its extensions (Figure 83); all of these were exposed below a lens of compacted pea gravel, believed to be a portion of a modern driveway, and all penetrated the yellowish brown sandy clay sub-soil to varying depths. Three test units were placed to examine selected individual features or feature clusters, the most prominent of which was a large amorphous stain that meandered from the eastern extension of Trench 6.00 westward across the trench and out of the area of excavation. Initially identified with four different feature designations to denote slight changes in the characteristics of the fill material at the floor of the trench and to reflect the varying composition of the feature, this feature eventually proved to be one continuous deposit.

Test Unit 2 (N2017/E1926) was placed to test Features 13, 14, and 25/50. All three features were bisected along an east-west axis. Features 13 and 14 were found to be shallow pits/depressions. Feature 25 was found to be the base of a posthole with a remnant of the post mold, which was designated as Feature 50. Features 14, 25, and 50 were virtually culturally sterile; however, Feature 13 was filled with mid-nineteenth century domestic refuse, including pearlware, yellow ware, transfer-printed whiteware, miscellaneous table and bottle glass, some bone, and oyster shell. Although this sub-assemblage clearly reflected a mid-nineteenth century period of occupation, the feature itself lacked definition and did not appear to be related to a structure.

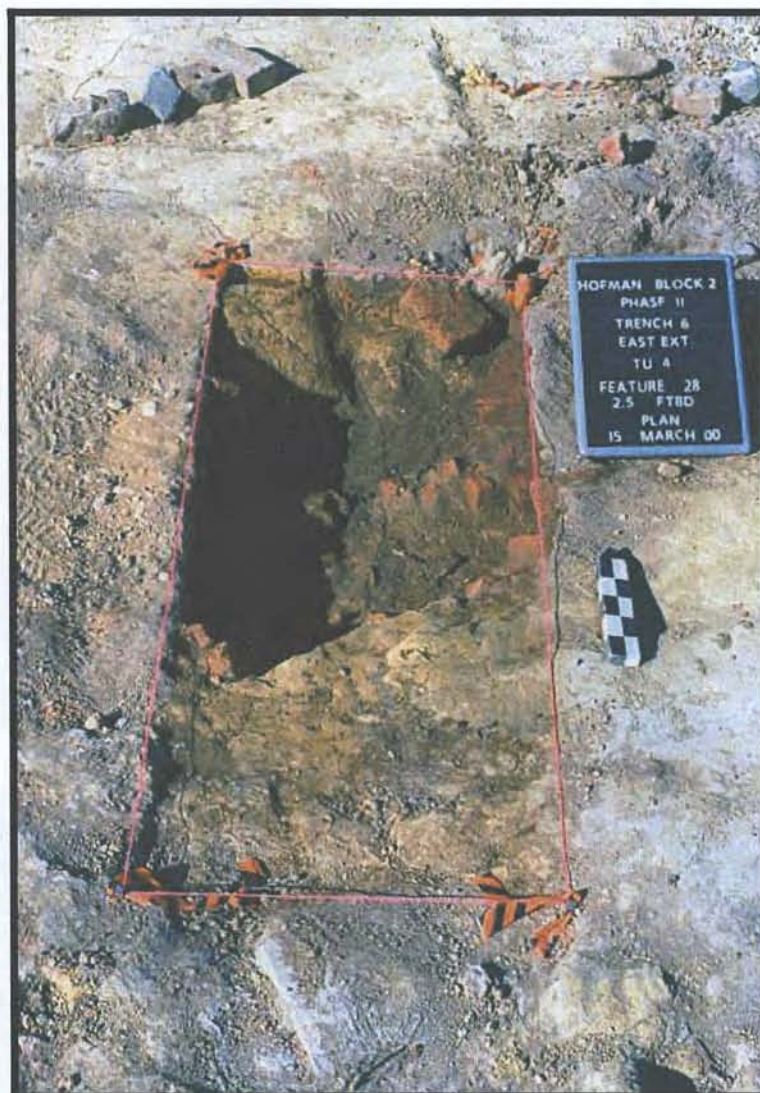


Figure 82. Detail of Feature 32, the remnant stone foundation, in Trench 2/2.00 (extended)

Test Unit 3 (N2005/E1919) was placed to test the northern edge of Features 27 and 49. On excavation, Feature 49 was identified as a lens of modern gravel fill, while Feature 27 appeared to be a trench that extended east west within the unit. Two distinct fill strata were noted within this feature. Stratum I consisted of dark brown (10YR 3/3) loam that contained 10 per cent brick and brick fragments; the matrix of the deeper stratum also was composed of 10YR 3/3 dark brown loam, but it contained a much heavier (40 per cent) concentration of brick and mortar fragments. The upper stratum appeared to represent an attempt to create an even grade over a partially filled trench, the bottom of which sloped gradually downward from the north and then dove sharply near the southern wall of the unit as the lower stratum was encountered. Neither the full extent nor the precise nature of this feature was determined during these investigations.

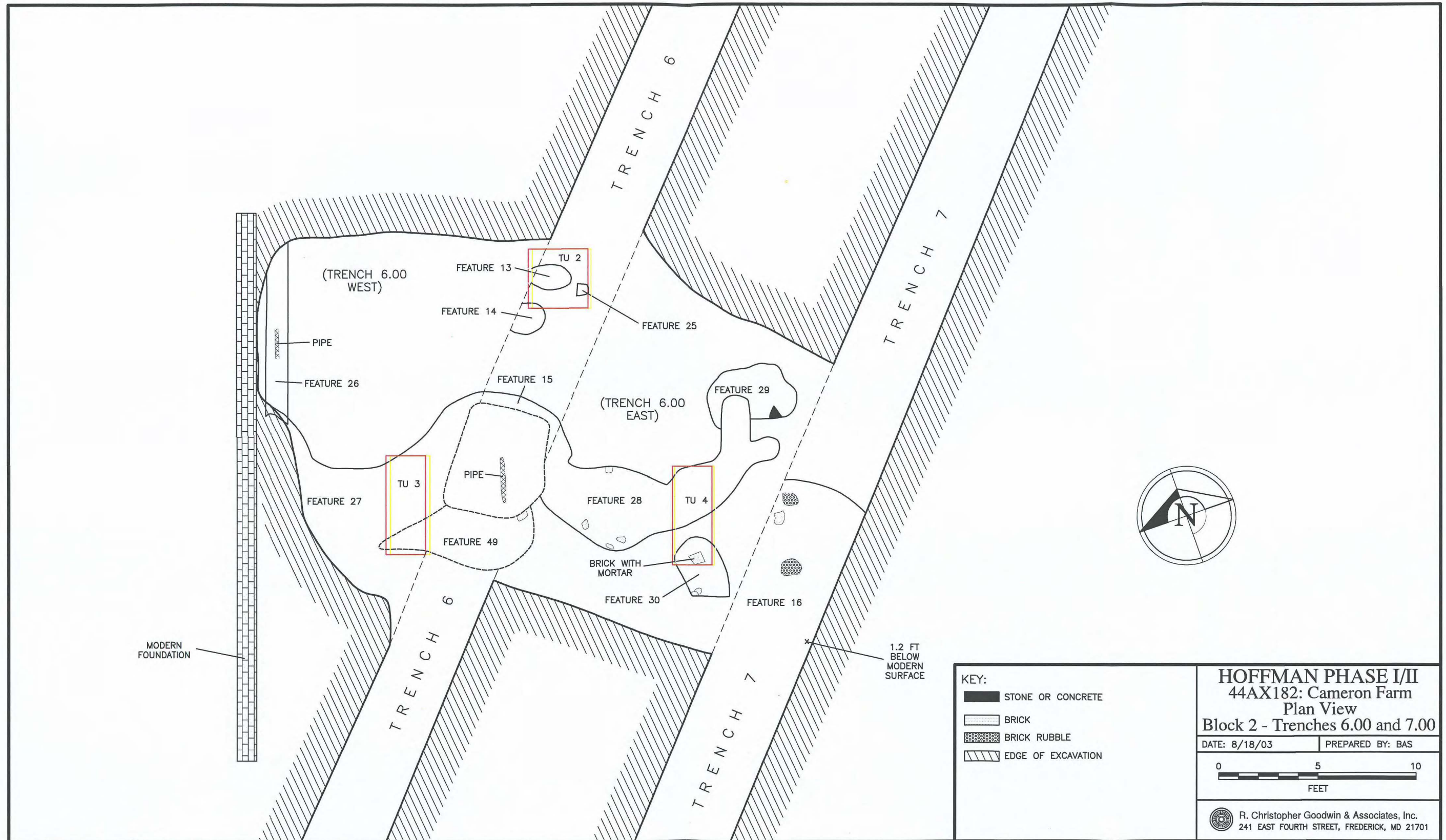
Abundant cultural materials were obtained from three stratigraphic contexts of Feature 27, including the surface of the feature (n=91) and the two intact underlying strata (Stratum I [n=147]; Stratum II [n=11]). All three subassemblages were relatively uniform in terms of function and general date range. The contents of the feature clearly reflected domestic activity, with an emphasis on food preparation, storage, and service; "kitchen" related items ranged from ceramics and a bone utensil handle to butchered bone and oyster shell. The recovered ceramic types included some creamware; domestic gray salt-glazed stoneware; transfer-printed pearlware; and whiteware that exhibited a variety of decorative techniques and vessel forms. The array suggested that the contents of the deposit represented primarily an early to mid-nineteenth century occupation span. However, it is likely that the deposit was secondary in nature; included within the subassemblage from Stratum I were one wire nail and a fragment of late nineteenth century hand-painted hardpaste porcelain.

Test Unit 4 (N2008/E1933) initially was placed to test the eastern extension of the large irregular stain (Features 15, 27, 28, and 29) that extended across this area of the site. In addition, the unit was extended one foot south to test Feature 30. Like its counterpart to the west (Feature 27), Feature 28 was a 1.1 ft deep trench filled with mixed sands and clays and containing a large amount of disarticulated brick rubble (Figure 84). The vast majority of the brick was in the form of fragments that measured less than 3 inches in diameter. No internal stratigraphic differentiation was apparent during the excavation. The sides of the trench sloped sharply on both the north and south sides of the unit, and bottomed out on a relatively level floor. Brick, mortar, and several fragments of unglazed earthenware flowerpots were found lying on the exposed sub-soil. The total artifact assemblage recovered from all proveniences within Test Unit 4 (n=262) generally resembled that obtained from TU 3. The precise function of the trench was not ascertained.

Feature 30 was found to be a shallow depression in the subsoil filled with disarticulated brick and brown sandy clay. Feature 30 seemed to be the result of repeated generalized site disturbances during twentieth century construction and demolition activities.

Trench 2/7.00. Trench 7 was located near the eastern edge of Block 2, in the vicinity of the former Roberts Lane, to expose potential features related to the Roberts house and grounds. Mechanized stripping exposed a number of modern cinderblock foundation fragments and a pipe trench, as well as a possible sheet midden. The northernmost cinderblock wall appeared to be a landscape feature related to the demolished twentieth century structure; the remaining cinderblock foundation elements were thought to form either the northeastern corner of this structure or an internal foundation division. A modern pipe trench adjoined this corner to the south.

A partially intact sheet midden was identified, beginning 35 ft from the northern end of the trench and extending to the end of the trench. An unidentified poured concrete member that crossed the trench interrupted this feature 57 ft from its northern end. No test units were excavated within Trench 7.





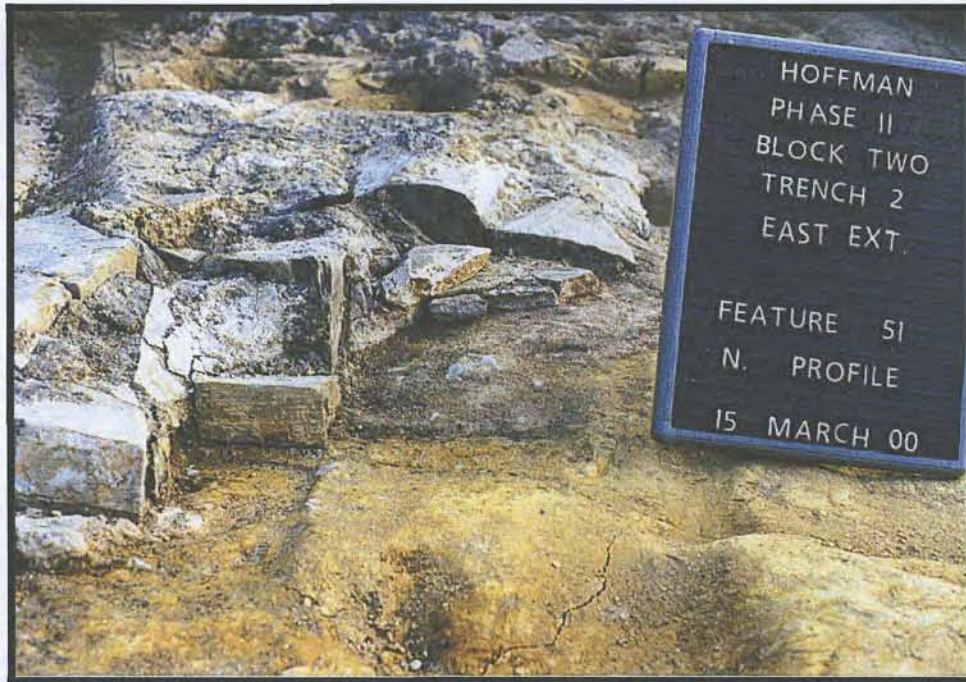


Figure 84. Photograph of Trench 2/6.00, Feature 28, showing brick rubble fill in presumed utility trench

Trenches 2/9.00, 10.00, and 11.00. Trench 9, located along the southwestern periphery of Block 2, originally was placed to ascertain the location, size and trajectory of the Cameron Mill headrace (see Chapter 6). However, excavators also noted, at the western end of this trench unit, a concentrated scatter of apparently handmade brick and brickbats that appeared to indicate the possible location of yet another, potentially earlier, structure that had been situated southwest of the principal Roberts dwelling. This brick scatter was located west of the millrace prism, within an area that would have bordered on the parcel developed ca. 1947 as a trailer park. More importantly, the brick scatter also was located north and somewhat east of the (then) recently discovered West family burial vault (Figure 85).

At the request of the staff of Alexandria Archaeology, additional excavations were undertaken to determine the lateral extent of this brick concentration, and to determine whether any part of it represented the intact foundations of a structure, possibly one associated with the West family's earlier occupation of the property. Initially, the western end of Trench 9 itself was expanded north and south; two putative features (22 and 23) were tentatively identified, based upon the perceived linearity of some of the rubble within the overall feature (Figure 86); and two test units (TU 1 and TU 2) were excavated manually into and through the brick rubble feature. When the expansion of Trench 9 and manual exposure and excavation failed to define any well-delineated structural components (e.g., a foundation), two additional mechanized trenches (10 and 11) were excavated parallel to and bracketing the original trench (Figure 85). Test Units 5 and 6 also were excavated manually into the exposed brick rubble layer in these trenches to determine whether any intact foundation features were present.

The collective artifact assemblage (n=218) recovered from the manual exposure, test trenching and test units was not well differentiated chronologically; in particular, many of the ceramics, which formed over half of the assemblage (n=124; 56.9 percent) were generic whiteware and gray stoneware that could not be dated with great precision. Save for some fragments of



Figure 85. Overview of Trenches 2/9.00, 10.00, and 11.00, showing the location of these units relative to parking areas, the Hoffman II Building and the West Family burial vault (orientation southwest)



Figure 86. Test units 1 and 2 (Features 22 and 23), Trench 2/9.00, showing possible linear brick rubble configuration

possible machine made container glass and three fragments of what may have been a ceramic drainage pipe, few if any intrusive twentieth century materials were recovered from this assemblage. However, several tendencies reflected in the assemblage are worth mentioning. Mortar samples from this rubble field were shell-tempered, a practice utilized regularly during the colonial period; creamware and pearlware were relatively plentiful (23 per cent of all ceramics); and at least one white ball clay pipe bowl was recovered. These tendencies suggested that the structure whose demolition was represented by the brick rubble scatter was occupied in the early nineteenth century (or earlier) and had been abandoned by the end of that century.

None of the mechanized trenches and test units excavated within Features 22 and 23 delineated any solid, intact structural foundations. The position of the crushed brick and brick rubble scatter, at the southwestern edge of the area of investigation and considerably removed from the site of the main dwelling house, suggested that this structural debris may have resulted from grading activities that originated west of the locations of the trenches. At the time of the project, this area was utilized as a paved parking lot for the Hoffman II building (Figure 85), but it had been occupied earlier by the ca. 1947 trailer park. The stratigraphic profile from Trench 10 (Figure 87) not only documented the lateral and vertical extent of part of this rubble field, but also demonstrated clearly that the rubble concentration (Strata VIII – XII) was confined to areas west of the millrace (Stratum VI). Finally, this profile also demonstrated that the debris, fill, and the remains of a small brick and cinder block footer clearly associated with the most recent period of site construction (ca. 1960 and later) had been deposited above both the millrace prism and the brick rubble deposit.

## Summary

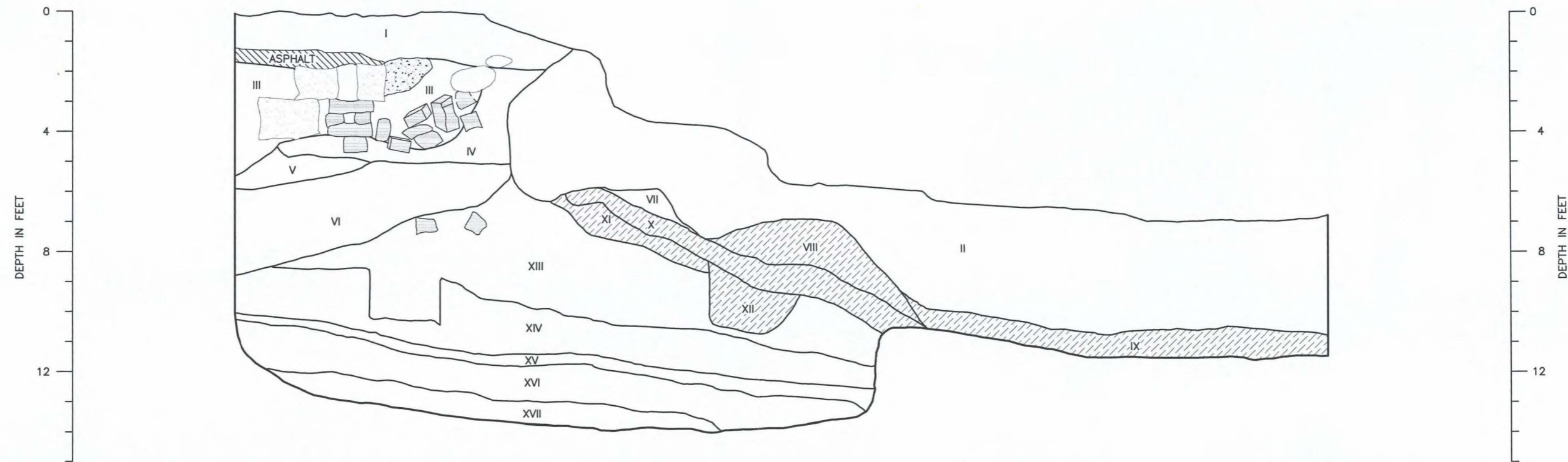
The remains of the former Roberts Cameron Farmhouse and the structures within its “domestic” yard area were destroyed sometime between 1955 and ca. 1962. Excavation of mechanized trenches west of the main house complex demonstrated that remnants of the house and the A horizon in the yard surrounding it had been distributed disconformably across the site, probably as it was graded and filled to prepare a surface for construction of the warehouse type structure, installation of contiguous level parking areas, and installation of various utilities. Such activity would account for the presence of intensive concentrations of similar nineteenth century artifacts in widely dispersed areas of the site, ranging from its westernmost extent (Feature 1 in Trench 1) to its easternmost extent (Features 27-29 in Trench 6), and for its concentration as fill in utility trenches such as Feature 28. Pre-construction preparation of the Block 2 area thus preserved little intact except for some truncated postholes and postmolds that represented fence lines, and the millrace prism that defined the area’s western and southern perimeters. The vestigial remains of a single laid stone structural foundation (Feature 32 in Trench 2) survived these intrusive late twentieth century construction activities, but neither the function of this building nor its exact dimensions could be determined from the vestigial features associated with it.

Clearing and testing in Blocks 2 and 3 also exposed architectural details of the original (central) block of the Cameron farmhouse; the ca. 1848 addition constructed by the Roberts’ and its later modifications; and a pair of flanking dependencies (smokehouse and greenhouse) that appear (based on their similar architectural attributes) to have been contemporaneous with the original main block of the dwelling. Unfortunately, efforts to date the construction of the main dwelling met with limited success. Since this structure had been constructed with a basement, there were no builder’s trenches whose contents could be specifically and discretely removed and dated. Test units excavated into the clay floor subsoil within the basement yielded few artifacts; those that were recovered, however, reflected at best a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century time frame. Functionally, none of the cultural materials obtained from clearly pre-modern contexts suggested any

other use for this building than a residential one. Had this structure seen use as an ordinary during the middle eighteenth century, as some have posited, one might have expected that a substantial portion of the deposits would include such clearly tavern-related materials as wine or spirit bottles, tobacco pipes, and food-related faunal debris. However, no such materials were dominant in any of the assemblages from this area.

Neither the archival nor the archeological evidence—flawed though the latter might be as a result of the impacts of twentieth century demolition—supports the hypothesis that the original central block of the Cameron farmhouse originally functioned as an ordinary during the mid-eighteenth century. Schweigert (n.d.:4-15 – 4-16), who examined the issue archivally, agrees. Rather, the scattered fragmentary elements of the site’s artifact assemblages suggest that the earliest occupation of this area began—at best—at the turn of the nineteenth century, during the time that Stump and Ricketts first began to acquire the property formerly belonging to Thomas West.

Where WAS the Cameron Ordinary, if not here on the Hoffman property? The archival evidence, at least, points southwest—to the place where the original “Road to Colchester/Occoquan” crossed an unfettered and unchannelized Cameron Run.



- I. 10YR 6/6 BROWNISH YELLOW SILTY CLAY FILL
- II. 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY LOAM FILL
- III. MOTTLED 10YR 7/6 YELLOW AND 10YR 8/4 VERY PALE BROWN CLAY AND GRAVEL FILL
- IV. 10YR 4/2 DARK GRAYISH BROWN LOAM WITH BROWNISH YELLOW CLAY FLECKING
- V. 10YR 4/1 DARK GRAY LOAMY SILT
- VI. 10YR 3/2 VERY DARK GRAYISH BROWN OXIDIZED LOAMY SILT (MILLRACE)
- VII. 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN SAND
- VIII. 10YR 6/8 BROWNISH YELLOW SANDY CLAY WITH BRICK RUBBLE
- IX. 10YR 5/4 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY WITH SMALL BRICK FRAGMENTS

- X. 10YR 5/4 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY WITH BRICK BITS AND RUBBLE
- XI. 10YR 7/3 VERY PALE BROWN SANDY SILT WITH GRAVEL AND BRICK
- XII. 10YR 5/4 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY CLAY WITH COBBLES AND BRICK
- XIII. MOTTLED 10YR 6/6 BROWNISH YELLOW AND 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY FILL
- XIV. 10YR 6/4 LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN SAND
- XV. 10YR 5/2 GRAYISH BROWN SAND
- XVI. 10YR 7/8 YELLOW SILTY CLAY WITH OXIDATION
- XVII. 10YR 5/8 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY

- CINDER BLOCK
- BRICK
- MORTAR
- STONE

**HOFFMAN PHASE I/II**  
**44AX182: Cameron Farm**  
**Profile - South Wall**  
**Block 2 - Trench 10.00**

DATE: 8/14/03      PREPARED BY: BAS


 R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.  
 241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100    Frederick, MD 21701

Figure 87. Stratigraphic profile, Trench 2/10.00



## CHAPTER VIII

# RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS: THE MILLER'S HOUSE (44AX182 [AREA C])

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### Archival Results

Very little is known about the domestic structure, initially identified in the northern half of Block 3 during Knepper and Pappas' (1990) Phase I investigations of Cameron Mill (44AX112). Originally included as part of the Cameron Mill site, it has been re-designated as part of the Cameron Farm complex, principally to distinguish it functionally from the technical/industrial complex described in Chapter VI of this document. Its designation as the "miller's house" is based principally on interpretation of a ca. 1851 survey map for the Manassas Gap RR (Figure 24) and on John Roberts' recollections, which referenced the "old mill house where the millers who ran the mill lived." Roberts noted that "Jim Potter was born there. . .His father used to drive one of the mill teams. Jimmie Potter worked at mill for a long time, before he went down to [the Roberts and Hunt] warehouse" on the Alexandria waterfront. A three-part dwelling was depicted on the 1902 Sanborn map of the Cameron Mills (Figure 37). This sparse documentation indicates that the building originally was constructed prior to 1850, and stood through at least the first decade of the twentieth century.

The Miller's House site was situated in the northern part of Block 3, south and east of the principal Cameron Farm house, approximately 10 ft south of a modern concrete commercial building and 30 ft south of Mill Road, east of the former Roberts Lane, and north of the former site of the Alexandria Water Company's pump house. Previous investigations by Engineering Science in 1990 (Knepper and Pappas 1990) had located the north wall of this structure.

### Archeological Results

#### Phase I (1998-1999)

In the fall of 1998, Goodwin & Associates, Inc. resumed investigations of the Miller's House and its environs by placing two mechanized trenches in this general area.

Trench 3/2.98. Trench 3/2.98 was located within a gravel parking lot east of the remnant Roberts Lane and west of an existing cinder block building in Block 3 (Figure 60). Features identified in this 50 ft trench included portions of a cobble and brick rubble pavement, a gravel pavement, and a number of post features, all occurring at depths of between 1 and 2 ft bs. The pavements apparently

related either to a road that ran south from Mill Road to the mill pump house, or to a driveway access from that road to the miller's house. The eight posthole/postmold features, most of which were aligned along the edge of the remnant paved surfaces, represented one or more probable fence lines along the road. Fence lines that delineate roads and fields are visible in several photographs of the Cameron farm complex (Figure 58).

A small surface sample of cultural materials associated with three features (Features 3/2.98-04, -06, and -07) in this test trench collectively demonstrated the damaging effects of twentieth century development activities on the integrity of potential archeological resources in this portion of the Hoffman property. Contained within the 17-item sample were early nineteenth century ceramics (creamware; n=1); nineteenth century cut/wrought nails (n=4) and twentieth century wire (n=1) nails; one porcelain shirt button; machine-made bottle glass (n=1); and a railroad spike. Both the truncated stratigraphy and the sparse, temporally mixed assemblage demonstrated clearly the lack of integrity that characterized this and other areas of the Hoffman property.

Trench 3/4.98. Trench 4 was excavated in the northern half of Block 3, south of the existing cinder block building and east of the corridor for Roberts Lane. The 75 ft long, 4 ft wide trench was placed to intersect the structural remains identified during Knepper and Pappas' (1990) archeological study. The eastern half of the trench subsequently was extended 10 ft further north to delineate some of those structural features more fully.

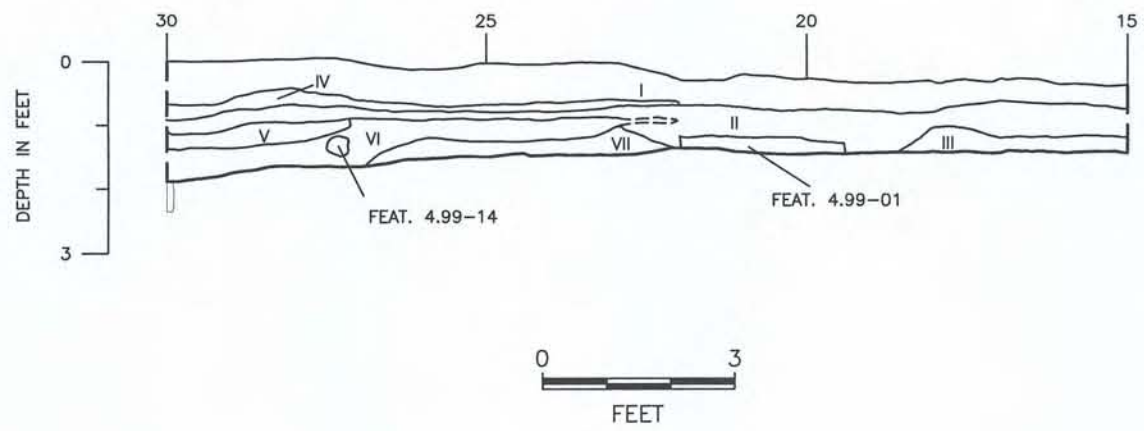
A total of 19 structural and landscape features were identified in Trench 4 (Table 7), including two related brick wall features and several brick piers (Figure 89) that appeared to constitute the remains of a single building. Excavations in the western half of this trench also exposed two brick drains on either side of a 3-ft wide brick and cobble paved road surface, and two modern utility trenches, including a third drain. The brick wall (Feature 4-01) appeared to be the south wall of the same northwest-southeast foundation that had been identified during the 1990 survey; only two courses wide, the wall was capable of supporting a 1½-story frame structure (Nöel Hume 1976) that was at least 12 ft wide on its east-west axis. A shallow builder's trench (Feature 4-08) was noted on both the interior and exterior of Feature 4-01, and a robbed foundation line (Feature 4-03) also appears to have been associated with the intact wall. A second brick foundation (Features 4-14 and 4-19), which described the corner of a contiguous room, also was two courses wide; it partially enclosed what appeared to be a brick- and rubble-filled basement that measured at least 11 ft square. In both cases, portions of the foundations apparently had been robbed out.

Several brick support piers were aligned parallel with and south of Features 4-01 and 4-19. The regular placement and uniform size (9 inches square) of these piers suggested supports for one or more frame porches that apparently extended across the south façade of the building. Although the location, alignment, and general configuration of the building appeared to correspond closely with the small dwelling depicted north of the mill complex on the 1902 Sanborn map (37), only two "rooms" appeared to be present, rather than the three depicted on the Sanborn map.

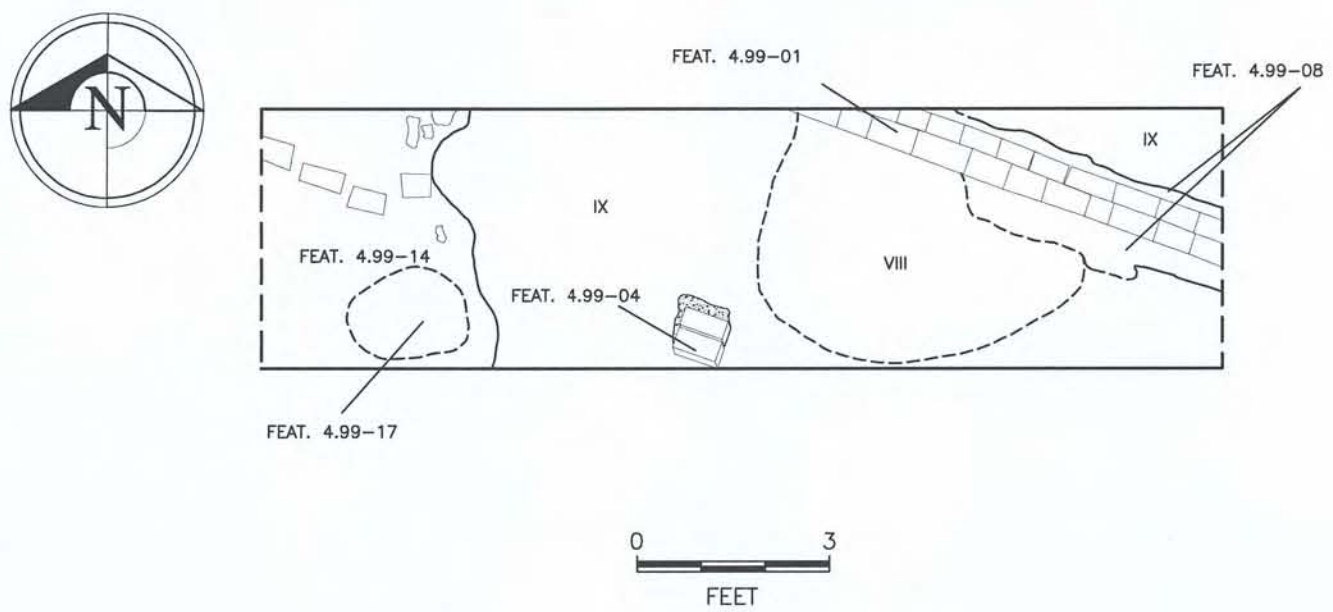
All three drains and the hard-surfaced "road" were located west of the structural foundations (Figures 88 and 89). The road surface consisted of several layers of paving materials, including cobbles and broken brick. In common with the feature identified in Trench 2 further north, this surface may represent part of the road that formerly led from Little River Turnpike through the Cameron Farm domestic complex to the Cameron Mills/Alexandria Water Company complex.



Generalized surface collections were made in and around each feature of the component. A preliminary assessment of the assemblage recovered from Trench 4 reflected a primarily late nineteenth to twentieth century domestic occupation; the sample included transfer-printed porcelain,

NORTH WALL PROFILE (15 - 30 FEET)



PLAN VIEW (15 - 30 FEET)



- I. 10YR 5/4 YELLOWISH BROWN SILTY SAND WITH GRAVEL INCLUSIONS (FILL)
  - II. 10YR 5/4 YELLOWISH BROWN SANDY LOAM
  - III. 10YR 6/6 BROWNISH YELLOW LOAMY SILT
  - IV. 7.5YR 5/8 STRONG BROWN SAND LOAM WITH HIGH PEBBLE/MORTAR CONTENT
  - V. MOTTLED 7.5YR 6/8 REDDISH YELLOW, 2.5Y 7/2 LIGHT GRAY, AND 2.5Y 4/3 OLIVE BROWN SAND LOAM AND CLAY FILL
  - VI. 2.5Y 5/4 LIGHT OLIVE BROWN SILTY SAND MOTTLED WITH 2.5Y 4/2 DARK GRAYISH BROWN SILTY SAND
  - VII. 2.5Y 5/6 LIGHT OLIVE BROWN LOAMY SAND WITH BRICK FLECKS
  - VIII. MOTTLED 10YR 6/1 GRAY AND 10YR 5/4 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY
  - IX. 10YR 4/6 DARK YELLOWISH BROWN LOAMY CLAY
  - FEAT. 4.99-01 MOTTLED 7.5YR 6/8 REDDISH YELLOW, 2.5Y 7/2 LIGHT GRAY, AND 2.5Y 4/3 OLIVE BROWN SAND LOAM AND CLAY FILL
  - FEAT. 4.99-04 BRICK WITH MORTAR
  - FEAT. 4.99-08 BUILDER'S TRENCH ON TRUE EAST-WEST SIDE OF WALL
  - FEAT. 4.99-14 10YR 4/2 DARK GRAYISH BROWN SAND (HIGH MORTAR AND ARTIFACT CONTENT)
  - FEAT. 4.99-17 CHARCOAL RICH STAIN
-  BRICK  
 MORTAR

HOFFMAN PHASE I/II  
44AX112: Cameron Mill  
Plan and Profile Views  
Block 3 - Trenches 4.99

DATE: 6/23/04

PREPARED BY: BAS



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241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100 Frederick, MD 21701

Figure 88. Partial profile and plan view, Block 3, Trench 4.98, showing feature complexes and diminished stratigraphy due to modern grading and filling in and around the project study area



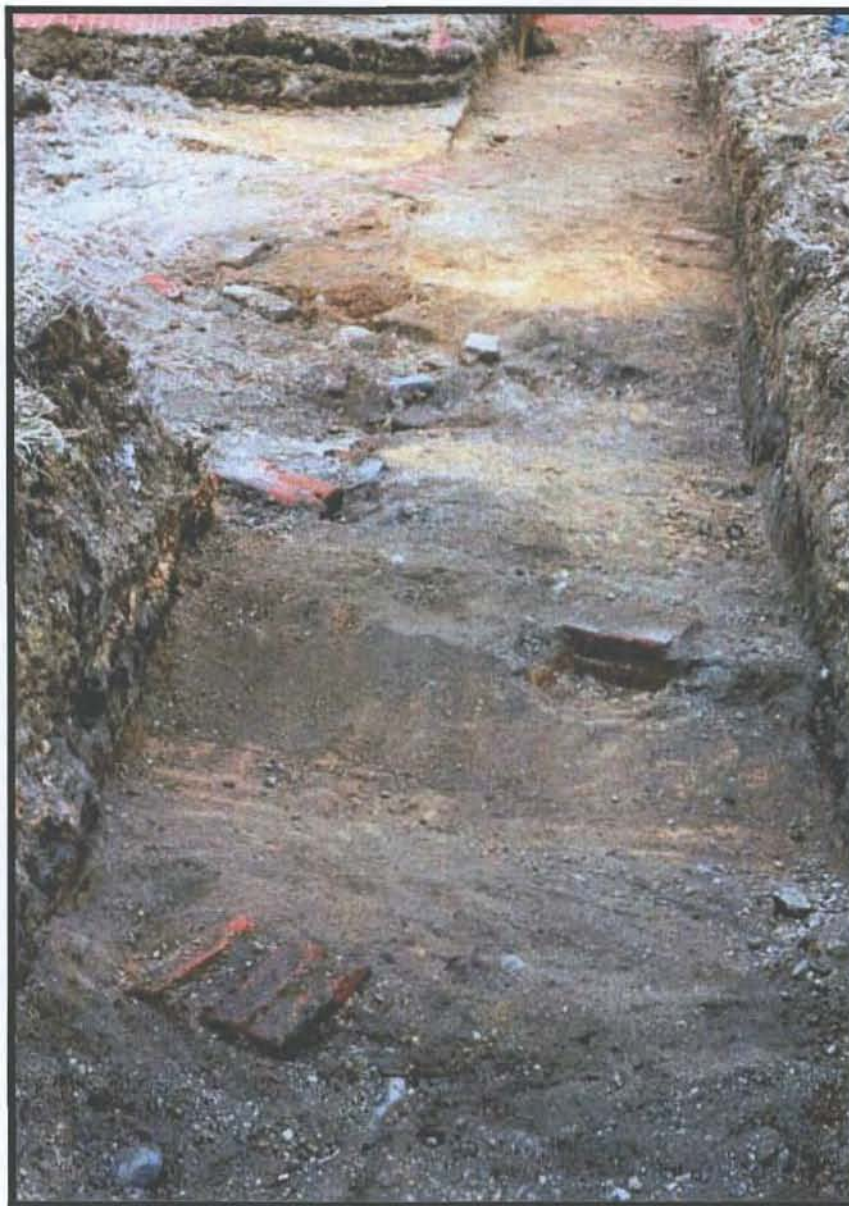


Figure 89. Overview of Block 3, Trench 4.98, mid-section showing Feature 4-01, the Miller's House foundation, in the background, and brick drain (orientation east)

Albany-slipped stoneware, a machine-made ribbed glass tumbler, electric insulator glass, a marble, and an early twentieth century Davis baking powder bottle. Predictably, the largest samples were recovered from the surface and upper levels of the rubble-filled cellar, which collectively yielded a total of 168 items. Among these were several marked glass bottle fragments associated with locally and regionally produced, late nineteenth to twentieth century, commodities and/or producers: Portner Beer (Alexandria), Warfield and Hall Druggists (Alexandria); the Emerson Drug Company (Baltimore), manufacturers of Bromo-Seltzer; J. W. Bull's Cough Syrup (Baltimore); and McCormack and Company, spice merchants (Baltimore).

## Phase II (2000)

The Phase II investigations of the Miller's House site were designed to extend and expand on the Phase I results described above. Specifically, they sought to reveal more fully the extent of the domestic structure and to examine yard areas south of the house site itself.

Yard Landscape. The landscape investigations entailed the mechanical excavation of three trenches (12.00, 13.00, and 14.00) south of the house site to test for outbuildings or yard-related features (Figure 60). These trenches measured approximately 5 x 20 ft, and were carried vertically to a depth of over 9 ft in some places. Very deep fill layers were encountered in all of these trenches, as Figure 90, a typical profile in this area, suggests. This profile confirms that between four and five feet of fill had been introduced to level out the original naturally sloping landform contour. No intact features or occupation surfaces were identified in these initial test trenches, and no artifact samples were retained.

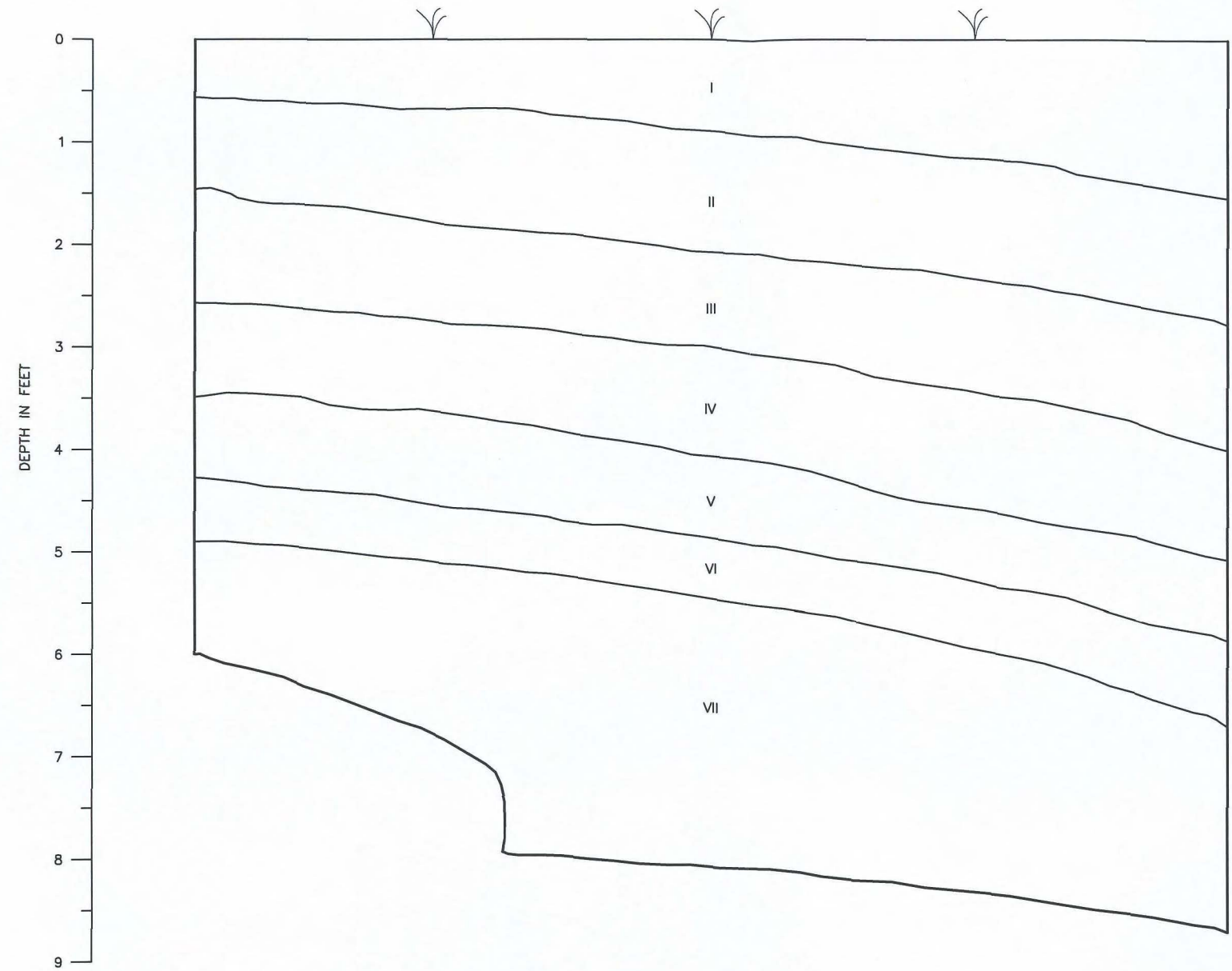
Main Dwelling. Prior to the onset of the Phase II excavations, approximately 1 ft of soil was removed mechanically across the site area to reveal previously excavated trenches and features. The perimeters of Trench 3/4.98 and 15 of the 18 features recorded during the 1998-1999. Phase I investigations were re-identified; expansion of the previously stripped area subsequently identified 22 additional structural features. These features defined three spatial components within the structure: the eastern portion of the house; an I-shaped hearth feature that defined the mid-section of the house and separated the two "rooms" of the dwelling; and the western block of the dwelling. A total of ten manually excavated units were distributed among the features within these spaces to define their structures and to determine, to the extent possible, the chronology of building construction (Figure 91).

Three features identified during the 1998-1999 investigations were not re-identified during the 2000 investigations. Feature 4-07 was a brick drain that ran west of the bulkhead entrance to the cellar, while Feature 4-16 had been identified as a soil stain west of Feature 4-07. These features were shallow and ephemeral and likely were scraped away by the backhoe. Feature 4-18, a wire cable within a utility located east of the eastern foundation wall, was not examined further because of its obvious modernity.

East House Block. The perimeter of the eastern block ("room") of the house was defined by the bottom course of a brick foundation, approximately 9 in wide, that previously had been designated as Feature 3/4.98-01. Additional mechanical and manual clearing defined the remainder of this feature, which measured approximately 11 x 16 ft. The bricks, which were laid in an irregular pattern, were mortared together and appeared to be handmade. Except for the eastern and the southeastern walls, most of the foundation either had been reduced to amorphous concentrations of rubble, or portions had been robbed, since in some areas no rubble existed.

Ten additional features were present within the eastern block of the house; some of these had been defined during the Phase I efforts in 1999, while others were newly designated as a result of clearing during the 2000 stage of the work. Feature 4-03 previously had been identified as a robbed-out portion of the eastern foundation wall; no rubble existed in this area, as it did in other areas of the foundation that merely had been disturbed. Feature 64, a shallow and ephemeral linear depression that extended for a distance of 0.25 ft along the robbed-out section of the building foundation, was interpreted as the builder's trench for feature 4-03.

Three test units (#10, 20, and 24) were placed along and within the perimeter of this portion of the house.



- I. LIGHT BROWN CLAYEY SILT WITH 40% GRAVEL INCLUSIONS (FILL)
- II. LIGHT BROWN CLAYEY SILT WITH 75% ASPHALT INCLUSIONS (FILL)
- III. LIGHT BROWN CLAYEY SILT WITH 60% GRAVEL INCLUSIONS AND LARGE RANDOM BLOCKS OF ASPHALT (FILL)
- IV. MOTTLED YELLOWISH BROWN AND OLIVE BROWN STICKY CLAY (FILL)
- V. REDDISH YELLOW CLAY WITH 10% COBBLES (FILL)
- VI. VERY DARK GRAY CLAY
- VII. YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY

<b>HOFFMAN II/III</b> <b>44AX182: Miller's House</b> <b>Soil Profile - East Wall</b> <b>Trench 13.00</b>	
DATE: 7/07/04	PREPARED BY: BAS
<small>R. Christopher Goodwin &amp; Associates, Inc.          241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100 Frederick, MD 21701</small>	

Figure 90. 44AX182: Partial stratigraphic profile of mechanized Trench 13.00, yard area south of the Miller's House, showing typical deep fill levels encountered in this portion of the site



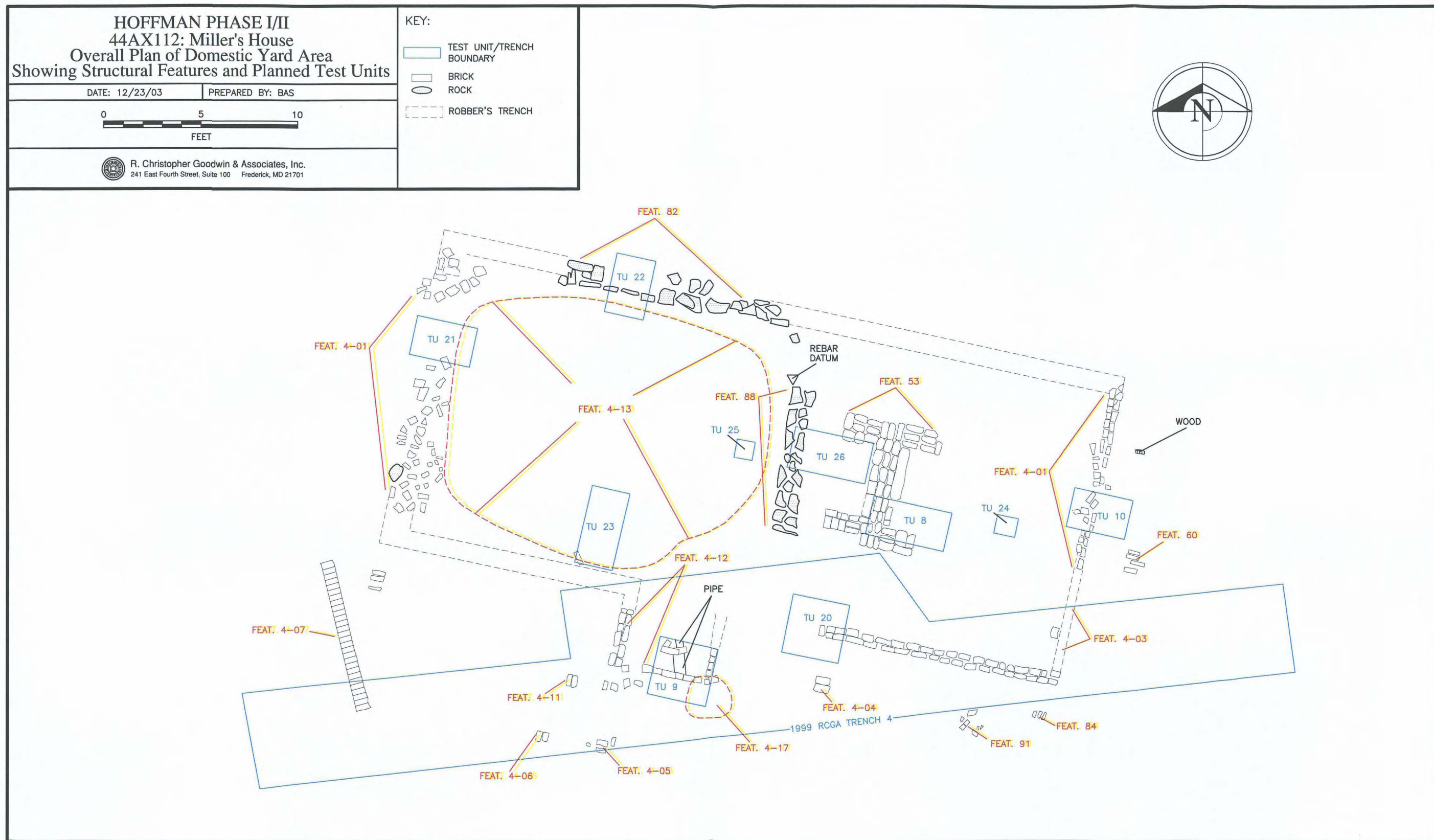


Figure 91. Plan view of Miller's House excavations, showing locations of principal features and test units excavated within this component



*Test Unit 10.* Excavation of Test Unit 10, located at the eastern end of the "east" house component, revealed six features: Features 4-01 and 4-08, identified initially during the 1999 Phase I testing stage; Feature 81, a mottled soil stain that extended along the outside of the eastern foundation wall; and Features 65, 66 and 67, shallow (0.32 fbs) circular or semi-circular depressions at the eastern end of the dwelling that appeared to be related, possibly reflecting the presence of a rain barrel. Feature 4-08 was a builder's trench associated with the foundation, Feature 4-01; the builder's trench extended to a depth of 0.3 ft and was filled with 10YR 4/3 brown sand. The fill material in Feature 81, a soil stain that appeared to represent the edge of a 0.65 ft deep pit feature that extended east of the house, consisted of a 7.5YR 5/8 strong brown silty sand mottled with 10YR 3/4 brown and 2.5Y 7/2 light gray silty sand. Neither Feature 4-08 nor Feature 81 yielded any artifacts.

Excavation of the remainder of Unit 10 and of associated Feature 65 produced a small artifact assemblage (total n=8) that conveyed very little information that could facilitate either the building's construction or the associated soil features. The only temporally diagnostic materials included one fragment of whiteware with a decalcomined decoration (generally, late nineteenth to early twentieth century) and a piece of machine-made clear bottle glass. The fragmentary embossed proprietary mark on the glass could not be identified.

*Test Unit 20.* Test Unit 20 was placed to straddle the truncated western end of the brick foundation (Feature 4-01) and its associated builder's trench (Feature 4-08). Two additional features were identified at this location; both were tested.

Feature 68 was identified as a thin scatter of mixed mottled 10YR 4/3 brown silty clay and mortar that was concentrated on the inside of the brick foundation wall. The feature appeared to be a thin deposit of destruction debris that resulted from the demolition of the house. The sparse artifact assemblage recovered from Feature 68 included one mother-of-pearl composite button with a copper-alloy shank and one fragment of machine-made container glass.

A 0.2 ft layer of disturbed fill soils adjacent to and south of the outside of the brick foundation was designated as Stratum 1 of this test unit; this fill layer immediately overlay sterile subsoil (10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silty clay). The temporally mixed assemblage of 30 artifacts noted or retained from this stratum included architectural debris (brick, window glass, mortar, and nails); faunal material (bone and oyster shell); ceramics (whiteware and Astbury type stoneware) and unidentified container glass; and one fragment of a tobacco pipe bowl. Beneath this stratum and intruding into the subsoil was Feature 69, a squarish stain with a slightly rounded basal configuration, which was bisected. Approximately 0.2 ft deep, the feature was filled with a 10YR 3/4 dark yellowish-brown silty clay. Although this feature was too shallow for positive identification, it was interpreted as a possible post mold. One heavy construction staple was noted within the fill of this feature (Figure 92).

*Test Unit 24.* The paucity of the artifact assemblage recovered from the eastern section of the Miller's House prompted the excavation of Test Unit 24, a 1 x 1 ft supplementary unit that was placed in the middle of this section of the dwelling. The unit was intended to recover a broader artifact array from possibly intact stratigraphic contexts, thereby aiding in determining the chronology and function of this portion of the house.

Excavation of the unit revealed that, in common with other sections of the site, deposits were extremely shallow; only two cultural strata, with an aggregate depth of 0.5 ft, overlay the 10YR 5/6 yellowish brown clay subsoil. The sparse artifact assemblage (n=5), contained entirely within two thin surficial strata of 2.5YR 7/2 light gray sandy clay mottled with 2/5YR 5/3 light olive brown clay

and 2.5YR 5/3 light olive brown clay mottled with 10YR 5/6 yellowish brown clay, consisted of non-diagnostic, undecorated whiteware and some unidentified metal fragments.

*The hearth feature.* Feature 53 was a partially disintegrated I-shaped hearth, 6½ ft long on its north-south axis and 5 ft wide, which separated and defined the two rooms of the Miller's House. This hearth therefore served to heat both portions of the dwelling. The hand-made bricks forming the common wall that separated the two opposing fireboxes were laid in a simple stretcher bond pattern; the brick bond configuration of the protruding "arms" of the hearth resembled Flemish bond, although only three courses of the feature remained intact. A separate course composed of bricks laid on their sides lined the interior of the main common wall at its base. Two test units were excavated within and adjacent to Feature 53 to obtain dateable artifact samples and to clarify the architectural details of the feature (Figure 93).

*Test Unit 8.* Unit 8 was placed within the eastern aperture or firebox of the hearth. Strata within this unit were expressed both laterally and vertically. Stratum I was a thin lens of 7.5YR 3/1 very dark gray loam mottled with 10YR 6/6 yellow clayey sand. The presence of discrete intrusive pockets of 2.5YR 5/6 red and 10YR 6/6 brownish yellow clayey sands within the principal soil matrix suggested that this level constituted a disturbed mixed fill overburden. Underlying strata all were thin lenses or patches of mixed clays, clayey sands, and loams, typical of deposits resulting from extensive disturbance during the building's demolition.

Four soil anomalies were identified within this unit. Feature 61 consisted of a linear soil anomaly adjacent to the inside wall of the hearth; soils consisted of a 7.5YR 4/4 brown sandy loam. The stain was shallow and produced one brick fragment, one mortar fragment and one nail fragment. Originally interpreted as a possible builder's trench for the hearth, the feature evolved into a soil stain, probably resulting from burning episodes. Features 62 and 63 consisted of semi-circular stains north of the hearth. The stains were composed of a 2.5YR 4/6 red clay, and also may have been associated with various burning episodes related to the hearth. No artifacts were recovered from these features. Feature 80, a shallow deposit of 2.5Y 5/4 light olive brown clay loam, appeared to be a possible builder's trench associated with the hearth (Figure 94), although no cultural materials were recovered either from the feature itself or from a "director's window" excavated into the subsoil below it.

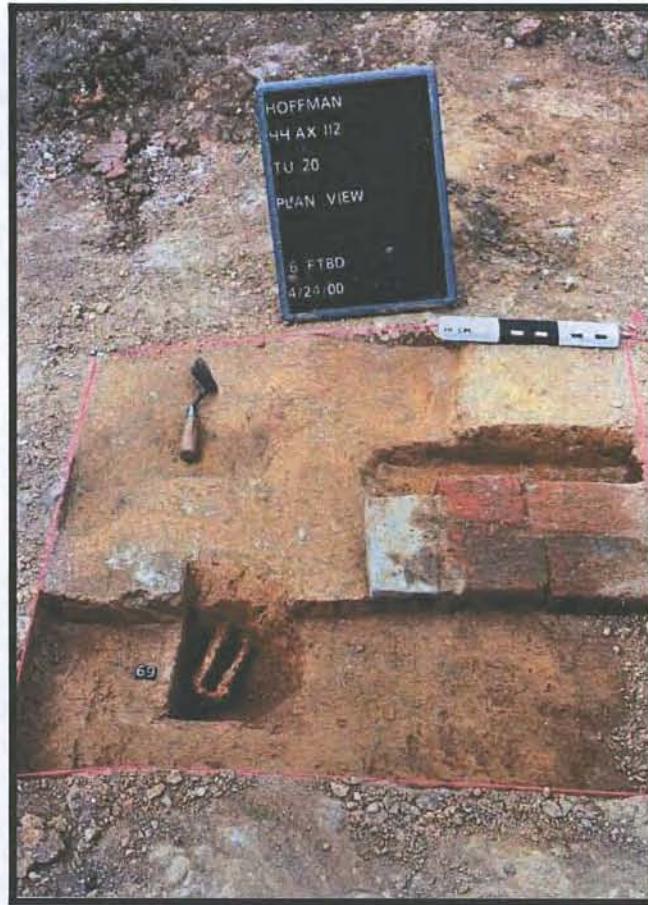


Figure 92. Miller's House: Photograph of Test Unit 20 at conclusion of excavation, showing brick foundation, associated builder's trench, and bisected feature (#69)(orientation north)

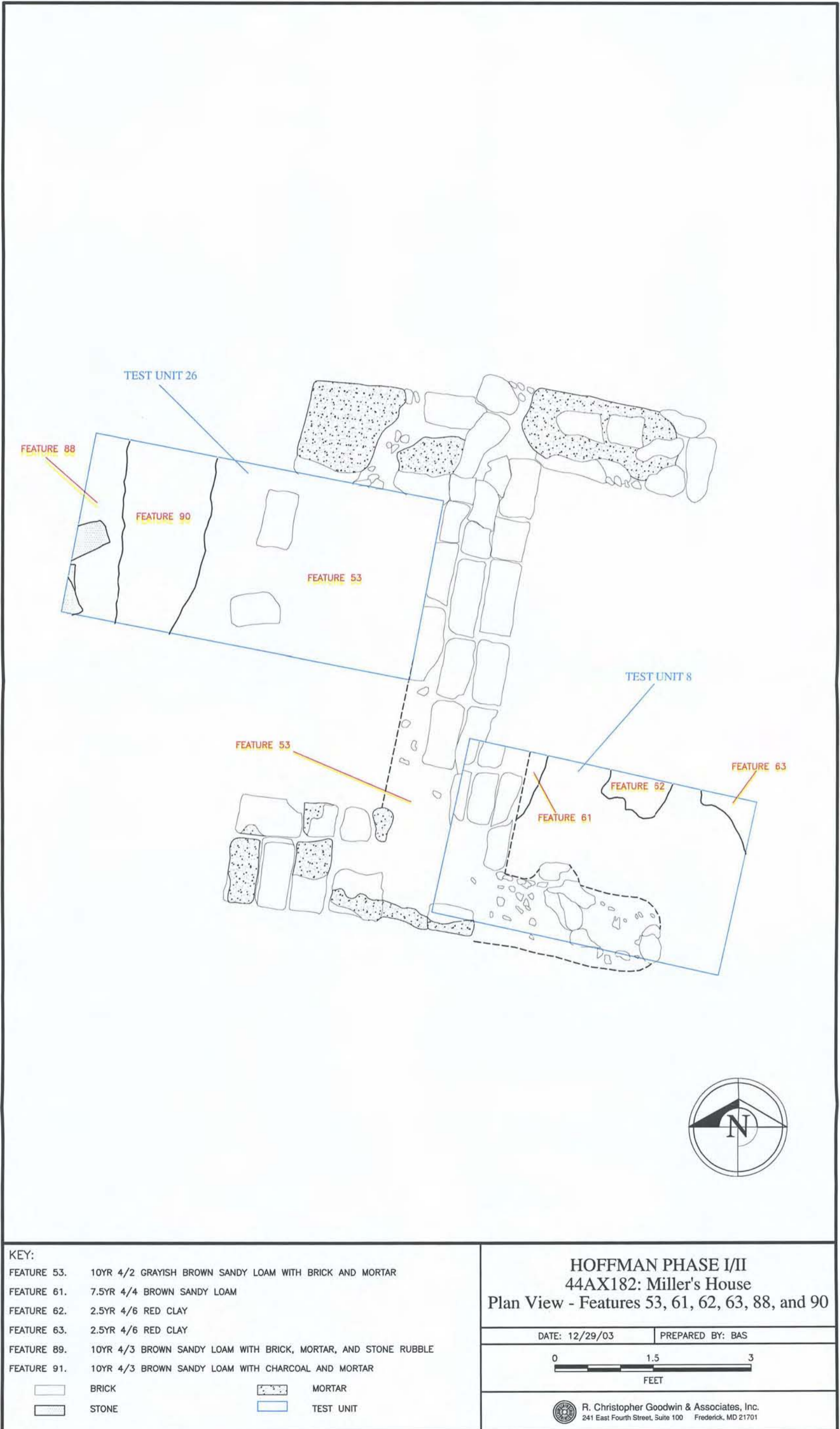


Figure 93. Miller's House: Plan view of Feature 53, the I-shaped hearth, and associated test units (#8 and #26) and features





Figure 94. Miller's House: Test Unit 8 at conclusion of excavation, showing portion of remaining hearth foundation and associated "builder's trench" on interior of firebox (Orientation south)

A total of 53 items were recovered from the uppermost four strata (0.25 – 0.53 ftbd) of Unit 8 and from Feature 61. Over 40 per cent of this material consisted of architectural debris such as brick and mortar fragments, window glass, and nails. Except for a fragment of whiteware recovered from Stratum I, no temporally diagnostic artifacts were recovered.

*Test Unit 26.* The objective of excavating Unit 26 within the western aperture of the hearth feature was to examine the area between the hearth and Feature 88, a mortared wall composed of schist-like stone that defined the eastern perimeter of what appeared to be the cellar beneath the western section of the dwelling (Figure 95). In addition to the hearth and the wall, two soil stains within this unit were identified as Features 89 and 90; Feature 89 was positioned in such a way as to resemble a possible builder's trench for the stone cellar wall. Although separate and stratigraphically distinct, the amorphous soil deposits associated with the hearth feature all were composed of grayish brown to brown (10YR 4/2 – 4/3) sandy loam that contained varying quantities of charcoal and brick fragments (Figure 95). These deposits overlay a subsoil of 7.5YR 5/6 strong brown sandy clay.

Artifact assemblages were recovered from Feature 53, the fill associated directly with the hearth, and Feature 90; no artifacts were present in Feature 89. In terms of chronology, both assemblages also appeared to be roughly contemporary, having been deposited during the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries; late hard-paste porcelain in Feature 53 and ironstone in Feature 90 provided this generic temporal assessment. Both assemblages were domestic in character, containing items of clothing (a copper alloy stud), food (e.g., cut/butchered bone and oyster shell), and what appeared to be fragments of a clear glass oil lamp chimney. Finally, both

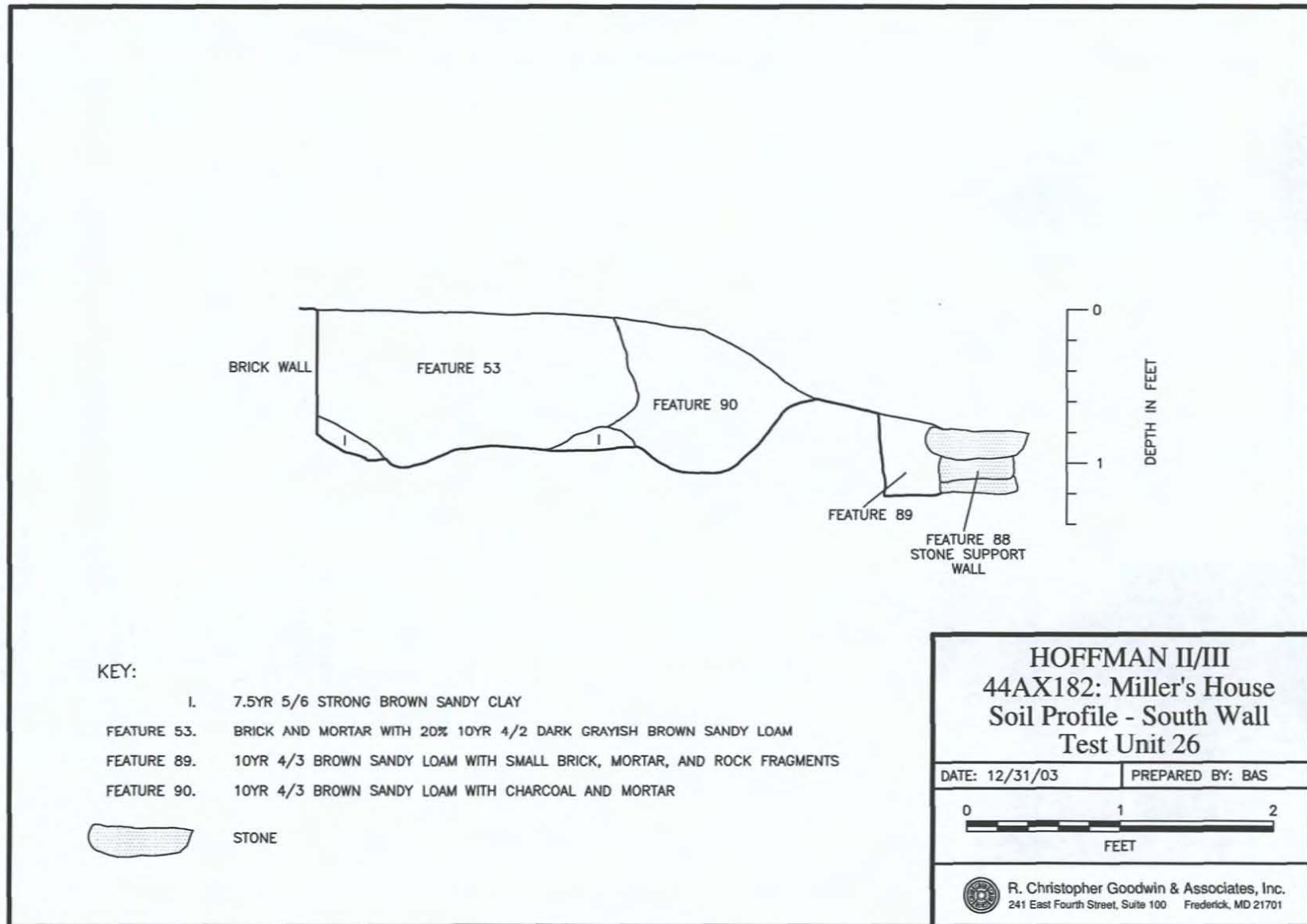


Figure 95. Profile of Test Unit 26, showing distinctive stratigraphic features as soil deposits between the hearth and the eastern perimeter wall of the cellar

deposits clearly reflected the demolition of the overlying structure, given the high percentage of architectural debris noted within the soil matrices and the presence of nails and window glass in their respective artifact assemblages. Although charcoal was an element of these soil matrices, it appears to have been associated with the demolition of the structure rather than having resulted from use of the hearth.

*The western block.* The western block of the Miller's House, which measured approximately 25 ft long and 11 ft wide, encompassed several major related features. The perimeter of the block was defined by a disarticulated foundation wall composed principally of a sedimentary schist-like stone (Features 4-09, 82 and 88). This foundation extended to a depth of 4 ft and also served as an interior stone support wall for the cellar (Features 4-02, 4-13 and 4-15), which had been filled with rubble, probably during demolition of the overlying structure. The western half of the brick chimney base (Feature 53), a rubble-filled brick bulkhead entrance that led into the cellar (Feature 4-12), and several brick footers completed the array of features associated with this section of the house.

*Foundation.* The disarticulated condition of the foundation that supported the western portion of the Miller's House initially resulted in its being designated as three separate features: Feature 4-09, originally identified as a brick and cobble surface; Feature 82, the northwestern foundation wall of the building; and Feature 88, the eastern support wall for the cellar. However, additional mechanized and manual stripping revealed that these features all represented remnants of the same foundation. The western wall section (Feature 4-09), which had been constructed (or possibly repaired) using a combination of brick and stone, had been severely disturbed during demolition. The type of stone in this feature was similar to that used in the northwestern foundation wall (Feature 82), which also served as a support wall for the cellar. Feature 88, a 7 ft long segment of mortared stone located beneath the hearth at the eastern end of this section of the house, formed the eastern wall of the cellar. The type of stone utilized in all these sections was sedimentary, friable and schist-like, and had been bonded together using a heavily lime-based mortar. Test Units 21 and 22 were placed to explore these features further.

*Test Unit 21.* This unit was placed to straddle the western foundation wall (Feature 4-01) and an associated robber's trench (Feature 4-08), approximately 3 ft south of the extreme northwestern corner of the building. In plan view (Figure 96), the robbed wall line appeared at a depth of 0.45 ft below the surface as a linear soil stain of 2.5YR 5/3 light olive brown loamy clay mottled with mortar and 10YR 5/6 yellowish brown clay, and it contrasted visibly with the adjacent soils at this depth. Culturally sterile 10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown clay subsoil abutted the trench feature to the west, on the exterior of the robbed foundation. East of the trench feature, inside the foundation line, the adjacent soil matrix was composed of 10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown clay mottled with 10YR 7/1 light gray clay, apparently representing the top layers of fill within the cellar. The profile of the south wall of Test Unit 21 (Figure 96) illustrates the depth, configuration, and character of the fill deposits that had been introduced into the cellar of the structure. The lowest of these strata was designated as Feature 86.

Nine artifacts, none of which were temporally diagnostic, were recovered from the robber's trench feature. Of these, only two (a four-holed white porcelain shirt button and a fragment of light green container glass) did not represent architectural debris. Similarly, architectural items such as window glass, brick fragments, and badly corroded nails dominated the assemblages recovered from the various levels of fill within the basement cavity. In Stratum III (0.3 – 0.7 ftbd), such materials collectively comprised 66 per cent of the 21-item sub-assemblage; in Stratum IV (0.7 – 1.0 ftbd), they comprised 50 per cent of the recovered sub-assemblage (n=6); and nails and window glass accounted for 80 per cent of the 25 items recovered from the lowest fill level (Feature 86: 1.0 – 1.9 ftbd). The non-architectural materials retrieved from these fill levels represented a temporally mixed

domestic occupation, with dateable items that ranged from early nineteenth century pearlware and a tobacco pipe bowl fragment (Stratum III) to late nineteenth/early twentieth century undecorated ironstone (Stratum IV).

The composition of the fill strata, many of which contained some amount of 10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown clay subsoil, indicated that they had resulted, at least in part, from activities that impacted the subsoil either around and outside of the building foundation and/or some type of subsoil penetrating activity within the foundation; mechanical stripping, for example, typically removes not only topsoil but also the upper layers of subsoil, mixes these natural strata, and redeposits them elsewhere. The relatively sparse number of artifacts recovered from the fill strata in this test unit therefore could have come either from ground surfaces close to the building or from within the structure itself. Their ability to deliver much detailed information about the dwelling, its occupants or their activities clearly was limited.

*Test Unit 22.* Like Test Unit 21, Test Unit 22 was positioned to straddle the mortared stone foundation along the northern perimeter of the filled cellar of the Miller's House; the northern perimeter of this unit also intersected part of the Phase I exploratory trench previously opened by Engineering-Science during their initial Phase I investigations at Cameron Mills in 1990. Eight strata, six of which represented fill and demolition episodes, were exposed during the excavation of this unit. Strata I – IV were a series of relatively thin (0.15 to 0.35 in thick) lenses of disturbed and intermixed sands, silts, and clays, some of which were manifested as pockets and/or extended across only part of the unit. Strata V – VII, which contained up to 80 per cent brickbats, clearly represented the demolition of the building's superstructure. Natural subsoil (Stratum VII: 10YR 5/8 yellowish brown sandy clay) was reached on the interior of the building at a depth of 2.95 ft. Stratum VIII, a culturally sterile mixed fill composed of 10YR 5/8 yellowish brown sandy clay and 2.5Y 5/1 gray clayey sand, was present only north of and exterior to the building foundation; this fill apparently was introduced as a leveling level following the 1990 Phase I excavations.

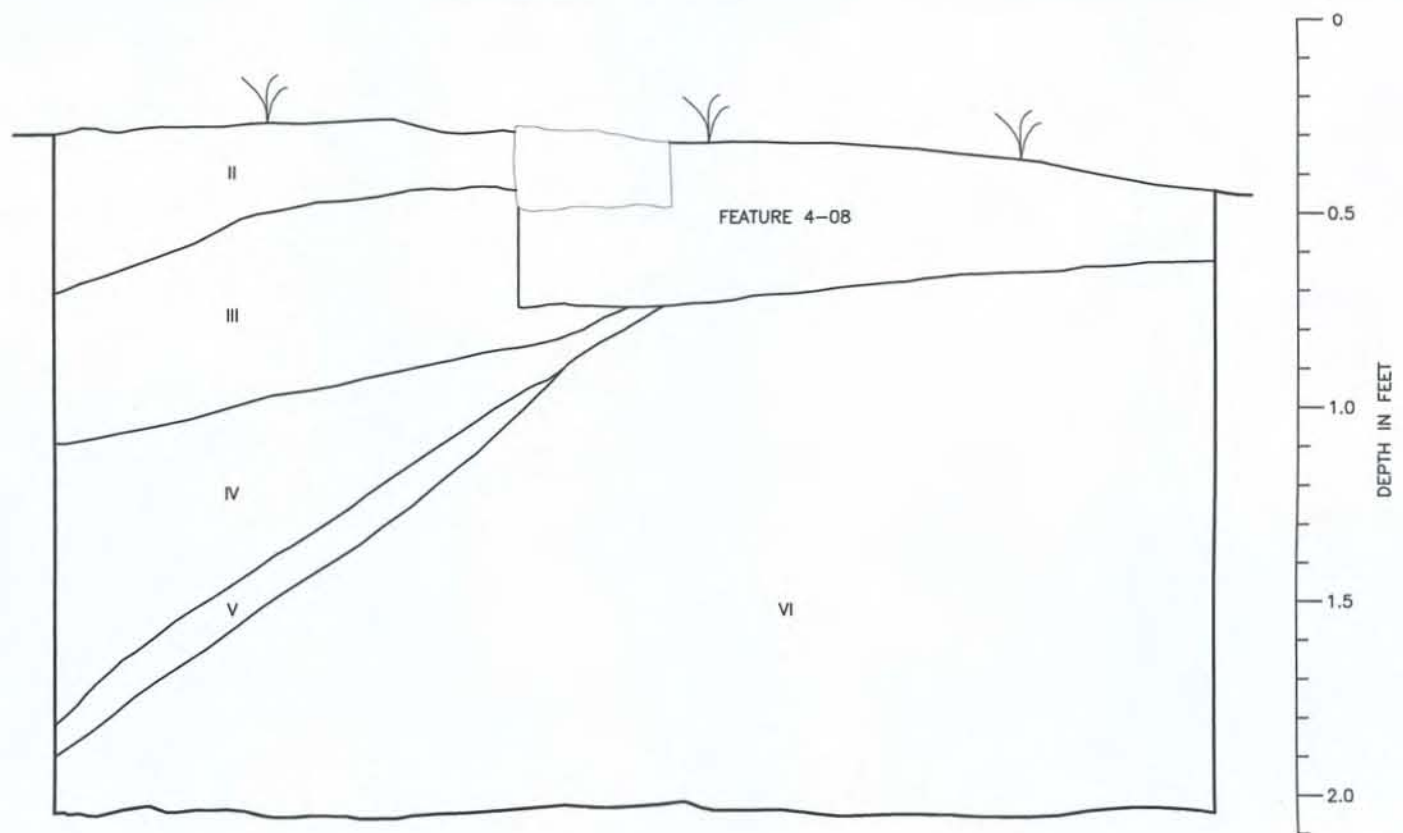
The rather sparse (total n=29) artifact assemblage from this unit was recovered only from three strata within the house basement. Stratum IV yielded 14 items, largely architectural in nature (e.g., nails and window glass) as well as ceramic sherds identified as pearlware and creamware. The limited assemblage from Stratum V (n=6) also was composed predominantly of architectural materials. A single fragment of blue transfer-printed whiteware with a floral motif was intermixed with the window and bottle glass from Stratum VI (n=9). The reverse stratigraphy indicated by recovery of early nineteenth century ceramics from strata that overlay layers containing later nineteenth century whiteware once again suggested that the uppermost basement fill deposits lacked temporal integrity.

One issue raised by the excavation of these test units concerned the possible relationship between the stone foundation associated with this dwelling and a similar stone foundation remnant (Feature 32) exposed in Trench 2, west of the main house. Both foundation features appear to have been constructed in similar fashion, using a schist-like material laid in rough ashlar fashion and bonded with sand-lime mortar (Figure 97). One hypothesis offered was that these two foundations might have represented matching early nineteenth century outbuildings that originally flanked the principal Cameron Farm dwelling. Rough measurements calculated on the basis of feature maps indicated that these buildings were not true flankers in the (balanced) Georgian sense of that term; the building represented by Feature 32 (Trench 6) lay almost 140 ft directly west of the original block of the Cameron farmhouse, while the stone foundation underlying the western half of the Miller's House stood well southeast of the farmhouse at a distance of approximately 260 ft. Nevertheless, the morphological similarities between the two structures implies some sort of contemporaneity, or at least, a common builder.

PLAN VIEW AT 0.45 FTBD



SOUTH WALL PROFILE



KEY:

- I. 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY
- II. 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY MOTTLED WITH 1% 10YR 7/1 LIGHT GRAY CLAY, AND 0% 2.5Y 6/1 GRAY CLAY
- III. 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY MOTTLED WITH 20% 2.5YR 4/3 LIGHT OLIVE BROWN LOAMY CLAY
- IV. MORTAR MOTTLED WITH 5% 2.5YR 5/3 LIGHT OLIVE BROWN CLAY LOAM
- V. 2.5YR 5/3 LIGHT OLIVE BROWN SAND MOTTLED WITH 3% 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN SAND
- VI. 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY MOTTLED WITH 1% 10YR 7/1 LIGHT GRAY CLAY
- FEATURE 4-08. 2.5YR 5/3 LIGHT OLIVE BROWN LOAMY CLAY MOTTLED WITH 5% MORTAR, AND 2% 10YR 5/6 YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY



BRICK



COBBLE

HOFFMAN II/III  
44AX182: Miller's House  
Plan and Profile Views  
Test Unit 21

DATE: 12/31/03

PREPARED BY: BAS



R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.  
241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100 Frederick, MD 21701

Figure 96. Plan view and profile of Test Unit 21, showing the robber's trench of the building foundation (Feature 4-08), adjacent soil patterns, and the depth and configuration of fill layers at the western edge of the cellar cavity





Figure 97. Photograph of the northern stone foundation of the Miller's House (Feature 82), showing coursed ashlar construction, and stepped-back top sections

*Cellar fill.* Feature 4-13, originally identified during the 1998-1999 Phase I excavations, was the rubble-filled cellar cavity that underlay the western block of the Miller's House. The generalized collection recovered from the surface of this feature during the Phase I excavations yielded a moderate-sized ( $n=82$ ), primarily domestic, assemblage that included items related to food and food preparation (74.4 per cent); some architectural material (7.3 per cent); and small numbers of items related to other functional classes (e. g., activities, arms, personal, transportation, furniture, and clothing). The marked items in this assemblage generally reflected its late nineteenth to twentieth century deposition; chief among these were embossed glass containers for "Bromo-Seltzer," Davis' Baking Powder, McCormick's Spices, and Portner Beer.

Subsequent re-opening and manual exposure of the entire cellar aperture revealed a number of stains and soil discolorations, originally identified as individual features, that later were found to be discrete pockets of dissimilar materials that had been incorporated within the cellar fill. Some of these soil discolorations were excavated separately during excavation of specific test units. For example, Feature 86 was a lens of crushed mortar that was identified in Test Unit 21 adjacent to the western foundation wall; nails, glass and bone were all recovered from the lens, which likely represented debris that resulted from the destruction of the house. Feature 89 was identified as a 0.34 ft deep builder's trench associated with the stone wall feature 88. No artifacts were recovered from the soil matrix within this feature, which was composed of a 10YR 4/3 brown sandy loam with a small amount of brick, mortar and rock. Feature 85, originally identified as a roughly circular concentration of burnt fill within the larger cellar, later proved to be more expansive than originally mapped and assumed the configuration of a discrete stratum.

*Test Unit 23.* This unit, which initially measured 2 x 4 ft, was excavated into the middle of the cellar fill before the basement was fully cleared mechanically. The lateral dimensions of the unit were reduced by half into a 2 x 2 ft "director's window" at a depth of approximately 2.25 ft below datum (2 ft below existing ground level). Total depth of excavation reached 5.25 ft below the existing ground level.

The unit revealed a series of ten strata and one stratigraphic feature (Feature 85). Taken together, this stratigraphy reflected a complex history of filling, building demolition, and (possibly) two construction episodes (Table 8)(Figure 98). The topmost stratum (I) obviously represented the most recent attempt to infill the depression created by settling of the underlying strata. Feature 85 and Stratum II collectively bespoke the debris associated with the demolition of the building. The composition of Feature 85's soil matrix suggested that wooden debris from the structure might have been introduced deliberately into the cellar hole after the masonry elements of the structure (e.g., the chimney and portions of the foundation) had been collapsed into it.

Interpretations of the strata underlying the wreckage of the dwelling are more hypothetical, particularly given the abrupt declines in artifact counts and densities. Domestic materials dominated each of the sparse assemblages recovered from Strata III and IV, the matrices of which differed primarily in the relative proportions of 7.5YR 5/8 clay and 10YR 3/2 organic loam that were their principal component soils. The two strata appeared to be somewhat discrete temporally, as evidenced by the recovery of a twentieth century key ring from Stratum III and a Pamplin-type reed-stem pipe bowl of late nineteenth century vintage from Stratum IV. Clearly, however, the remains of domestic occupation rather than building construction or demolition characterized both of these deposits.

Architectural materials were the most commonly represented functional artifact classes recovered from the next four strata. All four strata were composed of basically the same soil matrices (10YR 4/4 - 4/6 yellowish brown clay or clayey sand), with deposits of brick, mortar and/or plaster present in Strata VI and VII. With the exception of a single wire nail (Stratum VII), all temporally diagnostic artifacts generically dated from the mid-to-late nineteenth century. Possible repair or remodeling of a standing structure could explain the relatively high percentage and low numbers of architectural materials within these layers.

The materials recovered from the two lowest strata within Test Unit 23 presented some significant differences from those found in the overlying soils: both contained early, antebellum artifact types, most notably creamware and pearlware; neither stratum yielded or appeared to have been contaminated with modern materials; and, in particular, the assemblage from Stratum IX included both remnant potential food items (e.g., oyster shell, bone) and vessels associated with food preparation or service. The contents of these uncontaminated soil layers suggest that the building that originally occupied this site was initially constructed during the antebellum period.

*Test Unit 25.* This 1 x 1 ft auxiliary unit was placed northeast of TU 23 in an attempt to define an edge for the cellar hole. However, excavation was carried only to a depth of 0.98 ft and exposed only two strata. Stratum I, composed of 10YR 4/6 brown silty clay mottled with 10YR 3/1 dark gray sandy loam, appeared similar to Stratum I in TU 23; four fragments of window glass and one English gunflint were recovered from this level. Stratum II, comprised of 10YR 4/2 dark grayish brown sandy loam with brick and mortar, corresponded approximately to Stratum II in TU 23 and its artifact assemblage did not convey a strong temporal message. Because both strata directly overlay the brick rubble resulting from the demolition of the house, excavations were suspended at that point, since the rubble level had been tested sufficiently in other units.

**Table 8. Features Exposed in Block 3, Trench 4.98 (Miller's House) and extensions**

Trench #	Feature #	Associated Artifact Assemblage	TPQ/Date Range	Analysis, comments
3/4.98	01	(Surface sample) Ceramics (whiteware, ironstone, pearlware), toy fragment, flower pot fragments	Late nineteenth to early twentieth century	Brick wall: two courses (9") wide
	02	(surface sample) Ceramics (predominantly whiteware, also ironstone and late porcelain); machine made bottle glass; wire and cut nails; electrical insulator, coal and coal slag	Mid-late twentieth century	Brick and rubble concentration; associated with Feature 4-14 during later extension (Feature 4-02 extended)
	03			Remnant laid brick courses, perpendicular to Feature 4-01 (possible robbed wall)
	04			Brick footer (9" x 9"), oriented NE, located parallel to and 2.5 ft SW of Feature 4-01
	05			Brick footer (9" x 9"), located parallel to and 3.25 ft SW of Feature 4-02
	06			Brick footer (9" x 1.0'), located perpendicular to and 5.0 ft NW of Feature 4-05; bricks in rowlock pattern
	07	Terra Cotta drain or sewerage pipe fragments	Modern	Brick culvert or drain (1 course wide at first discovery; later expands to 30" wide), oriented NW to SE. Eastern edge of Feature 4-09)
	08	Ceramic marble or curtain weight	Unidentified	Builder's trench for Feature 4-01
	09/9A	Wire and cut nails, late porcelain, whiteware (some burnt), coal	TPQ: ca 1890 General: Late nineteenth century	Cobble and brickbat surface (driveway or roadway paving associated with Feature 4-07).
	10			Brick drain or culvert (west of Feature 4-09 and parallel to Feature 4-07)
	11			Brick footer (9" x 9") atop and within Feature 02
	12	Mortar sample		Concentration of sandy loam and brick flecks north of Feature 4-01

Trench #	Feature #	Associated Artifact Assemblage	TPQ/Date Range	Analysis, comments
4.98 Extensi on	13	Surface sample: Architectural, kitchen (food-preparation and service) were two most common categories included in the initial 86-item assemblage. Test sample from (0-3.34 ft bd.) same feature yielded a total of 82 items, including identifiable items from local and regional manufacturers.	Twentieth Century	Rubble filled cellar hole
	14	Late (Japanese?) porcelain, carbon battery, machine made bottle (Marked Davis' OK Baking Powder)	TPQ: 1890 General: Late nineteenth century	Extension of and associated with Feature 4-02. Matrix covered second east-west oriented foundation wall.
	15	Sponge-decorated whiteware	Early – mid nineteenth century	Brick rubble concentration in black sandy loam matrix
	16	Sewerage/drainage pipe, miscellaneous hardware	Modern	Former utility trench (2.75 ft wide) parallel to and east of Feature 4-09 (road surface)
	17			Deposit of burnt coal and cinder
	18		Modern	Utility trench (wire cable still present)
	19			Partially robbed brick wall, 2 courses wide, perpendicular to (forms corner with) Feature 4-14 wall and surrounds rubble filled cellar (Feature 4-13)

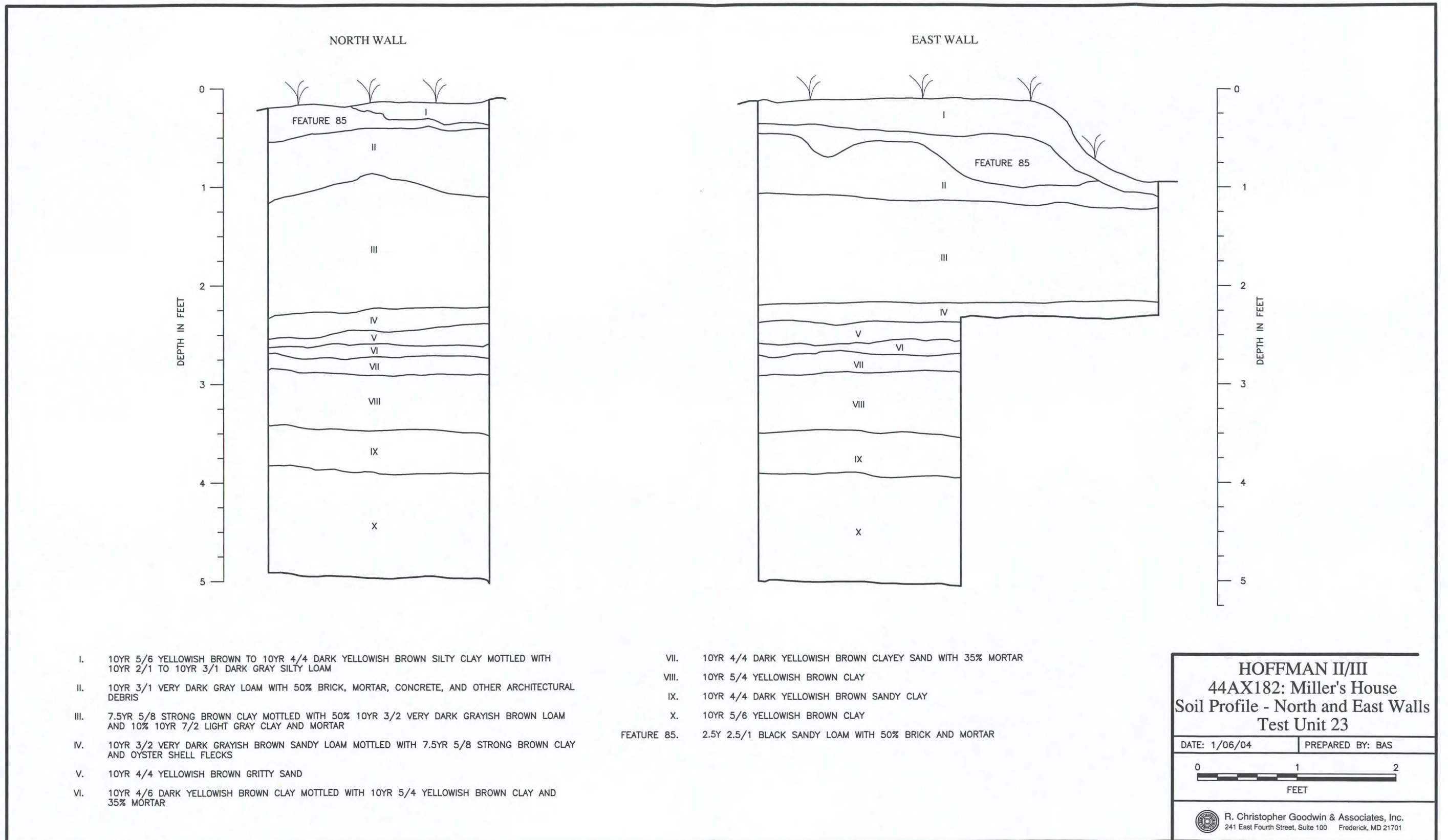


Figure 98. Test Unit 23, north and east wall profiles, showing successive fill, demolition, and construction episodes



Following individual feature testing and test unit excavation, the cellar depression was completely emptied of fill. This strategy revealed that the bottom of the cellar apparently had been excavated out in bowl-like fashion (Figure 99) and, except along its northern face, had used the naturally occurring subsoil as walls.

*Bulkhead area.* Feature 4-12 was a largely intact bulkhead entrance, approximately 4 ft wide and 3 ft deep that afforded access into the southeastern corner of the cellar. The bulkhead itself was U-shaped and its surrounding walls had been constructed of machine-made brick, two courses thick, laid in common stretcher bond. Removal of overlying strata revealed the remains of two and possibly three brick steps within the bulkhead entrance. However, these step features were not intact, having been partially removed during the installation of a ceramic drainpipe (Feature 87) that ran through the middle of the bulkhead opening; this drainpipe rested on the bottom courses of the second step.

*Test Unit 9.* Excavation unit 9 was positioned to explore this bulkhead entry (Feature 4-12), and several other features and anomalies associated with it. Feature 4-13, the generalized fill within the cellar, extended into and overlay the bulkhead. Feature 4-17 was identified as a deposit of burnt coal and cinders located at the southeastern corner of the bulkhead entrance. Feature 4-14, initially described in 1999 as a discrete dark grayish brown pit, subsequently was reinterpreted as a part of Feature 4-17. Feature 58 was the ceramic drainpipe and its associated utility trench that was identified beneath the upper fill levels that covered the bulkhead entrance. Figure 100 illustrates various aspects of the lateral and vertical configurations displayed within this unit.

Feature 4-13, the cellar fill, extended into and covered the interior of the bulkhead entrance. Two strata, roughly equivalent to Stratum I and Feature 85 identified in Test Unit 23, extended vertically to a depth of about 1.25 ft. A total of 79 artifacts were recovered from these deposits; the sub-assemblage from the upper level (n=41) was composed primarily of architectural materials such

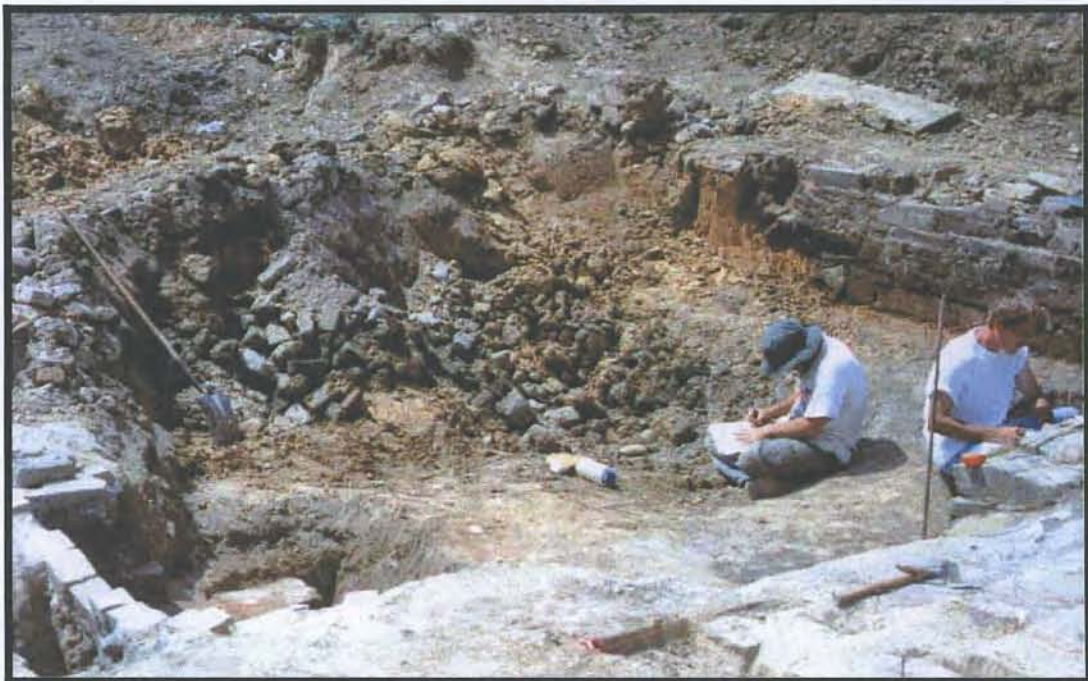


Figure 99. General view of partially excavated cellar hole of the Miller's House, showing bowl-like shape of cellar cavity and the nature of brick rubble fill (Orientation northwest)

as cut and wire nails and window glass, while that from the lower level (n=38) was a mixture of architectural debris and domestic refuse (e.g., glass, ceramics, tin can fragments, some faunal material)(Table 9).

Feature 4-17, which was excavated in two arbitrary levels, extended from 0.4 to 1.4 ftbd. Both strata of 10YR 4/3 brown and 10YR3/2 very dark grayish brown silty loam contained heavy amounts of charcoal, as well as structural debris attributed to the demolition of the building. The concentration of artifacts recovered from the two excavated levels of this feature was quite possibly the densest encountered across the entire site. The 135-item assemblage from Stratum I represented a domestic occupation that potentially had begun during the second third of the nineteenth century (transfer-printed whiteware) and extended through the at least the first decade of the twentieth (machine made bottle glass). Architectural and food preparation/service/storage artifacts also dominated the sub-assemblage from the underlying stratum, and similarly combined such post-1890 materials as wire nails, machine-made bottle glass, and decalcomined hard-paste porcelain with earlier ceramic types such as hand-painted pearlware. The presence in both strata of fragments of the same Bennington-like "Rebecca at the Well" earthenware jug indicates that Feature 4-17 represents a single deposit, likely associated with the destruction of the house.

The ceramic pipe (Feature 58), which measured approximately 0.75 ft in diameter, extended into and out of the cellar through the middle of the bulkhead entrance by means of an infilled utility trench (Figure 101). The utility trench fill consisted of a 1.2 ft thick mixture of 10YR 5/6 yellowish brown clay loam and 10YR 4/3 brown silty loam. A single course of unmortared machine-made brick had been placed to repair the damage that had been suffered by the south wall of the bulkhead during installation of the drainage pipe. Although it contained some early materials, the artifact assemblage recovered from the utility trench (n=145) was predominantly of twentieth century vintage. Small fragments of pearlware and machine-cut nails mingled with twentieth century machine-made glass container fragments (n=52) that made up more than a third of the collective artifact assemblage.

The fact that this drainpipe rested on the second step of the bulkhead and not on the floor of the cellar itself (Figure 101) suggests that the cellar already had been filled to the depth of the pipe, and that the pipe had been installed at a later time to manage persistent moisture problems. This interpretation is consistent with conditions observed during the excavation of Test Unit 23 into the cellar fill. At that time, excavators noted that the soil matrices underlying the primary rubble/building destruction strata became increasingly wet at depths of between 2 and 2.5 ft below the surface.

*Miscellaneous ancillary features.* Ancillary features located outside of but parallel to the house foundation verified that the Miller's House had a porch. At least six of these features (Features 4-04, 4-05, 4-06, 4-11, 84, and 91) appeared to have functioned as piers that supported a frame porch extending across the south façade of the building. Some of the features were mortared and had held together well enough to preserve their original configurations and alignments, while others had been partially disarticulated, either during the demolition of the building or during the initial phases of archeological testing. Another group of four unmortared, intact bricks (Feature 60), located on the eastern side of the house, also appeared to have been placed deliberately, but their function could not be ascertained.

Drainage outside of the dwelling apparently was as much of a concern as that within. Another ancillary feature exposed during the initial Phase I tests was Feature 4-07, a brick drain west of the dwelling and oriented north south to lead water downhill. Two bricks wide, this drain apparently functioned to convey water away from the house area.

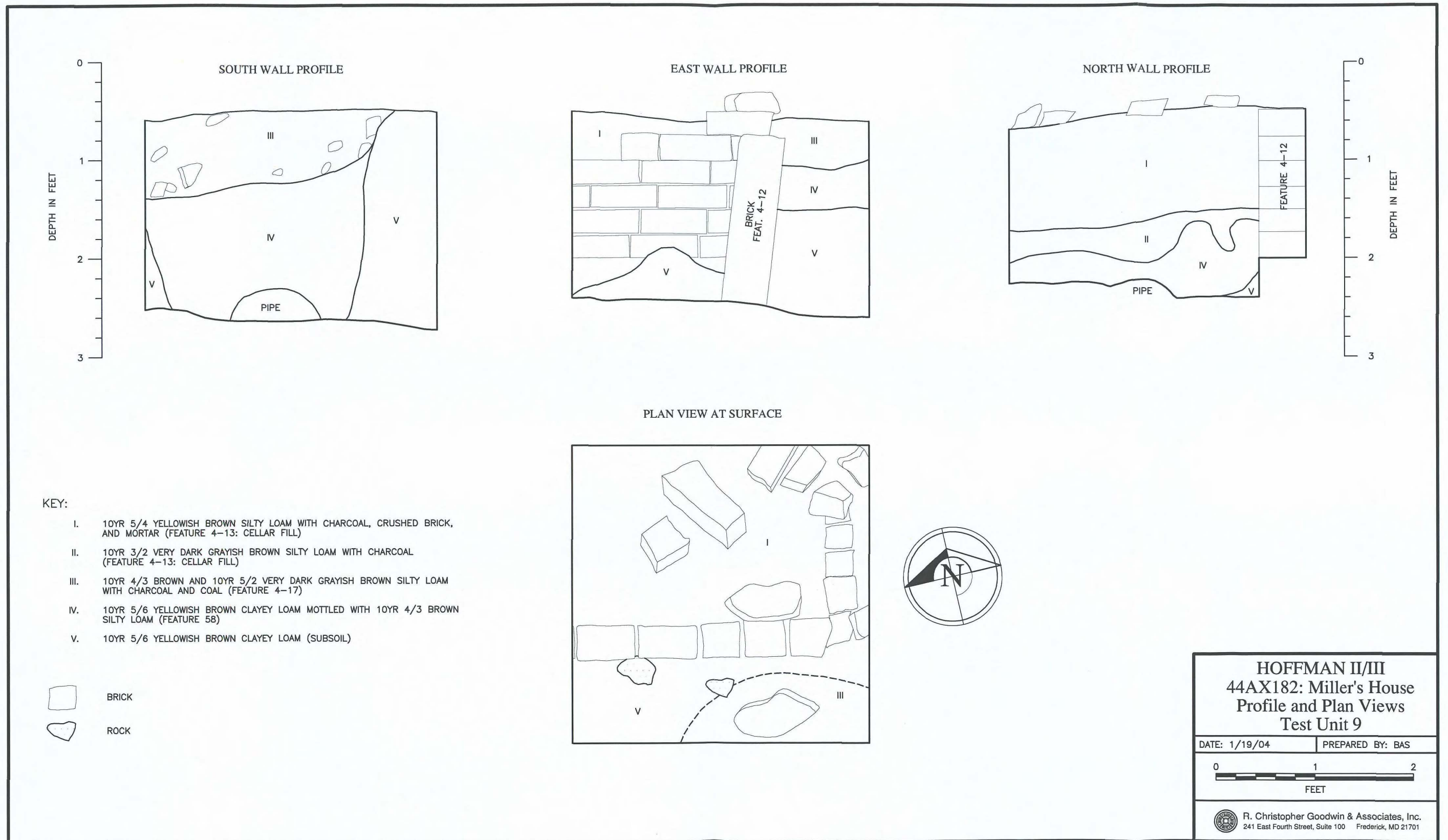


Figure 100. Profiles and plan views of Test Unit 9, showing configuration of strata and features within the unit



Table 9. Analysis of Stratigraphy in Feature 4.13 (Miller's House)

Strat.	# Excav. Levels	Composition/Matrix	Average L/W/H (ft)	Estimated Vol. (cf <sup>3</sup> )	Artifact count (N)	Estimated Density (n per cf <sup>3</sup> )	Comments
I	2	10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown to 10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown silty clay mixed w/ 10YR 2/1 - 3/1 dk gray silt loam	4.0 x 1.0 x 0.3	1.2	92	77	Assemblage contains tarpaper and linoleum mixed with other architectural and 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> century materials. Represents probable leveling level.
Feat. 85	2	2.5Y 2.5/1 black sandy loam with 50% brick and mortar	4.0 x 2.0 x 0.25	2.0	579	289.5	Highly uneven, burnt fill level. Probably associated w/ demolition of dwelling's frame superstructure; TPQ: 1890 or later.
II	2	10YR 3/1 very dark gray loam with 50 per cent brick, mortar, concrete and other architectural debris	4.0 x 2.0 x 0.25	2.0	570	285	Building debris (probable chimney and foundation elements). TPQ: 1890 or later
III	1	7.5YR 5/8 strong brown clay mottled with 50% 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown loam and 10% 10YR 7/2 light gray clay and mortar	4.0 x 2.0 x 1.1	8.8	29	3.4	Predominantly domestic assemblage, with lesser amounts of architectural material in comparison with food storage/prep items. Soil matrix very wet
IV	1	10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown sandy loam mottled with 7.5YR 5/8 strong brown clay and oyster shell flecks	4.0 x 2.0 x 0.2	1.6	15	9.4	Sparse generalized assemblage dates from mid-nineteenth century on. Reedstem tobacco pipe bowl dates assemblage from mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century onward.
V*	1	10YR 4/4/ yellowish brown gritty sand	2.0 x 2.0 x 0.15	0.6	7	11.7	Sparse, non-diagnostic, architectural materials
VI*	1	10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown clay mixed w/ 10YR 5/4 yellowish brown clay and 35% mortar	2.0 x 2.0 x 0.1	0.4	15	37.5	Primarily architectural materials; nails all machine cut 19 <sup>th</sup> century
VII*	1	10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown clayey sand w/ 35% mortar	2.0 x 2.0 x .02	0.8	17	21.3	Very wet matrix. Architectural material dominant, with one wire nail. Coal and coal slag in this fill
VIII*	1	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown clay	2.0 x 2.0 x 0.6	2.4	2	0.8	Brick and mortar samples only
IX*	1	10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown sandy clay	2.0 x 2.0 x 0.45	1.8	11	6.1	Architectural material predominant (45.4%); dateable ceramics include pearlware and creamware (early – mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century)
X.*	1	10YR 5/6/yellowish brown clay	2.0 x 2.0 x 1.0	4.0	5	1.25	Green shell-edged pearlware indicates early 19 <sup>th</sup> century date for this level.



Figure 101. Photograph of excavated bulkhead entrance, showing ceramic drainage pipe resting on access steps and unmortared brickwork added to close access to cellar

## Interpretation

The archeological evidence—in particular, the composition and configuration of its various features—suggests that the Miller’s House may have been built in several stages, with first stage coming before the Civil War period. Initially, this building consisted only of the western section with a single hearth at its eastern end. It was supported by the square stone foundation and had no cellar. It is likely that a small porch or entryway on the southern façade of the building provided access to the dwelling.

It is unclear whether the original dwelling was demolished and replaced by a newer, somewhat larger structure, or was simply repaired during the later nineteenth century. The second half of the nineteenth century also saw the addition of a second room and an opposing brick hearth to the eastern façade of the original structure. This added section also had a porch on its southern façade.

The western half of the dwelling subsequently was modified one or more times. One such modification entailed the excavation of what is perhaps best described as a “root cellar,” a basement feature with no solid foundation walls that had been merely scooped out of the surrounding subsoil. The series of thin soil matrices found atop the subsoil “floor” of the basement suggest that soils from the unfinished basement may have leached into the cellar opening at a later time, possibly during renovations, given the high architectural content of their artifact assemblages. The newly created cellar was entered by means of a bulkhead located at the southeastern corner of the original dwelling.

As the Sanborn maps demonstrate (Figure 37), the Miller's House remained standing through at least the early twentieth century. However, the persistent drainage problems apparently required some sort of mitigative action, which was accomplished by the insertion of a ceramic drainage pipe that exited the cellar opening through the bulkhead entrance. At that time, the original bulkhead was closed off--rather flimsily--with a single-course, unmortared, brick wall.



## CHAPTER IX

# CONCLUSION

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### Introduction

This report has presented the combined results of Phase I and II archeological investigations of the Cameron Farm (44AX182) and Cameron Mills (44AX112) archeological sites, both located within the Hoffman Properties project area in Alexandria, Virginia. The life of the project extended from April 1998 through March 2001. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., conducted the study on behalf of Hoffman Management, Inc., in compliance with the City of Alexandria's Archaeological Protection Ordinance, which requires archeological investigations prior to development of properties within the city. The approximately 60 ac, 10-block, Hoffman property project area, located in Alexandria's "West End" (Figures 1 and 2), is bounded by the Southern Railroad, Telegraph Road, Mill Road, and the Capital Beltway (I-95/495). Mill Road, Stovall Street, and Eisenhower Avenue traverse the property, and an elevated segment of the Washington Metro's Yellow Line and its Eisenhower Avenue station complex occupy the southeastern corner of the project area. The phased study was designed to assess the archeological potential of the project area, and to identify and sample archeological resources within specified blocks prior to their development.

### Methods

The sequence of development planned for the Hoffman property determined both the timing of the project and the investigative methods employed during each of its stages. Pursuant to the City of Alexandria's planning process, the City's staff archeologists reviewed and commented on site development plans filed by Hoffman Management, Inc.; these review comments then formed a general Scope of Work that established the objectives for each development stage. Hoffman Management, Inc., R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. and the City of Alexandria archeological staff then jointly planned the specific methodological approach for each portion of the property. These methods were altered or expanded, in consultation with the City's archeologists, as warranted by conditions and discoveries in the field.

Four general methods were adopted to achieve the objectives of the project.

- Archival research was employed to produce a preliminary Phase IA study (Williams 1998), which was completed as initial site development plans were filed with the City. This study generated a general history of the 10-block project area; an assessment of the archeological potential of each block of the property, based upon a review of archival and cartographic data and the results of previous investigations in

the area; and recommendations about the nature and extent of work to be performed within each block. Additional archival research was undertaken throughout the remainder of the project to supply relevant, site-specific details.

- Mechanized test trenching, followed by mapping and limited testing of exposed features, was the principal Phase I field strategy applied to the project area. Where trenches revealed large numbers of potentially related features, they were expanded to expose broader portions of the site and facilitate examination and documentation of the relationship between features. Mechanized trenching and stripping were used to investigate the eastern part of Block 2 (2000), the northern portions of Block 3 (1998, 2000), the southern half of Block 3 (2001), and the extreme eastern end of Block 10 (2001). Generalized area artifact samples were collected during this stage of investigations.
- Archeological monitoring and documentation, followed by limited shovel testing of potentially sensitive original ground surfaces (as identified through geomorphologic assessment [Segovia 1999]), was the strategy of choice during the development of Block 4 (1999-2000), where site preparation entailed the wholesale removal of up to 13 ft of fill and excavation of extensive utility corridors around the perimeter of the block.
- Manual excavation of test units around selected features exposed during the Phase I testing facilitated delineation of structural details and produced stratigraphically controlled artifact assemblages that could be used to address questions of site chronology and function.

Archeological data recovery (defined as 100 per cent removal of all cultural resources) was used in only one case: excavation of the West Family burial ground and vault (Site 44AX183). The results of that study, summarized in a separate technical report (Williams 2003), were included in this report only as they related to the overall history and archeology of the present project.

## Results

The combined archival and archeological efforts undertaken on the Hoffman Property during the course of this project have provided another piece —albeit a partial and imperfect one-- in the historic jigsaw puzzle that is the sequential development of the West End section of Alexandria. They also have demonstrated that those preservationists who today decry the rapid and intense commercial buildup of the Cameron Valley/Eisenhower Avenue corridor and the destruction of its “bucolic” past have been following an inaccurate vision of this area. For the history and archaeology of the three sites on the Hoffman property (44AX112, 182 and 183) demonstrate that none of the previous owners of this property were “gentlemen of leisure” who abjured the rough and tumble world of industry and commerce. Instead, they were, like the present owners, public-minded but competitive entrepreneurs who exploited the resource potential of their land to their advantage, within the technical and historical limits of their era.

Certainly, the members of the first family to reside on what is today the Hoffman property -- the Wests -- were involved in a wide variety of commercial ventures, including real estate speculation, the tobacco trade, and tavern-keeping. The West plantation on Cameron Run was in itself a business enterprise that required the application of sound management skills to continue as a

viable operation. The West family progenitress, Sybil West, whose remains were among those excavated from the family's burial vault (44AX183), continued to pursue a variety of business ventures after the death of her husband Hugh--often in collaboration with the well-known Alexandria merchant, John Carlyle. Sybil's grandson Thomas was the first to authorize industrial development of the tract when, in 1790, he sold portions of his Cameron Farm to William Bird, John Stump and John Ricketts.

Bird, Stump, and Ricketts proceeded to cut an extended millrace through West's property, tapping the flow of Cameron Run far to the west to provide waterpower for a pair of mills that overlooked the "head of navigation" of Great Hunting Creek, a major tributary of the Potomac. Cartographic evidence documents the Cameron Mills as a functioning entity and a locally significant landmark by 1798 (Figure 33). It is worth noting that all three partners also were involved in other enterprises. William Bird, a cooper by trade, may have envisioned the potential profit that he could make by supplying barrels and hogsheads for the mill; John Ricketts, the on-site partner, already was an established Alexandria merchant; and John Stump, possibly the "behind the scenes" financier, owned one or more successful milling ventures in Harford County, Maryland, where he lived.

Archeology has partially revealed industrial and domestic components dating from this period of the property's development. Nearly two centuries after their construction, Knepper and Pappas (1990) documented the locations of Stump and Ricketts' twin mills as Site 44AX112. Building on the 1990 study, the present project defined the mills' important ancillary components: the headrace (Blocks 2 and 3) and a small pier or wharf at Cameron Run (Block 10) that apparently was used to transfer the mills' output to shallow-draft lighters and eventually to ocean-going vessels moored in the Potomac at Alexandria.

Some elements of the domestic component at Cameron Farm (Site 44AX182), including the rather modest (approximately 17 x 35 ft) rectangular brick dwelling and two brick-floored dependencies (a smokehouse and a structure that saw later use as a greenhouse) also probably were constructed at about this time. None of the artifactual assemblages recovered from the few archeologically intact, pre-modern strata within or adjacent to the foundation of the original brick dwelling supports the oft-repeated premise that the original block of this dwelling was built in the middle of the eighteenth century or was used as a tavern. Rather, the overall artifact assemblage suggests a construction date around the turn of the nineteenth century, and use thereafter as a residential/domestic structure—an interpretation that coincides chronologically with Stump and Ricketts' acquisition of the bulk of Cameron Farm from Thomas West ca. 1805.

The acquisition of Cameron Farm and Mill in the mid-nineteenth century by New Jersey natives Robert and Reuben Roberts (and later, Edmund Hunt) launched yet another phase of expansion for the residential/agricultural/industrial complex on Cameron Run. Like their predecessors, the new owners of the mill became significant players in the economy of greater Alexandria. The Roberts and Hunt partnership expanded and diversified the output of their farm, placed the mill on a secure financial footing, and established a retail outlet within the city of Alexandria for the mill's output of feed and grain. Equally significant was their involvement in the founding and administration of the Alexandria Water Company in 1851, and the sale of a portion of their lands to provide rights-of-way for two railroads: the Orange and Alexandria (now, Southern) and the Manassas Gap (never constructed).

The establishment of the water company inaugurated a new, non-agrarian, commercial venture in the Cameron Valley and brought significant change to the property itself. One of the mills assumed a new role, as the company converted it into the principal pumping station for the city's new water system. The millrace now served a dual function, delivering power to the remaining

gristmill, and providing, for the first time, a source of running water to the citizens of adjacent Alexandria. The change of function necessitated modifications of existing structures on the property, and at least one of these changes was reflected in the archeological record. To ensure that the millrace retained sufficient velocity and did not breach, its banks were stabilized at key points by inserting a stone lining within the existing millrace prism. Excavation of mechanized Trench 3/3.99 revealed this stone lining at the point where the race turned abruptly south, to begin its final run toward the twin mill buildings. The remaining gristmill also underwent change in the post-Civil War period, as steam power was added to augment the existing waterpower for operating the mill machinery.

The Roberts family's century-long association with the Cameron Farm and Mill also brought about a dramatic expansion and renovation of its domestic and agricultural complexes. Chief among these improvements was the addition, in 1848, of a new, two-story frame wing at the eastern end of the original house block. Installation of a central heating system in the basement of the new wing improved the livability of the entire house. The archeological study revealed the foundations of the new addition, its central heating system, and the connections that were made between the original dwelling block and the new addition. As the family began to diversify the agricultural output of the farm by re-directing part of its output to producing fresh "truck" produce for the urban Washington market, they also began to adjust the physical plant that supported the farm's operations. One change may have involved converting the brick-floored dependency southeast of the main dwelling from its original function to that of a greenhouse. Another entailed the use of the "old manse"—the remnants of the mid-eighteenth century West Family dwelling—as a barn (Jean H. Burke, Personal Communication, September 22, 2003). Expanded commercial operations at the mill and on the farm also meant accommodating additional personnel; the foundations in the northern half of Block 3, initially located during Knepper and Pappas' (1990) Phase I investigations and fully exposed in 2000, suggest that the Miller's House was either constructed or modified during the early Roberts years.

The first half of the twentieth century encompassed the most profound transformations of the Cameron Farm property. Between 1900 and 1950, the 150-year-old old commercial core of the property--the mill--at first expanded, then contracted, eventually ceased operation, and was demolished ca. 1928. The main components of the farm's residential and agricultural complex also reached the pinnacle of their development in the late twenties, as wings were added west of the original brick dwelling. After 1927, the Roberts heirs began to subdivide and sell parcels of the large property, although the family itself continued to occupy the house through World War II.

The purchase and eventual consolidation of these parcels by other entrepreneurs—chiefly Hubert Hoffman—signaled the start of the intensive commercial development of the former plantation that continues today and that drove this study. The effects of the attendant sweeping changes also were demonstrated graphically during these investigations. Post-World War II construction and development of such enterprises as an extensive trailer court entailed at times massive modifications to the natural landforms. Grading, filling, and leveling of the upper slopes along Mill Road truncated structural foundations, filled open basement cavities with a mixture of modern debris and nineteenth century cultural materials, and generally scattered a functionally and temporally mixed assemblage across wide stretches of the property. Such activity obliterated all visible evidence of the historic farm and mill complex, including nearly all that remained of the old West plantation. Filling of the lower elevations of the property along the former streambed of Cameron Run had an opposite effect, in that it preserved, largely intact, the remains of the few ephemeral structures that once had existed in that area.

Yet, disruptive as it may seem, the on-going commercial development of the Hoffman property, as well as others in the Eisenhower Avenue corridor, is neither completely adverse nor “out of character.” It is true that such development, unmonitored and unregulated, is inherently destructive of the past. But because the City of Alexandria is firmly committed to documenting and preserving its historic resources, this development spurt has granted the community a chance to expand their knowledge of their historic environment and to glimpse the lives and activities of their predecessors. Moreover, the current players in Cameron Valley’s 21<sup>st</sup> century commercial boom have merely followed the example set by their entrepreneurial predecessors—the West’s, Stump and Ricketts, Richard Windsor, and Roberts and Hunt—all of whom undoubtedly would have done the same, given the opportunity and present-day technology.



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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The successful completion of the archeological investigations at the sites of the Cameron Farm and Mills was due to the assistance of numerous individuals and agencies. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. wish to acknowledge the continued patience, support and cooperation offered by Mr. Roger Kiper, Senior Vice-President, and others within the management and staff of Hoffman Management, Inc. For the City of Alexandria, Dr. Pamela Cressey, Dr. Stephen Shephard, and Ms. Francine Bromberg maintained constant communication and provided rapid feedback regarding archeological matters.

Numerous research repositories were visited in the course of collecting background data for this project. Of these, the most critical for tracking down aspects of property and family histories were the archives maintained by Alexandria Archaeology; the public documents maintained at the Fairfax County Circuit Court Archives; the numerous primary and secondary sources held in the collections of the Virginia Rooms at the Fairfax County and Alexandria Public Libraries; and the archeological site files maintained by the Fairfax County Park Authority's Archeological Services offices. Particularly important were the old photograph files maintained in the Special Collections at the Alexandria Library, who graciously agreed to permit their reproduction for this report. Goodwin & Associates, Inc. appreciates the patience and cooperation afforded by the staffs of all of these facilities. Special thanks also are due to members of the Roberts Family, particularly Jean Roberts Harris and Jean Burke, both of whom spent parts of their childhood living at Cameron Farm and who enthusiastically shared with us their recollections of the way the property used to be.

Christopher R. Polglase, M.A., ABD, and Martha R. Williams, M.A., M.Ed. served as co-Principal Investigators for this project, and supervised all aspects of the work. In addition, Ms. Williams managed the overall project and completed the archival background study. Over the course of the six-month study, four individuals served as Assistant Project Managers and Field Directors: Nora Sheehan, M.A., Laurie Paonessa, M.A., David Soldo, M.A., and Sonja Ingram, B.A. They were assisted in the by numerous individuals, including the late Meril Dunn, B.A., Eleanor Breen, B.A., Christian Davenport, M.A., Brad Burkholder, B.A., Mike Wilkins, B.A., Kristin Bastis, B.A., Darlene Hassler, B.A., Henry Measells, B.A., Jennifer Tobey, M.A., and Anthony Randolph, M.A. Tom Majarov, B.A., operated the EDM station to provide the coordinates for specific features. In the laboratory, Jennifer Bornemann, B.A., Darlene Hassler, B.A., and Kate Gallagher, M.A. supervised and produced the artifact inventory, while artifact conservation was handled by Andrew Madsen, M.A., and Peter Holmes, M.A. Special thanks go to Justine W. McKnight, M.A., for her prompt analysis of wood samples from the wharf/pier. The logistical support provided by the late Meril Dunn ensured that field crews had all of the materials they needed. Barry Warthen, John Shuster, M.A., and Brian Stone, M.A., prepared the maps and figures for the report, and Sharon Little and Brooke Bottomly produced it.