

Report on the 2000 Excavations at The Fountain of Youth Park, St.  
Augustine (8-SJ-31)

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## **Introduction**

How well Europeans matriculated into the life ways of native groups in the New World has long been an area of interest in anthropological discourse. However, in the case of the Fountain of Youth Park there is little material evidence to support this matter. St. Augustine witnessed the continual process of Spanish encounter and interaction with the Timucuan people. Demonstrating how that process has manifested materially is the goal of this project (see Figure 3).

The proceeding report will discuss the results of the spring 2000 field season at the Fountain of Youth Park, Site 8-SJ-31. Site 8-SJ-31 is located within the Fountain of Youth Park, St. Augustine. It is in the southeastern end of the park and is bordered by Hospital Creek. The site has undergone extensive archaeological work since 1972, under the auspices of the University of Florida and Florida Museum of Natural History. The area is kept clear and open by park officials to commemorate its historical significance to the town of St. Augustine, and for the benefit of future research projects on early European colonization.

Previous years' excavations have been conducted in the most northern region of the site (see Figure 2). The earlier excavations at site 8-SJ-31 (Merritt 1976, Chaney 1987, Gordon 1992, Shtulman 1994) produced a vast amount of evidence depicting a sixteenth century Spanish period settlement, as well as a prehistoric component, dating back to the Orange Period and St. John Period (Shtulman 1994). Earlier research questions focused on producing material evidence to help understand the processes of European colonial life systems and their effect on their new environment. Over the years the work of Dr. Kathleen Deagan of the Florida Museum of Natural History, has successfully provided data to support research assumptions and justify the need for continued research endeavors. However, the

substantial amount of information supporting European life patterns has overshadowed the physical presence of the Seloy Indians members of the Saturiwa, a branch of the Timucuan people (Shtulman 1994).

### **Historical Background**

In September 1565, Pedro Menendez de Aviles and his crew of approximately eight hundred Spanish soldiers and settlers established the first European settlement in North America, and subsequently the oldest continuously occupied European city in North America. The process of establishing a Spanish encampment required that Menendez and his men set up a stronghold in coastal Florida. It is documented that the Timucuan Indian village of Seloy, located at the modern day Fountain of Youth Park, became the first fort and settlement of St. Augustine, and served as the headquarters of the Spanish garrison (Lyon 1997).

The Timucuan village was thought to be located on the mainland, having clear visibility of the harbor. Records suggest that the Seloy offered the use of his principal house in the town to the Spaniards, and they converted these quarters into what would become the first fort of St. Augustine (Merritt 1976). Less than one year after successfully claiming ownership on American soil, on April 19, 1566 the settlement and the purported fort, burned to the ground. Historical documents suggest that the fire may have been started by vengeful Indians, but there is no concrete evidence supporting this premise. This propelled the Spaniards to relocate the settlement and a new military stronghold to the northern end of Anastasia Island (Lyon 1997).

The fort would have been King Phillip II of Spain's method for maintaining a military presence in North America, as well as repel any aggressive attempts by opposing French forces, as Spain expanded its enterprise beyond the Caribbean. Menendez's presence in St. Augustine became a success for the Spanish crown. Understanding this *presidio* of sorts, and its associated Spanish village is the basis for the archaeological work that has been conducted at site 8-SJ-31<sup>1</sup> (see Figure 2).

"Menendez's plans for his la Florida-its conquest, pacification, and evangelization-included the establishment of a military and settler presence at port cities and economic development" (Manucy 1997:11). The claim for Spanish military presence is further supported by official accounting records of the second and third forts on the northern tip of Anastasia Island. This further suggests a spatial relationship to the first fort on the mainland. Sources described how the second and third forts lay across the inlet from the old fort. After the destruction of the first fort, Menendez's battalion constructed a blockhouse at the site. The blockhouse of the old St. Augustine is referred to in the documents from the encampment at Anastasia Island (Lyon 1997).

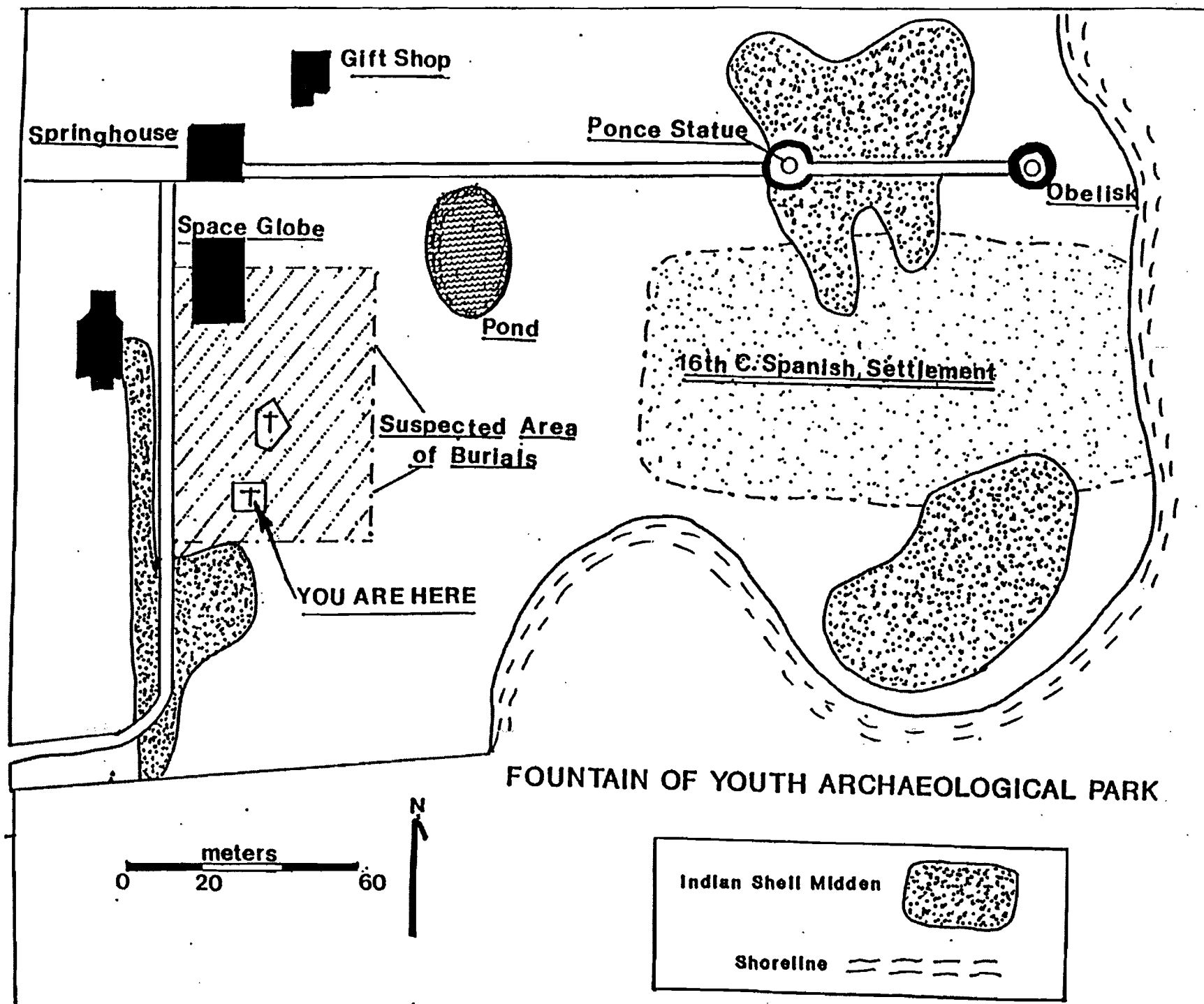
Recent archaeological work has been conducted by Gifford Waters (1997) at the Menendez era Nombre de Dios mission site (8-SJ-34), located on the property of the Shrine of Nuestra Senora de la Leche. It has been speculated that the mission site is in fact the place of the first Menendez fort, however the true location of the fort has yet to be determined. Excavation at the site revealed a moat-like feature that may be the blockhouse built in 1566 after the fort was burned to the ground, and the encampment was relocated to Anastasia Island. Eugene Lyon (1976) has cited documentary evidence suggesting that the Spanish

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<sup>1</sup> For further information on the Fountain of Youth history, see Shtulman 1994, Chaney 1987, Deagan 1985, Gordon 1992, Merritt 1976, Deagan 1992.



Figure 1. Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park & Site Location



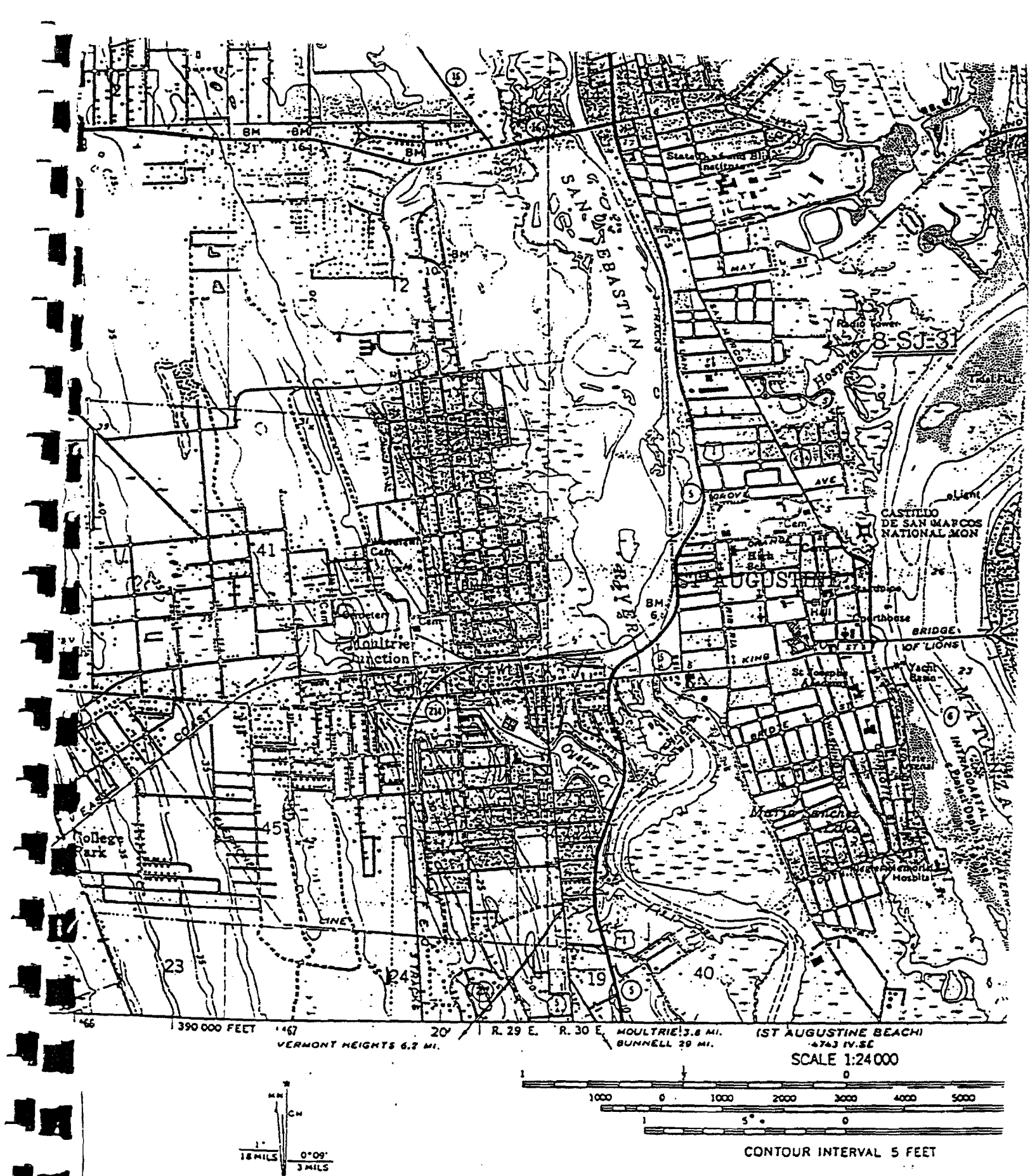


Figure 3. St. Augustine Town Grid

Spanish *pueblo* or town was close to or may have surrounded the fort. Moreover, this further promotes the notion that the Spanish military stronghold was in relative proximity to the area of Spanish settlement, so thoroughly documented by previous years excavation at 8-SJ-31.

Historical evidence suggests that the first fort was located on the mainland on the west shore of the Matanzas River. Menendez navigated the Matanzas inlet to arrive at the Seloy village. The modern day inlet has advanced north of the original (Lyon 1997). After the burning of the first fort, the second was relocated to the northern tip of Anastasia Island. It is documented that the second fort was visible from the location of the first. The present day mainland location of the fort, in downtown St. Augustine, is documented to be located just 1 mile south of the first. To further this premise, archaeological exploration was conducted in the southern portion of the site (see Figure 2).

## **Research Purpose and Strategy**

The purpose of the 2000 field season (January 15-May 4, 2000) was to gather supporting evidence and detail for the 1565 European settlement by Pedro Menendez de Aviles. Previous years work at the Fountain of Youth Park produced extensive evidence to support the claim for the first Spanish settlement (Chaney 1987). As mentioned earlier, during the settlement period, it is believed that Menendez fortified the Timucuan chiefs' council house, converting it into what is believed to be the first European fort at St. Augustine (Merritt 1976).

To determine where excavation would take place, we relied on NASA aerial imagery (Woods 1998) and electromagnetic survey data (Williams 1985) depicting subsurface soil anomalies. Soil disturbances revealed in the images appeared to be cultural in formation and heavily influenced the approach and method applied during the four-month field season. The placement of excavation units was intended to test a series of circular anomalies surrounding the base of a raised, circular mound at the southeast corner of the site. This was hypothesized to be the most probable location for the Seloy long house, in relative proximity to the Spanish living quarters and in a strategic location on the mainland. The anomalies were approximately ten meters south of where the 1565 encampment was located (see Figure 2).

The focus of the field season was to test the suggestion that the first Spanish fort may have been at the Fountain of Youth, suggesting European military presence in the area. However, all finds reveal more about the Spanish settlement at The Fountain of Youth Park, and compound our knowledge of the processes that took place in 1565 and the years that followed.

## **Methodology**

The methods applied for field season 2000 are similar to those used in previous years' work conducted at 8-SJ-31. Site excavation was based on the Chicago grid spatial control system. The site grid for the 2000 field season was established by relocating the grid point originally marked by Merritt in 1976. To accomplish this, grid coordinates stated in Chaney's 1987 field notes were referred to. The southwest corner of the stakes was used to designate the unit location. The rebar marking the 500N / 5000E point was relocated in the gravel path between the Ponce De Leon Statue and the Obelisk monument (see Figure 1 & 2). To establish a grid point we relied heavily on the 1987 field notes as well as the 1994 field report by Robin Shtulman. Once 500N / 500E was relocated, we later reestablished 500N / 530E, by triangulating off the 500N / 500E point and the southeast corner of the Ponce De Leon statue. The point was marked with a rebar.

The use of different transits and the re-gridding of the site left us relying on the spring 2000 500N / 500E and 500N / 530E grid line. Rectangular wooden stakes were used to mark the site grid line. In addition, at the end of the field season they were hammered flush with the ground. Once the grid was established, the transit was placed on grid point 410N / 530E and then 430N / 530E. The process allowed us to back shoot onto the other stakes to set up grid north, after which the transit was turned 90° West to place a series of stakes along the 410N line and the 430 N line.

The process of creating a grid line aided in establishing a fixed point to further investigate the site. As stated, unit locations were based on the findings of the 1985 Electromagnetic survey data report and NASA aerial photographs, each of which depicted unnatural soil anomalies in the region of 500E / 410N to 500E / 430N. These anomalies

were related to the large circular shell rise presumed to have been a prehistoric feature (see Figure 2). To investigate the area an east-west trench line along (421N) was thought to be the best approach, which would allow us to get a cross section of the mounded area while also testing the electromagnetic anomalies referred to above. The east west trench units were 1.5 meters north/south by 3 meters east/west. On finding an interesting soil composition in one of the 1.5 x 3 units, a 3 x 3 meter unit was opened. The excavated units were as follows:

421N500E	1.5 meters x 3 meters
421N506E	1.5 meters x 3 meters
421N512E	1.5 meters x 3 meters
421N518E	1.5 meters x 3 meters
421N540E	1.5 meters x 3 meters
418N497E	3 meters x 3 meters
418N503E	3 meters x 3 meters

To maintain control over all vertical measurements a permanent transit station was established in the southeast portion of the site. This was accomplished by first setting a datum plane for consistent vertical recordings. The southwest corner of the concrete pedestal surrounding the San Juan de Pino monument is 1.615 meters below the 2000 datum.

All vertical measurements were read as meters below datum (MBD). An attempt was made to relate the new datum plane to the 1985 and 1987 datum planes. However, the records for how the datum planes were established in previous years weren't very clear. According to the notes, the southeast corner of the Ponce De Leon Obelisk was used to establish the old datum plane. Currently there is a tree blocking the line of site from our permanent transit station and the southeast corner of the Obelisk. Because on this minor interference, a stadia

rod was instead placed on the ground next to the southeast corner of the Obelisk. The ground surface at this location is 1.698 meters below datum. As an additional measure to ensure the accuracy of vertical readings, the southwest corner of the concrete base surrounding the San Juan de Pinos monument (see Figure 1 & 2) was used to institute the spring 2000 datum plane. It was thought that this point would be easier to locate for future excavations at the site.

As in previous years' excavations, an unexcavated ten-centimeter baulk remained around the perimeter of each unit to ensure stability of the units and absorb excavating errors. All proveniences were excavated in increments of ten centimeters or until soil change, except in a few isolated incidences. Each ten-centimeter increment was labeled as a level, and was treated as a single provenience. The proveniences were assigned a Munsell alphanumeric color identifier. This was consistently performed by the field supervisor. All collected materials from given proveniences were given a Field Specimen (FS) number unique to the proveniences. The first FS number used for the 2000 field season was FS#1834.

Zones were described as site extensive sheet deposits or strata of distinct soil compositions. Zones represented documented historical living surfaces and/or natural soil layers throughout the site. All zone soil was water screened in quarter inch mesh except in unique situations. Cultural finds, as well as charcoal and faunal remains were collected. The shell component of each zone was recorded as a single weight and discarded. A soil sample was only taken from features and intrusions, since these are the only undisturbed contexts at the site, and therefore the only ones subjected to subsistence analysis.

Amorphous and questionable soil stains, bearing no distinct cultural or natural component were designated as an "Area". These were numbered consecutively within each

excavation unit. They were water screened in quarter inch and sixteenth inch mesh and numbered consecutively within a unit. A whole and hinge shell sample was collected, along with at least 2 liters of soil sample. Cultural, faunal as well as charcoal remains were saved.

Features were deemed discrete and definite cultural events, and each received a unique feature number in a site-wide system. The numbering system was a continuation of the 1994 field season, beginning with Feature 50. The collection of cultural remains followed the same protocol as the above-mentioned intrusions.

The most common intrusion occurred as possible post molds (PPM) or post mold (PM). Each PPM was treated as a single provenience, and was removed in its entirety. Most all PPMs were first identified as dark circular soil stains. Some were later identified as a post mold. All PPMs and PMs held a consecutive numbering system within a unit. They were bisected, at which point a profile was drawn; the bisected portion was saved as a soil sample and the removed half was water screened through a quarter inch mesh. All cultural material was saved.

### **Field Excavations: 2000**

As of this date, analysis is still underway, thus making interpretative observations preliminary in nature. The initial excavation approach focused on opening an east/west running trench across the site. The trench was intended to expose the stratigraphy of the site while revealing the location of intense human occupation. The trench ran along the northern slope of the shell mound, which was thought to be prehistoric (Chaney 1985). Work in units began with the removal of the sod layer. The sod layer was composed of mixed humic soil and was not excavated, but instead removed in its entirety and discarded. Cultural materials



442N  
482E

BLOCK EXCAVATION #1

450N  
500E

1985 TEST TRENCH

430N  
495E

428N  
500E

FEATURES  
S1

FEATURE  
S6

421N  
500E

418N  
497E

FEATURE  
S2

421N  
506E

416N  
502E

FEATURE S4

1994 EXC.

AREA 13

FEATURE 49

400N  
500E

FEA 26

462.5N  
528.5E

FEA 7

447N  
527E

FEA 21

WELL

TP 4

FEA 20

FEA 24

441N  
527E

1985 TEST TRE

435N  
527E

429N  
527E

423N  
527E

421N  
540E

BLOCK EXCAVATION #2

F. 74

FEATURE

FEATURE

"FEATURE"

TT 2

405N  
528.5E

PARK

found during the process were collected and assigned an FS number. Items found in the sod zone were thought to be unrepresentative of a specific historical event and was therefore not considered as an archaeological identifier. As it was thought that this horizon was strictly of a modern occurrence, no Munsell was taken. It was a light gray colored soil with fine root disturbance, measuring approximately 6-8cms in depth.

Upon the removal of the sod matrix, and a careful attempt at leveling the floor of the unit, below datum measurements were taken in each corner of the unit as well as in the center. The area with the deepest elevation was used as the beginning top elevation for that level. Once this was established, unit excavation continued in ten-centimeter increments or until soil change. The next horizon of soil was Zone I. This was a dark gray to brown soil with fragments of crushed shell and fine rootlets. Typically, this zone was very extensive in depth, extending 20-25 centimeters in depth.

Zone II was characterized as a heavy shell lens. In general, it was a very dark gray soil, with an extremely dense concentration of large, whole oyster shells as well as coquina shells (see Figure 4). It was only observed in the far eastern units 421N / 518E and 421N / 540E. The shell lens was believed to be associated with midden activities related to the shell mound. Excavating Zone II proved to be an extremely tedious task, maintaining a ten-centimeter level was very difficult, and depths were sometimes increased for the complete removal of the shell layer. A whole and hinge shell sample was taken from Zone II of unit 421N / 540E. In addition, two wheelbarrows --- approximately 12 cubic feet --- full of soil were sixteenth inch screened, for future microanalysis. The shells in this unit were atypical of those found in the other units, and warranted further study.



**Figure 4. Zone 2, Shell Lens**

Characteristic Zone III was identified as a tan/brown soil mottled with orange/rust colored stains. It also consisted of flecks of charcoal and shell fragments. Towards the end of the field season Zone III became increasingly hard to differentiate from characteristic sterile soil rather than a culturally discrete deposition zone. We suspect that the confusion was due to Zone III being at the interface between Zone II and sterile soil rather than a culturally discrete deposition zone. The amorphous stains created may have been due to water percolation. The intermittent flooding of the units caused severe water logging. Amorphous stains would be observed as an Area, then seemingly disappear after a couple of centimeters of excavation and then reappear. This became a problem towards the later portion of the field season and often forced us to abandon excavation in certain units. This was the case with unit 418N / 497E. When it was thought that Zone III was at the interface of sterile soil, and no cultural material was being produced, excavation procedures were put to a halt and the dirt was discarded. More often than not, excavating of Zone III ended with some elevation ambiguity.

The sterile soil was a tan color and produced no major cultural material. However, there were instances where possible post molds and other human occurrences were observed and extended, well into the sterile matrix. An example of this was evident in unit 421N / 540E where a charcoal stain was noted in the sterile zone as well as a feature (see SR #39).

## **Description of Units**

### **Unit 421N / 500E**

Unit 421N / 500E was the furthest west extension of the site trench and the first excavation unit to be opened. The upper horizons of Zone I and II produced artifacts from a

wide temporal range. The appearance of items such as asphalt, brick, modern glass shards, as well as transfer print pearl ware and annular ware suggests a highly disturbed context.

At approximately 2.30 mbd in the matrix Zone III, three large dark circular stains were observed in the unit and labeled as Features 50-52 (see Map # 162 and Figure 5). One stain appeared in the southwest corner (F51), one in the center of the unit (F50) and the other in the east wall (F52). Each stain was approximately sixty centimeters in diameter and seventy centimeters apart. It was originally thought that they were large post mold remains, possibly depicting a large circular house structure. Several possible post molds (PPMs) in formation around the center feature (50) were observed at approximately the same depth (see Map #162). The depths for each Feature was as follows; F50, 25cm; F51, 24cm, and F52, 18cm (see Map #164). As excavation of the features extended further below surface the water retention in the units made it difficult to discern the boundaries of the features. At this point excavation strategies changed and the features were further excavated as post molds. For recording ease, titles remained the same throughout the paper work. The third level of each feature was bisected, a profile was produced and the remaining soil was screened through a quarter inch mesh.

There was a very low yield of cultural material in the features, which included only Native American artifacts, such as the various St Johns and San Marcos ceramic types. The Zone III matrix produced three chert flakes.

### **Unit 418N / 503E**

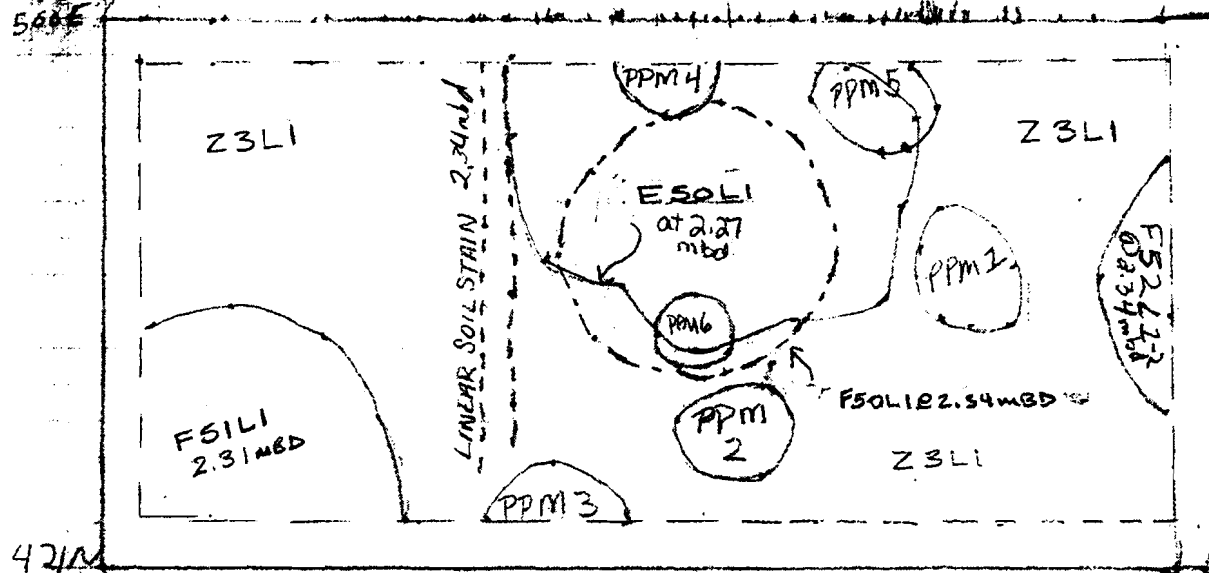
Unit 418N / 503E was opened to track the post mold formation observed in 421N / 500E. It was thought that if the posts represented a structure, more features would appear in

Map 162



422.5N  
500E

422.5N  
500E



421N  
500E

421N  
500E

8-SJ-31-2000

421N 500E  
Scale 1:20 metric

PROV	Lo	Base	FS	MUNICIPALITY	Date
FSOL1	2.27	2.38	1844	10YR3/1	PK 1/27
PPM1	2.27	2.32	NO FS AEGEAN NOFS	10YR3/1	DK 1/27
PPM2	2.33	2.36	NO FS AEGEAN NOFS	10YR3/2	JJ 2/2
PPM3	2.32	2.35	NO FS AEGEAN NOFS	10YR3/3	JJ 2/2
PPM4	2.35	2.41	1941	NO FS TAKEN	JJ 2/2
PPM5	2.35	2.41	1949	10YR3/2	JJ 2/2
FS242	2.34	2.52	1846	10YR3/2	JJ 2/2
FSIL1	2.31	2.42	1845	10YR3/2	JJ 2/2/00
Z3L1	2.32	2.44	1945	10YR3/4	" "
PPM6	2.36	—	1950	10YR3/2	ER 3/15/00

NOT A PPM  
NO Base



Figure 5. 421N / 500E Features 50 & 51

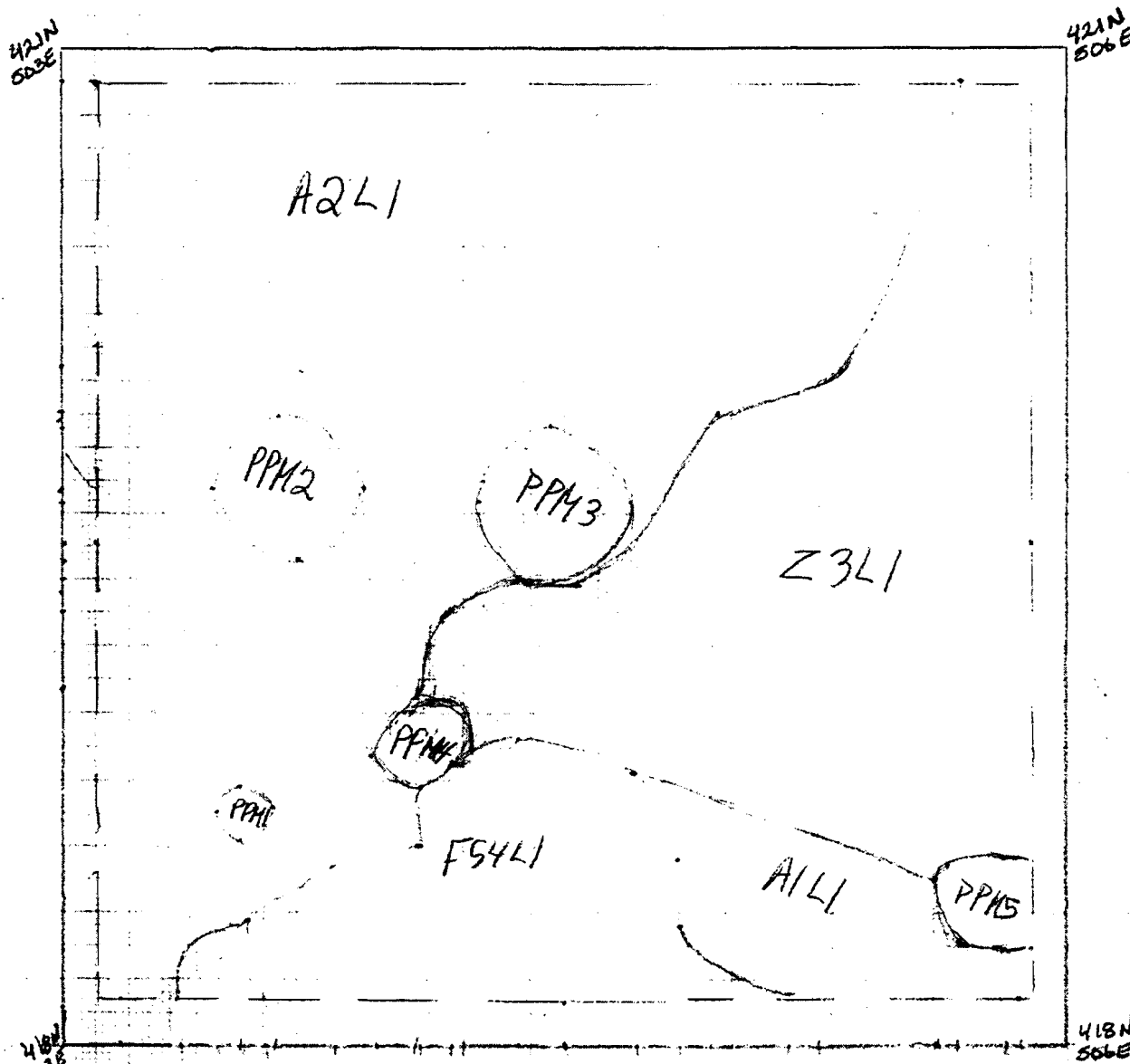
a continuing circular formation southeast of the 1.5m x 3m in the vicinity of 418N / 503E. Several possible post molds (PPMs) were noted, however only one of the 10 possible post molds bore any association to the feature 50-52 formations. PPM 7 appeared in the northwest corner of the unit at 2.31 mbd. It appeared to be the extension of Feature 52, which was located in the east wall of 421N / 500E. Only faunal remains were noted in the PPMs. A whole Pinellas point, as well as a potential shell tool, was removed from Zone I. Several sherds of Creamware were also noted, indicating mixing and disturbance, there was an additional feature (54), which assumed a continuation of the circular formation. It was observed as a dark circular stain extending into the south wall of the unit (see Maps #167, #171). Feature 54 was excavated from 2.20 mbd to 2.45 mbd, all the while becoming increasingly amorphous and indefinable. Toward the later part of the excavation, period the unit suffered severe water logging. Because of this, many of the anomalies observed may have been questionable. These include the identified PPMs as well as the feature. In addition, PPM7 became increasingly questionable. Only nine aboriginal sherds were found in the feature. Due to the increasing amorphous nature of these proveniences, they were later deemed to have no association to features 50-52. There was no definite pattern of a prehistoric housing structure. Zone III produced a large shell dipper along with modern glass and coal. It should be noted that Zones I-III, above the features, were highly disturbed.

### **Unit 418N / 497E**

To further investigate the post mold formation in 421N / 500E, a 3 x 3 meter unit was opened directly southwest of it. The unit 418N / 497E, we hoped, would reveal a continuation of the semi-circular line of posts represented by Features 50 – 52. Located in



# Map #167



85131-2000  
 418N 503E  
 scale 1:20 metric

Prov	Top	Base	FS	Munsell	Marker	Date
F54L1	2.20	2.30	1860	10YR 3/3	PK	2-10-00
A1L1	2.21	2.26	1862	10YR 3/3	PK	2-10-00
A2L1	2.23	2.31	1861	10YR 3/2	PK	2-10-00
Z3L1	2.21	2.31	1864	10YR 4/2	PK	2-10-00
PPM1	2.21	2.26	1868	10YR 3/2	PK	2-10-00
PPM2L1	2.23	2.31	1866	10YR 3/2	PK	2-10-00
PPM3	2.22	-	NO FOR RES	10YR 3/2	PK	2-10-00
PPM4	2.21	2.27	1869	10YR 3/2	PK	2-10-00
PPM5	2.21	2.27	1870	10YR 3/2	PK	2-10-00

✓



418N 503E

Indicates  
change in level from top of 23.62

Prov	Top	Base	FS	Kunsell	Hamer	Date
A2L2	2.31	2.56	1874	10423/2	KE	2-17-00
Z3L2	2.31	2.42	1890	1044/2	KE	2-17-00
F54L2	2.30	2.31	1875	10424/2	KE	2-17-00
PPM6	2.30	NO #	ASSIGN	10425/2	KE	2-17-00
PPM7	2.31	2.41	1884	10423/2	KE	2-17-00
PPM2L2	2.38	2.50	1885	10423/3	KE	2-17-00
PPH2	2.32	2.37	NO #	ASSIGN 10424/4	KE	2-17-00
PPH5	2.24	2.27	1870	10423/2	JA	2/21/00
PPH8	2.36	2.56	1900	10423/1	JA	2/21/00
PPH9	2.37	NO #	ASSIGN	10423/2	JA	2/21/00
PPM10	2.37	2.52	1896	10423/2	JA	2/21/00
F54L3	2.35	2.45	1891	10423/3	JA	2/21/00
F54L4	2.45	2.55	NOFS	10423/3	JA	2-21-00

the 1.5 x 3 meter unit 421N / 500E. In addition to the large amounts of aboriginal pottery, the upper horizons yielded such artifacts as Gaudy Dutch and a Pearlware rim. Although low in frequency, these cultural finds suggest an early 19<sup>th</sup> century presence mixed with aboriginal deposits. Initially we hoped that the remainder of the Feature 51 (directly in the southwest corner of the previous unit) would be present in the new unit. And at 2.32 mbd, an amorphous semi-circular very dark grayish brown stain was observed in the northeast corner of the unit and labeled as Area 1(?F51) (see Map #177). The area was indistinguishable at first. For precautionary reasons it was recorded as an Area with the potential to be the remainder of Feature 51. During the course of excavation, the Area was removed in two levels to a depth of 2.52 mbd. Area 1(?F51) was consistent in elevation with Feature 51 proper in the southwest corner of 421N / 500E (the top elevation being 2.27 mbd and base elevation 2.52 mbd). Another corresponding large circular stain was labeled Feature 56. It was first observed as an amorphous dark stain in Zone I, and later taking on a more definite circular shape. When originally observed, the feature extended into the west wall and seemed to have some spatial relationship to Area 1(?F51). As excavation continued, Feature 56 became more centralized in the unit. Excavation began at 2.31 mbd and ended at a base of 2.50 mbd. Level 2 of the feature was excavated as a post mold. As was the case with Features 50-51 in unit 421N / 500E, the feature was bisected and a soil sample was taken. In profile, the features appeared as a semi-circle (see Map # 164). A portion of the soil was screened through a quarter inch mesh and the remaining half was not removed due to severe water retention. Three plain St. Johns sherds were removed from Feature 56. Modern asphalt was the only collected cultural item from Zone III.

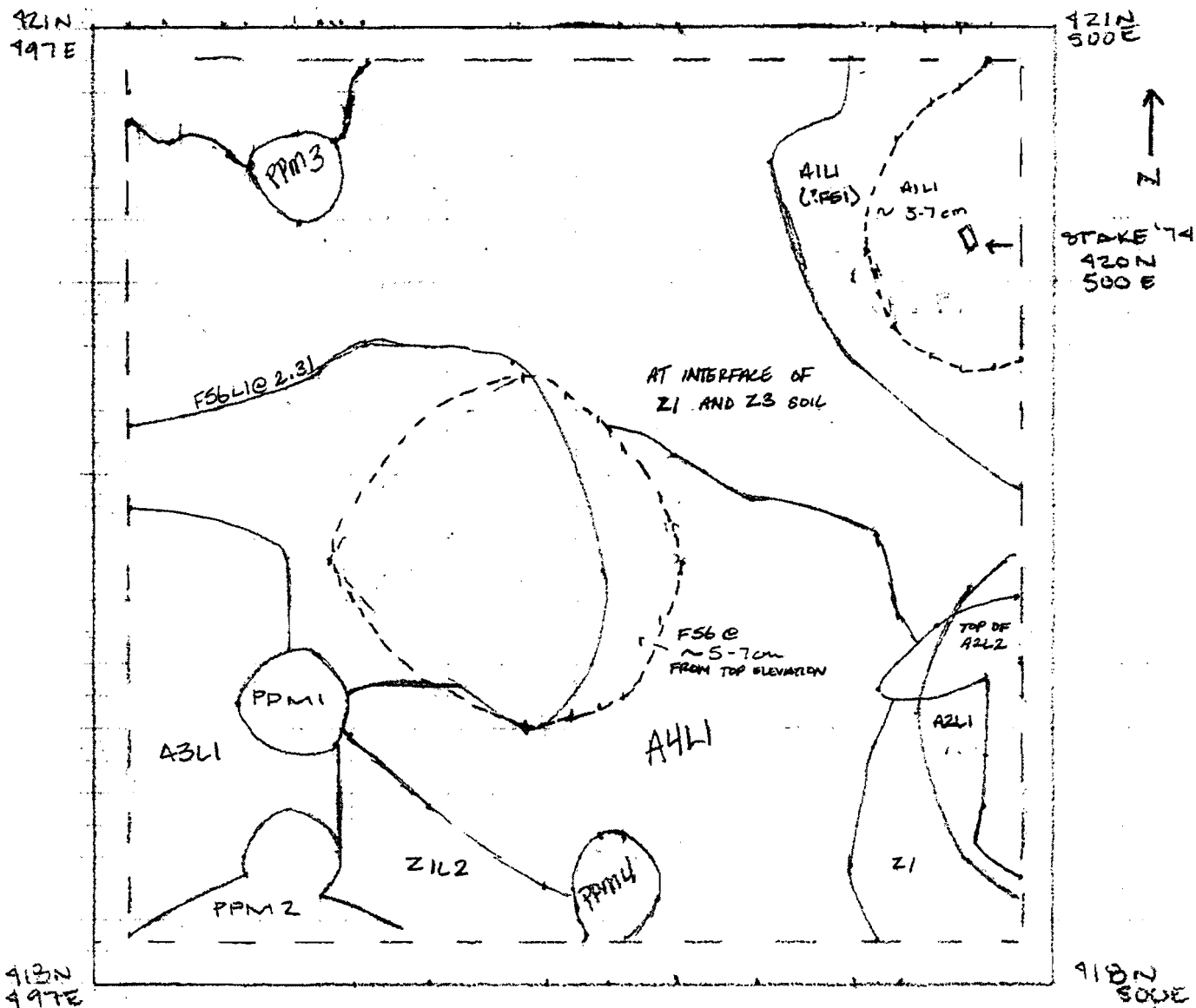
Three other Areas were observed in the unit as well as four PPMs. They were all located in the southern region of the unit and were spatially arranged around Feature 56. If Feature 56 was in fact a large architectural structure related to Features 50-52 in unit 421N / 500E, the post molds may have in fact been a series of support beams (see Map # 177). A similar conclusion can be drawn for the relationship of PPMs 1-5 to Feature 50 in unit 421N / 500E (see Map # 162). Prior to the arrival of the Spanish, Native American building material did not include nails. The regular maintenance of architectural structures consisted of secondary posts, used to support decaying beams.

The unit became extremely moist with depth and was affected by water retention. At a depth of about 2.35mbd, efficient excavation of the unit was determined to be impossible owing to persistent standing water and flooding of the unit. Excavation of 418N / 497E was discontinued at approximately 2.50mbd. Leached water created soil color diffusion throughout the unit, making all intrusions and features very amorphous and difficult to discern.

### **Summary of Units 421N / 500E, 418N / 503E and 418N / 497E**

Upon discovering what was thought to be the remnants of a prehistoric housing structure in 421N / 500E, the need to reveal a larger area that might show a better-defined pattern dictated the approach. The three units mentioned here were the furthest west at the site, and severe ground water retention created much observational confusion and ambiguity during excavation. However, they all revealed large circular stains at relatively the same top elevation, roughly 2.30 mbd to a base elevation of 2.50 mbd. The proveniences in question include: Features 50, 51, 52 of unit 421N / 500E; PPM 7, Feature 54 of unit 418N / 503E;

# MAP 177



8-SJ-31-2000

918N 497E

Scale: 1:20 METRIC

JG, PK, ER

3-13-00

PROV	TOP	BASE	FS	NUMBER	MPK	DATE
Z1L2	2.32	2.37	1961	1043/2	JP	3-13
A4L1 (~FS1)	2.32	2.425	1957	1043/2	JP	3-13
A2L1	2.32	2.43	1960	1043/3	JP	3-13
A3L1	2.31	2.35	1951	1043/3	JP	3-13
PPM1	2.31	2.41	1971	1043/3	JP	3-13
PPM2	2.30	2.36	1972	1043/1	JP	3-13
FS6	2.31	2.42	1958	1043/1	JP	3-13
PPM3	2.35	2.48	1974	1042/3	JJ	3-17
PPM4	2.39	2.50	1973	1042/1	JJ	3-17
A2L2	2.43	NOT EXCAVATED			JP	3-21
A4L1	2.37	2.48	1962	1043/2	JJ	3-21

Area 1 (?F51), Feature 56 of unit 418N / 497E (see Figure 2). Each had an estimated diameter of sixty centimeters, and bore a relative distance of seventy centimeters, with the exception of Feature 54; this protruded out of the southern wall and was approximately 200cm from PPM7 (see Figure 2).

Although the artifact yield from these units is relatively mixed, there is still reason to believe that there is a potential structural pattern. The regularity of the feature's (50-52, 56) dimension gives reason to believe that they were in fact cultural in nature. Had it not been for the severe water damage and difficult excavating conditions more substantial evidence may have been revealed (see Figure 6). Future excavation of the western edge of the site may produce greater insight into Timucuan housing structure.

### **Unit 421N / 506E**

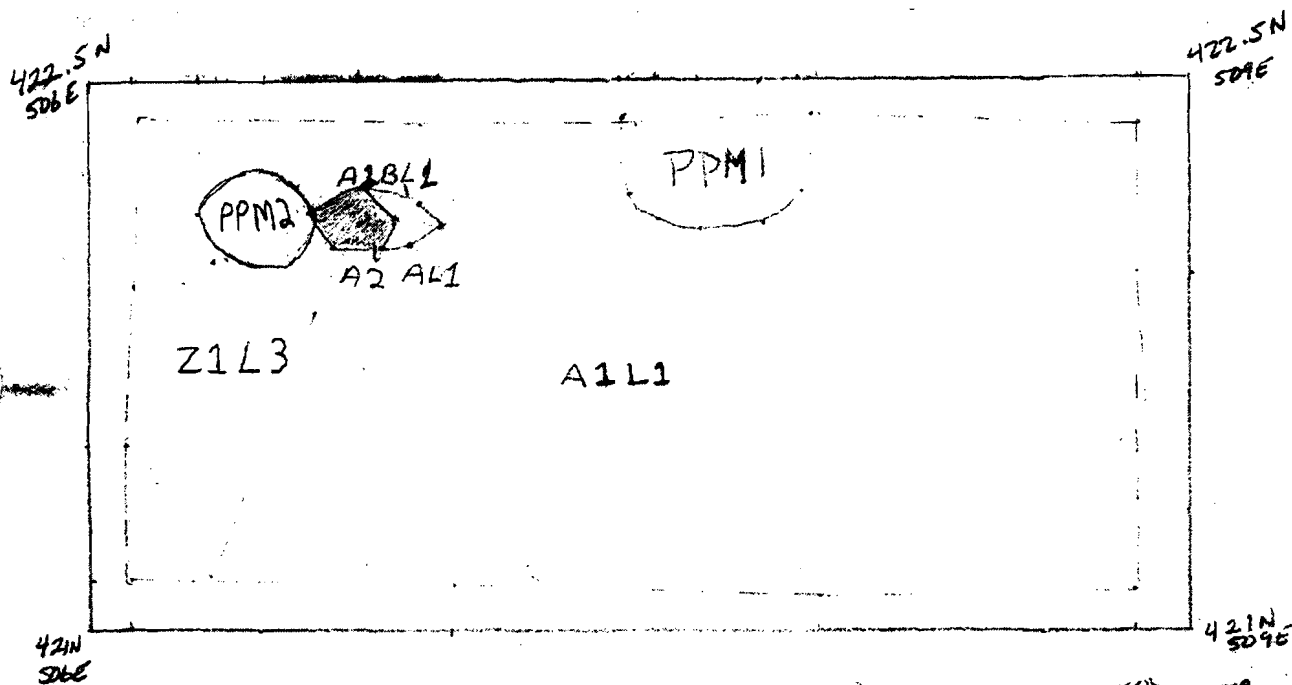
Unit 421N / 506E followed the east / west trench line. It was the second unit opened and followed the plan of three-meter interval between each 1.5 x 3 m unit. There were no complex or questionable archaeological finds in this unit (see Map #161). The zone deposits of the unit were temporally mixed, including Whiteware and Pearlware, (placing the unit in a 2<sup>nd</sup> Spanish period frame, of late eighteenth to early nineteenth century occupation) as well as a Jefferson incised sherd and a Kaolin pipe bowl fragment.

Two areas and two PPMs were recorded in the unit, none of which appeared to hold spatial relationship to the others. All intrusions were noted in the lower part of Zone I, at an average top elevation of 2.20 mbd, and ended at an average base elevation of 2.31 mbd. What was originally thought to be the first possible post mold (PPM I) was later found to be an insignificant soil stain, and instead discarded. Area 1 presented an array of artifacts,



Figure 6. Water Logged Unit

1  
N



HCOV	TOP	BASE	FS	THICKNESS	MATERIAL	DATE
A1 L1	2.13	2.23	1835	10YR 3/1	S.S.	4/25
Z1 L3	2.16	2.26	1841	10YR 3/1	SS	1/26
A2AL1	2.21	2.26	1840	10YR 3/1	K.F	1/26
A2BL1	2.21	2.26	1840	10YR 3/1	K.F	1/26
PDM1	2.25	2.36	NO #	—	PK	1/27
PPM2	2.27	2.39	1848	10YR 3/1	J.B	2/1

B-6J-31-2060  
42IN SOBE  
SCALE 1:20 METRIC  
map 161

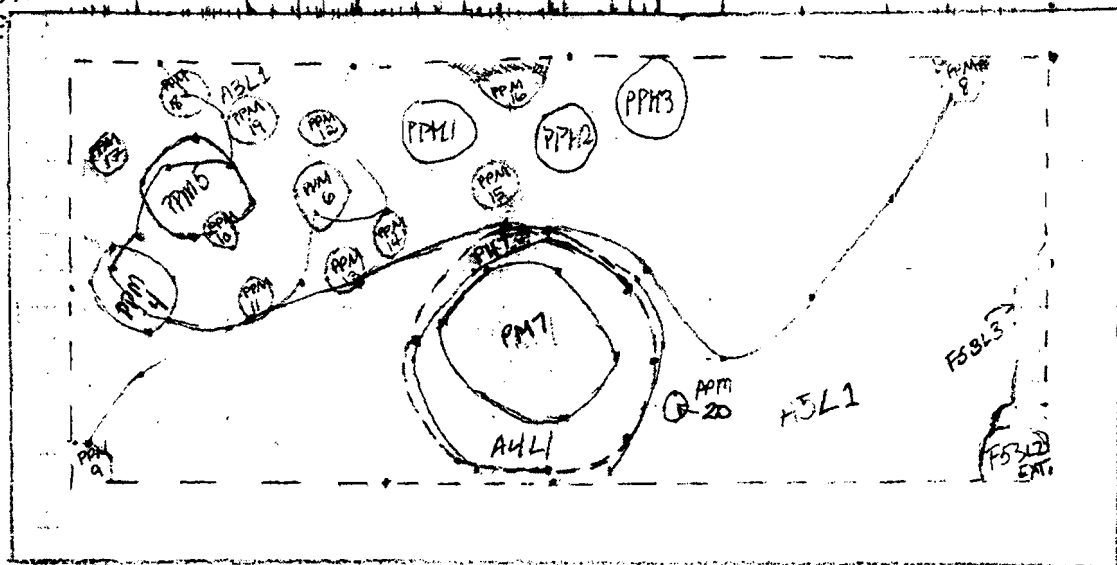
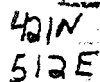
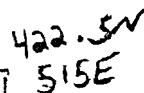


including a Chinese Porcelain rim, 2 Olive Jars, plus 2 with green glaze, a Fig Springs Polychrome sherd, and several fragments of metal. Excavation in this unit was discontinued at the base of Zone III, 2.36 mbd.

### **Unit 421N / 512E**

421N / 512E presented a complex series of possible post molds in the northwestern corner of the unit. The upper horizon of Zone I yielded an array of artifacts, including 1 bullet, a Ginger Beer bottle, Ming Porcelain, a whole nail and a lead musket ball, suggesting a nineteenth century component. Zone III produced a low yield of all Native American material, including one historic San Marcos sherd. Excavation of this unit did not reveal a Zone II horizon. However, what was revealed was a large pit filled with heavy shell, designated as Feature (53) in the eastern wall. Nineteen PPMs were noted, including one post mold (7) and its associated post hole (7) (see Map #168). Due to the relatively small size of the PPMs (ranging from an average of ten to twenty centimeters in diameter) and the sheer number of them, they were not screened (see Map #170). Instead, to save screening time each one was bagged as a soil sample, excluding PM 7 and its accompanying PH (7). Initially identified as an Area (4), then reassessed as a PPM (7), this provenience was later observed to be a post mold, very dark grayish brown and circular in nature with whole shells present in the matrix, and a lighter brown soil rim (PH 7) (see Map # 168). Both these proveniences underlie the general vicinity of Area 1, Area 1 extension, and Area 1 extension A. Although significant in finding, they each extended well into sterile soil and were double in circumference compared to the other PPMs. All PPMs were observed in the matrix of

## 1M



PRON	TOP	BASE	FSS	MUNSELL	MAPPER	DATE
PPM17	2.26	2.31	1903	10YR2/2	ER	2-18
PPM18	2.25	2.30	1904	10YR2/2	ER	2-18
PPM19	2.24	2.28	1905	10YR3/3	ER	2-18
PPM9	2.25	NONE	1887	10YR3/3	ER	2-18
PPM10	2.24	2.30	1901	10YR2/2-2/2	ER	2-18
PPM11	2.23	2.27	1894	10YR2/2	ER	2-18
PPM12	2.23	2.29	1907	10YR3/3	ER	2-18
PPM13	2.22	2.28	1893	10YR3/2	ER	2-18
PPM14	2.22	2.27	1908	10YR3/2	ER	2-18
PPM15	2.21	2.25	1911	10YR4/3	ER	2-18
PPM16	2.20	2.24	1912	10YR3/2	ER	2-18
A5L1	2.20	2.31	1883	10YR4/3-3/3	JJ	2-18
A5L2	2.20	2.49	1917	10YR3/3	JJ	2-18
F53L2	2.08	2.19	1877	—	ER	2-18
F53L3	2.18	2.29	1879	—	ER	2-18
A3L1	2.19	2.25	1863	10YR2/2	KF	2-18
A4L1	2.17	2.22	1865	10YR2/2	KF	2-18
PPM11	2.08	2.31	1869 1907	10YR3/2	ER	2-18
PPM2L1	2.08	2.23	1871 1896	"	ER	2-18
PPM3L1	2.08	2.28	1872 1899	10YR3/3	ER	2-18
PPM4	2.26	2.36	1893	10YR3/3	JJ	2-18
PPM5	2.25	2.30	1902	"	JJ	2-18
PPM6	2.24	2.34	1906	"	JJ	2-18
PM7	2.22	2.46	1916	10YR3/2	JJ	2-18
PPM8L1	2.10	2.35	1876 1889	10YR2/2	ER	2-18
PPM8L2	2.05	2.28	1892	10YR3/1	JJ	2-18

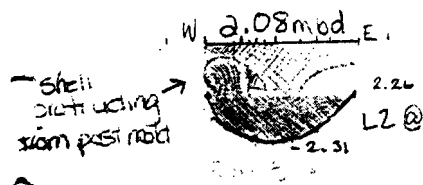
SEE SL#354-

8-SJ-31-2000  
 1421N 512E  
 scale 1:20 metric

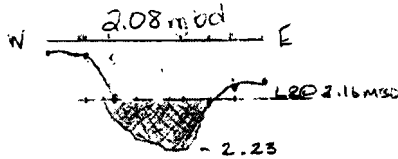
KEY  
SHELL

Map #170

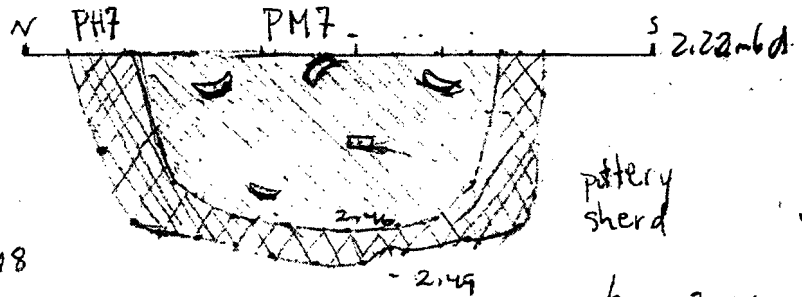
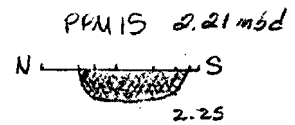
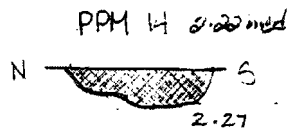
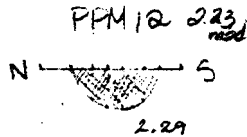
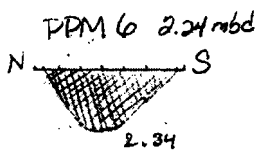
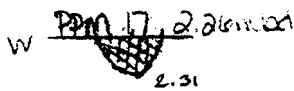
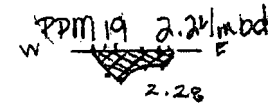
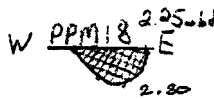
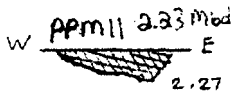
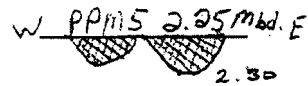
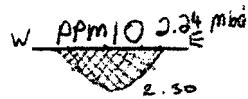
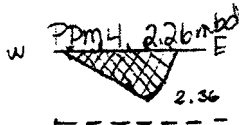
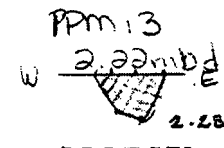
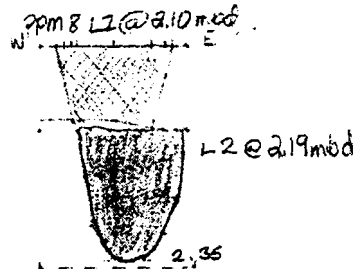
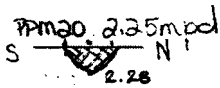
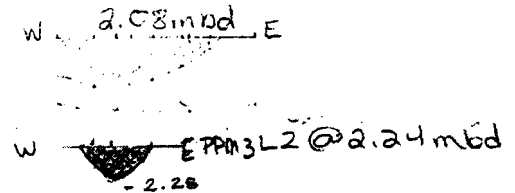
PPM1 L1



PPM2 L1



PPM3 L1



8-SJ-31-2000  
CHAIN 512E

Postmold profiles - PPM 1-3, PPM8  
scale 1:10 metric

2-17-00

ER, JJ, JA, JB

KEY

POST MOLD STAIN

Level II

PEDESTAL BASE

pottery  
sherd

box 2.44

Zone III, below 2.08 mbd. However, only PPMs 4, 6, 8, PM 7 and PH 7 extended into the sterile layer, below 2.33 mbd.

Feature 53 was first observed in the matrix of Zone I soil, at 2.06 mbd (see Map #166). The feature was described as a very dark brown soil with a well-defined concentration of semi-circular shells. It extended into the north region of the east wall. During the removal of the feature, it was noted that there were deposits of intermittent shell concentrations along with interspersed areas of no shell at all. It appeared as if the feature kept extending further south along the east wall. Due to the ambiguous nature of the feature, and because the soil color remained the same, because of the confusion, several versions of Feature 53 exist in the records including Feature 53 proper, in levels 1-3 and Feature 53 extension in levels 1-3. The extension represents a portion of the feature identified in the southern portion of the east wall seven centimeters deeper than the original Feature 53. The feature produced only one nail fragment and a plain St. Johns. Although the finds are of the historic period, the Feature 53's function remains unknown. The eastern section of the unit is on the down slope cusp of the prehistoric shell mound.

### **Unit 421N / 518E**

The most complex and confusing to excavate, unit 421N / 518E presented a very interesting "feature" (see Figure 9). Modern debris was removed from the unit at the beginning of excavations. Along with the modern debris was a daily intrusion created by the daily activities of a mole living in the unit. This was recorded as a Root or Mole Intrusion. The disturbed region was removed for excavation ease and to avoid contamination. Top and

# MAP 166

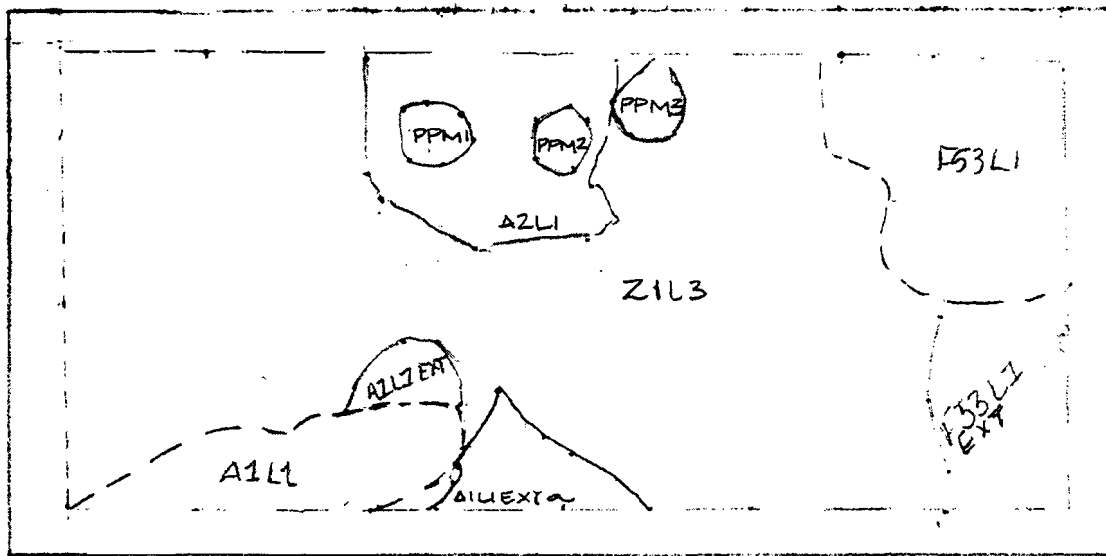
N

422.5N  
512E

422.5N  
515E

421N  
512E

421N  
515E



PROV	TOP	BASE	FS	MUNSELL	MAPPER	DATE
F53LIER	2.05 mbd	2.17	1856	10YR3/2	PK	2-9-00
A1LIER	2.12 mbd	2.16	1855	10YR3/2 1/2	PK	2-9-00
A2LI	2.12 mbd	2.20	1859	10YR3/2	PK	2-9-00
A1LI	2.08 mbd	2.16	1851	10YR3/2 1/2	PK	2-9-00
F53LI	2.01 mbd	2.11	1850	10YR3/2	PK	2-9-00
ZIL3	2.06 mbd	2.08	1854	10YR3/2	PK	2-9-00
PPM1	2.08 mbd	2.26	1869	10YR3/2	JG	2-10-00
PPM2	2.08 mbd	2.16	1871	10YR3/2	JG	2-10-00
PPM3	2.08 mbd	2.24	1872	10YR3/3	JG	2-10-00
A1LIERA	2.08 mbd	2.16	1858	10YR3/2 1/2	JG	2-10-00

85J-31-2000  
 □ 421N 512E  
 SCALE 1:30 METRIC

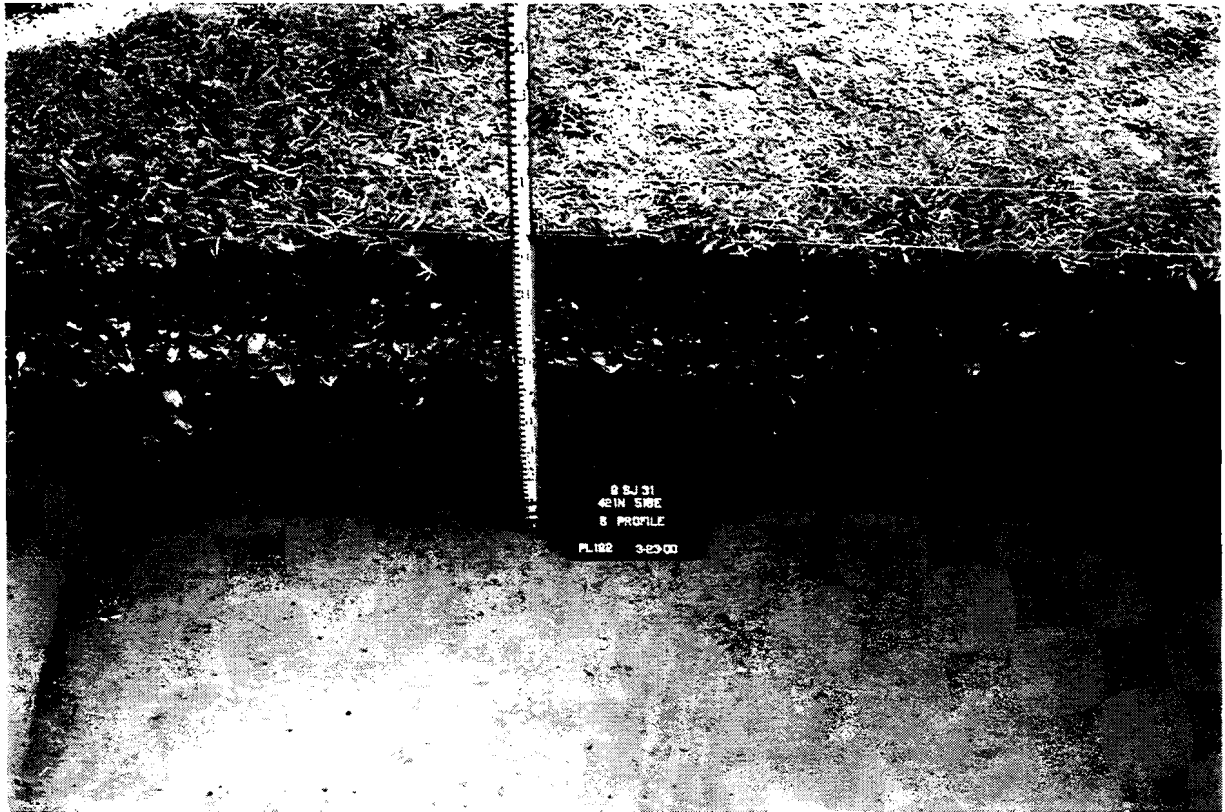


Figure 9. 421N / 518E "Feature" in Profile

base elevations were recorded, but it was not treated as a provenience, meaning no FS# was assigned.

The upper horizon of Zone I, generated a mixed assemblage of artifacts. Included in the collection is a blue wire wound marvered glass bead, a green glazed Olive Jar and a Whiteware rim, along with a host of modern items and native elements. This unit was the first to have a designated Zone II, the dense concentration of large whole oyster shells as well as coquina shells. The western portion of the unit exhibited multiple layers of varying soil matrix. Often it appeared as if one soil type discontinued and then re-continued again below another soil layer. This pattern began in the upper horizon of Zone I, and continued for three soil proveniences extending twenty-three centimeters. An early style olive jar rim in the northeast corner of Zone III indicates that all of the zone deposits in the unit were of the historic period.

The soil layers began with Area 1 and Area 1 extension, a dark grayish brown soil with large shell fragments (see Map #173). Protruding out of the west wall at an average top elevation of 1.95 mbd and ending at 2.02 mbd, Area 1 contained only a prehistoric material component. Area 2, at 1.98 to 2.32 mbd, was observed extending out of the western section of the south wall. Area 2 was characterized as a dark brown to very dark grayish brown soil with flecks of shell present, in a dark soil with patches of light brown. The materials from this Area were solely prehistoric. The light brown soil appeared to be intrusive and was similar to the soil color of Area 1.

At roughly 1.95mbd, a dramatic change in the soil matrix of the unit occurred, with the shell concentration decreasing and becoming concentrated in the northwestern portion of the unit. This was later noted as Feature 55. This is thought to possibly be a remnant lens of



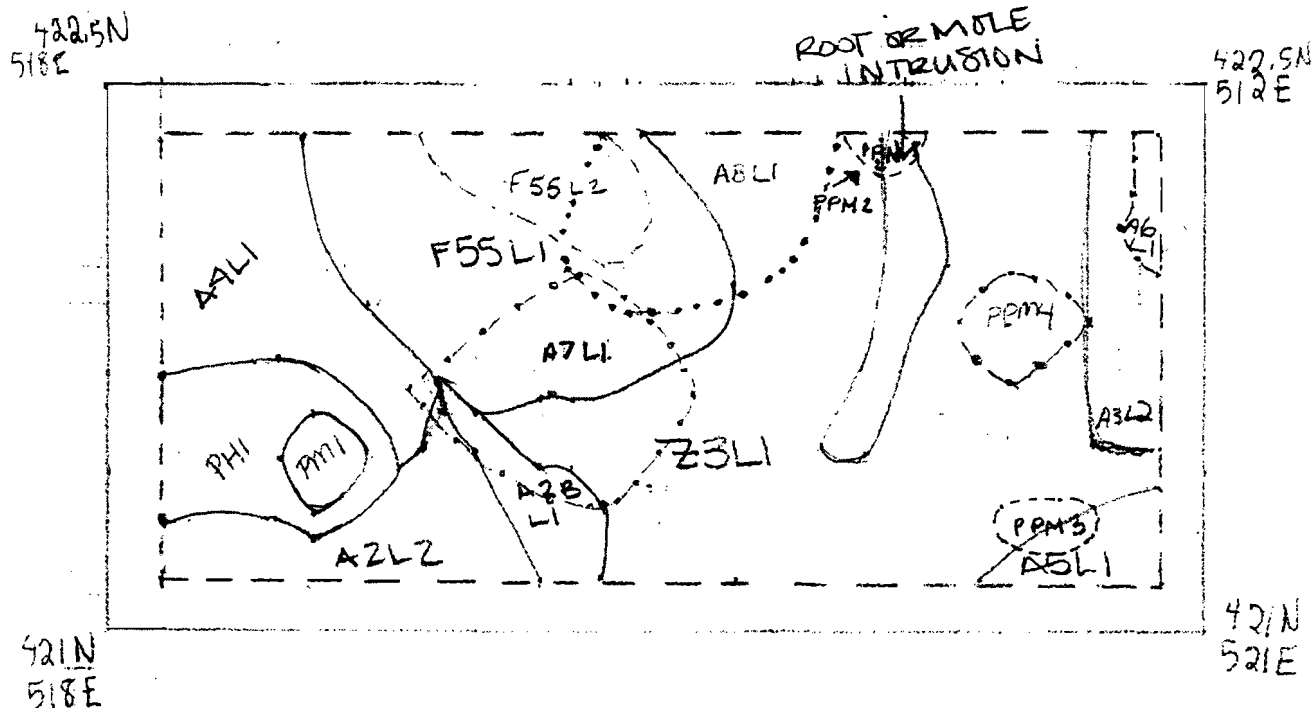


the Zone II shell midden, particularly since the shell layer receded to the north section of the unit and the southern end was the downward slope of the shell mound. The disappearance of the heavy shell layer occurred in the western wall, changing the original soil matrix from Area 1, a dark brown to very dark grayish brown soil with some shell flecking, to Area 4 (see Map #175). Area 4 yielded a few of aboriginal materials. In the southwest region of the unit, it appeared as if the multiple proveniences bore similar soil compositions, with each overlapping the other.

Area 1, Area 2 and Area 4 overlaid to post mold 1 and its associated post hole (1). PM 1 was a very dark brown, tight concentration of shell flecks in a circular formation, beginning at 2.04 mbd. It was noted to be directly below Area 1. PM1 was of a mixed context, producing both Native American and early Spanish period items. The matrix of PH 1 was described as a dark brown soil with light brown flecking, beginning at 2.045 mbd. It was located in the vicinity below Area 2. This was the intrusive layer which originally appeared at 1.98 mbd, and later as Area 2B at 2.05 mbd. Area 4 was found to be located directly north of the PM (1) and PH (1) at relatively the same depth. Upon further excavation, PH 1 was deemed not to be a post, but a soil stain, intruding upon PPM 5 and PPM 6.

The complexity of this region culminated with a flat-based, straight-sided "feature" observed in the south and west wall profiles (see SR#36/2). It was noted as a dark gray soil with very light shell flecking. Unfortunately, the base defining the potential structure was not observed during formal excavation, and was undesignated and not excavated. The upper horizon of the "feature", Zone I, produced a full temporal range of material goods. Areas 1, 2 and 4, the "feature's" associated proveniences, all produced pre contact items,

# Map 175



8-SI-31-2000

421N 518E

SCALE 1:20 meters

PROV	Top	Base	FS	Munsell	Map	Date
A4L1	2.06	2.13	1919	10YR 3/2.3/3	JG	2/25
PM1	2.04	2.21	1958	10YR 2/2.3/3	JG	2/25
PH1	2.045	—	NO #	10YR 3/3	JG	2/25
A2L2	2.07	2.16	1922	10YR 3/3-3/2	JG	2/25
A2B1	2.05	2.15	1921	10YR 3/3	JG	2/25
F55L1	2.05	2.14	1920	10YR 3-1	JG	2/25
Z3L1	2.03	2.14	1923	10YR 3/4	JG	2/25
Root	2.03	2.07	NO #	NO #	JG	2/25
A3L2	1.98	2.08	1915	10YR 3/2-3/3	JG	2/25
A5L1	2.00	2.05	1918	10YR 3/3	JG	2/25
F55L2	2.14	2.25	1925	10YR 3/1	SS	3/1
PPM2	2.11	2.29	1936	10YR 3/2	SS	3/1
PPM3	2.06	2.38	1939	10YR 4/3	SS	3/1
A7L1	2.23	2.33	1937	10YR 3/4	KF	3/3
PPM4	2.14	2.40	1944	10YR 3/2	KF	3/3
A6L1	2.19	2.27	1938	10YR 3/4	KF	3/3
A8L1	2.47	2.52	1954	10YR 3/4	JA	3/15

such as St. Johns and San Marcos sherds. Included in the assemblage was a low yield of aboriginal discards. The "feature" was thought to be of a recent occurrence. In profile, it appeared to be intruding into the Zone II shell lens, from just centimeters from the ground surface.

An anomaly was noted in the sterile layer designated as area 8. This was the last provenience to be observed in the unit. It was identified at 2.44 mbd, thirteen centimeters below the base of Zone III and into the sterile layer. It was described as a dark circular stain with lime and charcoal flecks. It was removed in its entirety, with a base elevation of 2.73 mbd. No shell or soil sample was taken, just a one-vial lime sample. No cultural material was removed from this provenience. As with the far eastern units, 421N / 518E suffered from severe water flooding, creating some ambiguity at the interface of Zone III and sterile layer.

### **Unit 421N / 540E**

Unit 421N / 540E was the eastern most extension of the site trench. As the field season neared to an end, it was thought that bypassing the units after 421N / 518E would be the most time efficient way to reveal both ends of the shell mound in profile. There were no PPMs noted in the unit, but instead a series of Areas were observed in its western end (see Map #178). Areas 1, 2 and 3 became apparent at approximately the same depth (1.85 mbd) as Zone II, and intruded into it. The Zone and Areas 1 and 2 were very similar in that they each appeared as very dark gray/brown soil with a heavy concentration of shell. Area 1's composition consisted of small coquina shells in a loosely compact soil matrix. Area 2 presented a dense concentration of charcoal along with the shell. Area 3 formed a semi-

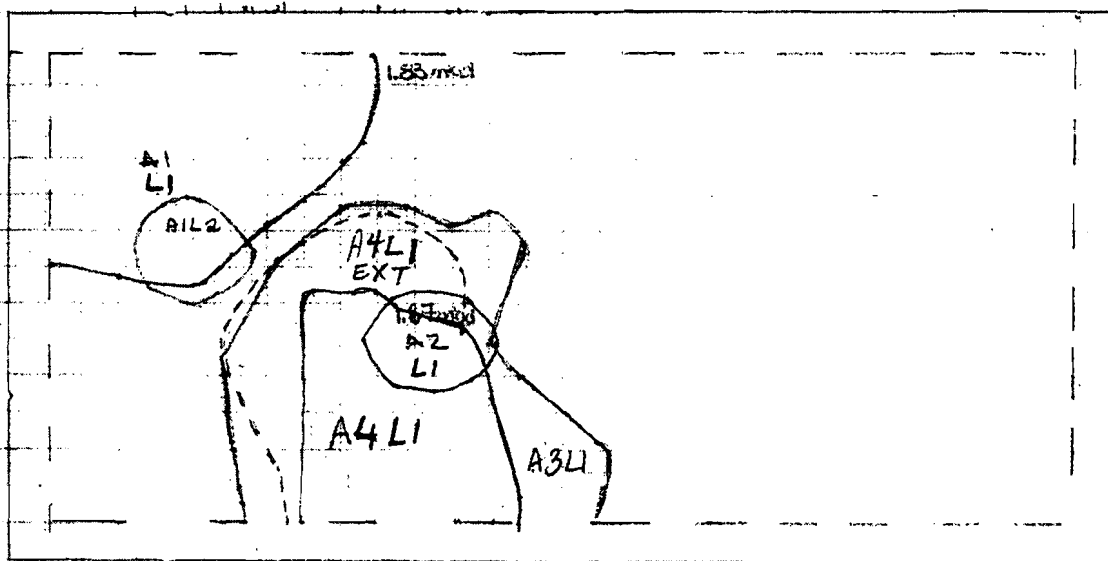
# MAP 178

422.5 N  
540 E

422.5 N  
540 E

421 N  
540 E

421 N  
543 E



BSJ31-2000  
421 N 540 E  
JG  
scale 1:20 metric

DATE	MAPS	PROV	TOP	BASE	MUNICIPAL	F.S.
3/27	✓	A1L1	1.83	1.85	10YR 3-1	1970
3/27	✓	A2L1	1.87	1.95	10YR 3-2	1969
3/27		A3L1	1.87	1.94	10YR 3/4	1975
4/3	93	A4L1	1.94	2.04	10YR 3/4	1980
4/3	ER	A4L1 EXT	1.94	2.04	10YR 3/4	1982
4/3	ER	A1L2	1.85	2.04	10YR 3/1	1981

circle around Area 2. It held a component of light brown, densely compacted soil with a large shell. A palm-sized fiber tempered sherd, broken in three parts, was found in this provenience. The sherds are possibly of the prehistoric Orange Period. Zone II's shell lens was observed to be peculiarly different from ones seen in other units. The layer consisted of much larger whole shells, than what was observed in the other units. A whole and hinge shell sample for zooarchaeological analysis was taken from two full wheelbarrows---approximately 12 cubic feet.

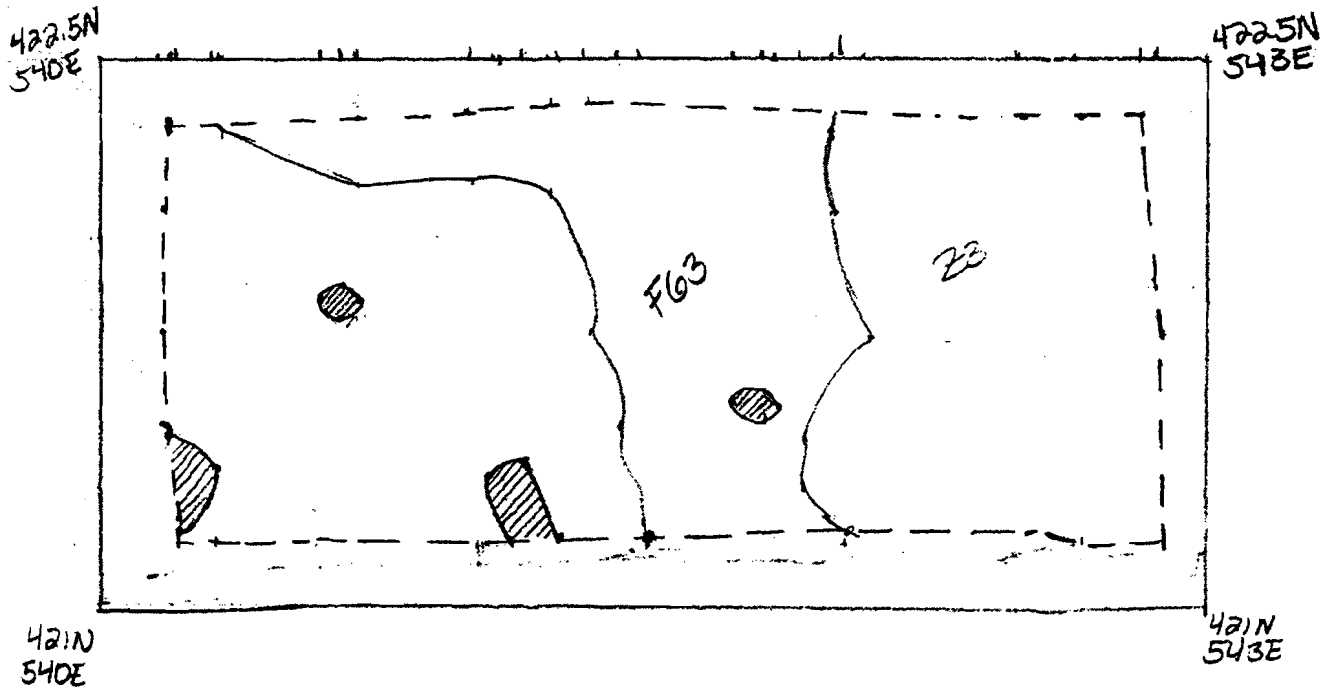
Excavation proceeded through the heavy shell concentration of Zone II and into an uncharacteristic Zone III matrix. The soil did not have the same consistency and texture as earlier observed in Zone III. There was no obvious rust and gray mottling; instead, the soil was a dark yellowish brown. However, at 2.09 mbd we were out of the Zone II shell horizon and so treated the next horizon as Zone III.

Directly underlying Zone II was feature (63), intruding into Zone III. It appeared as a linear trench running north / south in the unit at 2.10 mbd within the Zone III matrix (see Map #181). The feature was described as having a dark yellowish brown soil color with heavy flecking of crushed and fragmented shell. There were larger shells protruding from the floor of the north wall. Given the precarious location of the feature in the unit it may have been a Timucuan trash pit. Further analysis of the artifacts is needed before any reliable interpretations can be made.

### **Trench Stratigraphy (refer to Stratigraphic Records 33-39)**


All units comprised of the basic soil horizons. "A" modern humic layer; "B" Zone I, gray/brown soil with shell flecks; "C" Zone II, dark gray soil with heavy concentration of

MAP # 181



85J-31-2000  
☐ 421N 540E  
 4/10/00  
 SCALE 1:20 METRIC  
 MAPPERS: J.J. & K.F.

KEY

 = CHARCOAL STAIN WITH  
CRUSHED SHELL FLECKING  
NO ELEVATIONS OR MIMSEL

DATE	NO. OF	PROV	TOP	BASE	MUNSELL	PS
4/10	55	F63	210	2.21	10YR 3/4	

large and whole shells; "D" Zone III, mottled orange/gray soil with flecks of charcoal and shell; "E" sterile layer, moist tan soil (Zone II was only observed in units 421N / 518E and 421N / 540E). For trench profile (see Stratigraphic Records 33-39).

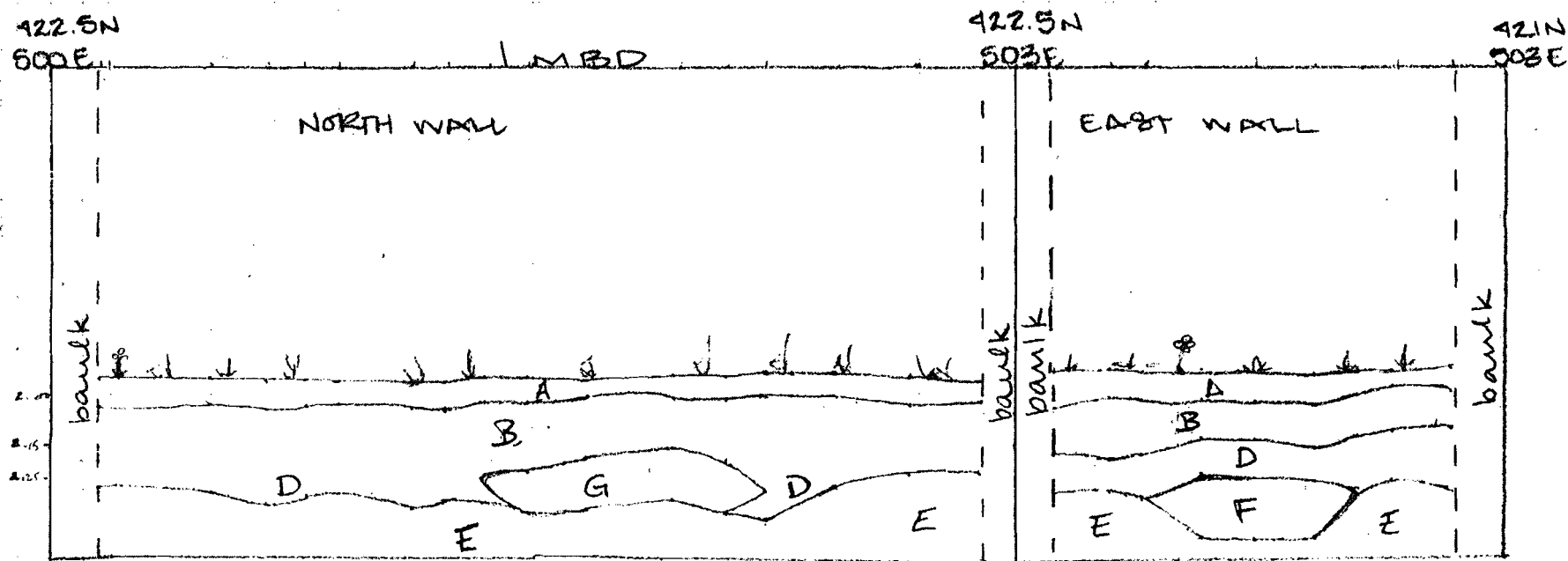
### **North Wall**

A fairly consistent and predictable stratigraphy was depicted in the north wall of the site trench. The two western units (421N / 500E & 421N / 506E) presented similar north wall strata. The "A" horizon began at roughly 2.00 mbd in each unit, and was followed by a minimal profile activity. The presence of shell became more apparent with the eastern units, 421N / 512E, 421N / 518E, 421N / 540E. This may be due to their proximity to the edge of the shell mound. It was in the eastern region of 421N / 512E that we began to see a high density of shell, along with the appearance of possible post mold intrusions. In 421N / 512E and 421N / 518E the shell lens overlies Horizon "D"(Zone III).

### **South Wall** (there is no south wall SR for 421N / 506E)

As with the north wall, in the south wall, there was a noticeable change occurring in strata content as the trench extended to the east. The complex "feature" in 421N / 518E discussed earlier, marked the beginning of the Zone II shell lens. The lens extends to the far eastern wall of 421N / 540E from the edge of the square structure. The "feature" intrusion materially represents a discrete Native American cultural event, but begins at a high below datum depth. The function of it has yet to be determined.

SR37 (1 of 2)



a)

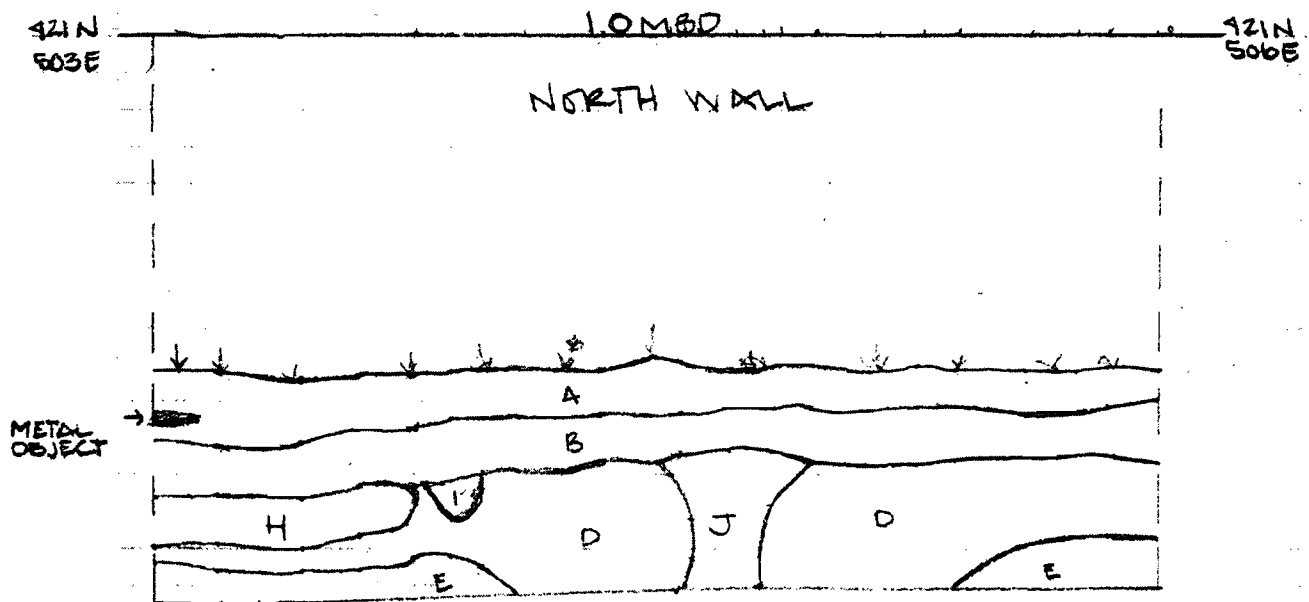
- A- MODERN HUMIC ZONE
- B- ZONE ONE
- D- ZONE THREE
- E- STERILE SOIL MATRIX
- F FEATURE 52
- G- STAINING OF PPM4+5

\* SEE SR37 FORM FOR EXPLANATIONS

8-SJ-31-2000  
 421N 500E  
 3-28-00  
 J. GROBE



GR34 2 OF 3



A-MODERN HUMIC ZONE

B-ZONE 1 10YR3-1/3-2

D-ZONE 3 10YR4-2 MOTTLED TAN GREY SOIL W/ RUST STAINING

E-STERILE SOIL

J-BLACK GRAY & TAN MOTTLED STAIN INTRUDING INTO ZONE 3 8-83-31-2000

H-PPM7 10YR3-2 (larger than excavated)

I-AMORPHOUS TAN & GRAY MOTTLED STAIN

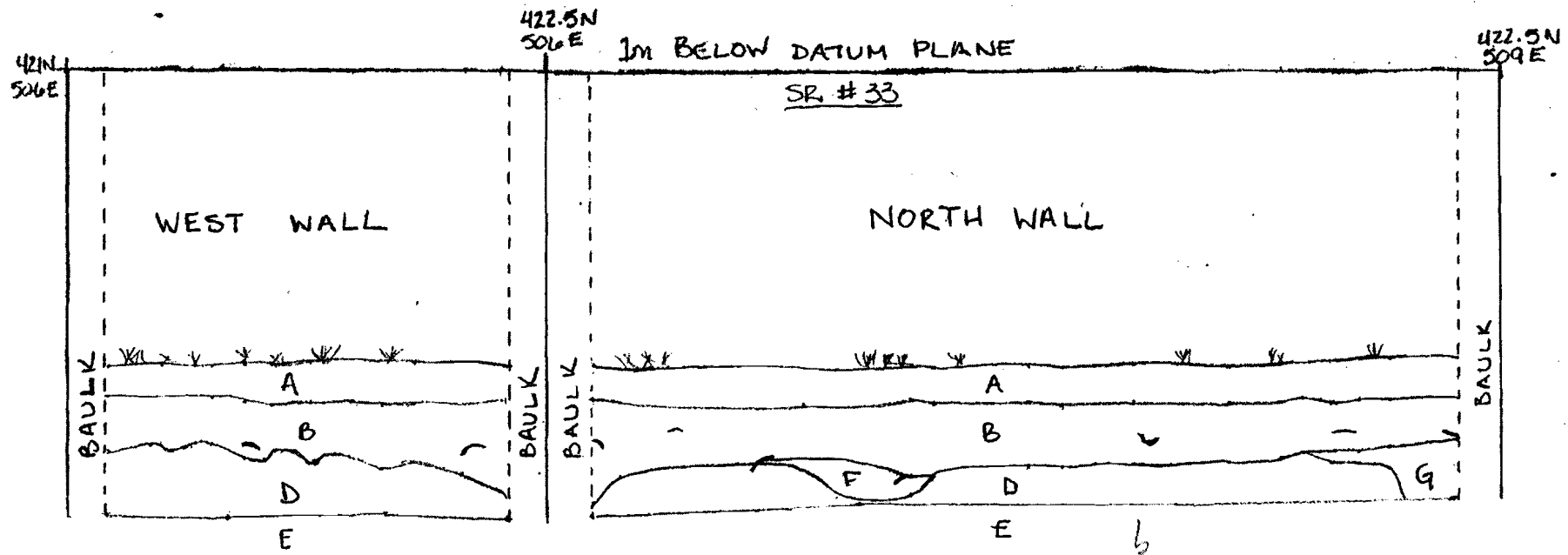
41BN503E

2-29-50

SCALE 1:20

MAPPER - J. GROBE

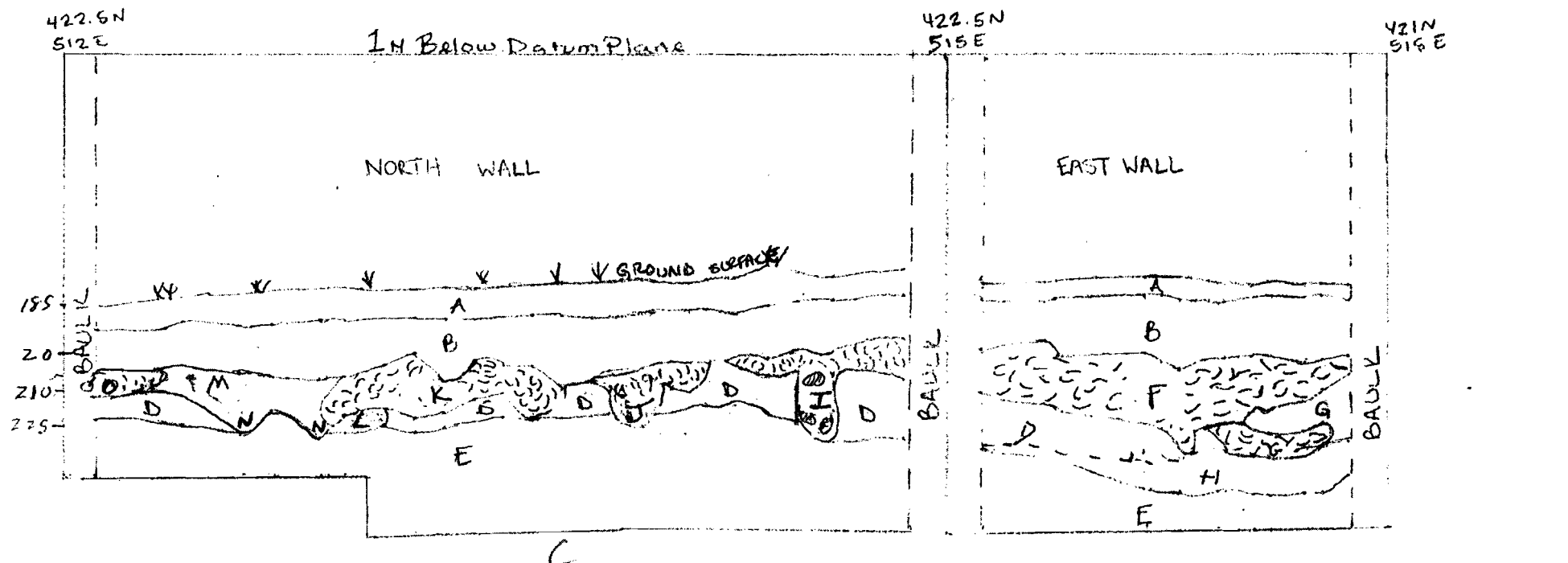
# SR# 33 MAP 1 OF 1



8 55 31  
2-3-2000  
421N 506E  
J. Anderson  
1:20

- A- modern humic zone
- B- zone 1, MUNSELL 10YR3/2
- D- zone 3, MUNSELL 10YR3/3
- E- sterile soil
- F- Area 1, MUNSELL 10YR3/1
- G- undesignated feature

SR# 35 MAP 1 OF 2



- A - MODERN HUMIC ZONE  
 B - ZONE 1 (GREY BROWN SOIL w/ curved shell)  
 D - ZONE 3 - Tan mottled soil, lite shells, charcoal  
 E - STERILE SOIL  
 F - F.53 - Heavy shell concentration  
 G - F.53 extension - Grey/Tan soil lens w/ shell  
 H - Area 5 (stained sterile soil)  
 I - PPM 8  
 J - PPM 3  
 K - Heavy shell concentration in  
 Z1 soil, (Pm 14, A2)

KEY:

- Charcoal lens  
 Heavy shell lens  
 L - Charcoal lens  
 M - Medium Brown soil w/ lite shell  
 N - Area 3  
 O - Undesignated shell lens  
 WHOLE SHELL

85331  
 3-3-00  
 421N 512 E  
 1:20  
 J Anderson  
 S. Schofield

SR #36 (1 of 2)

422.5N  
518E

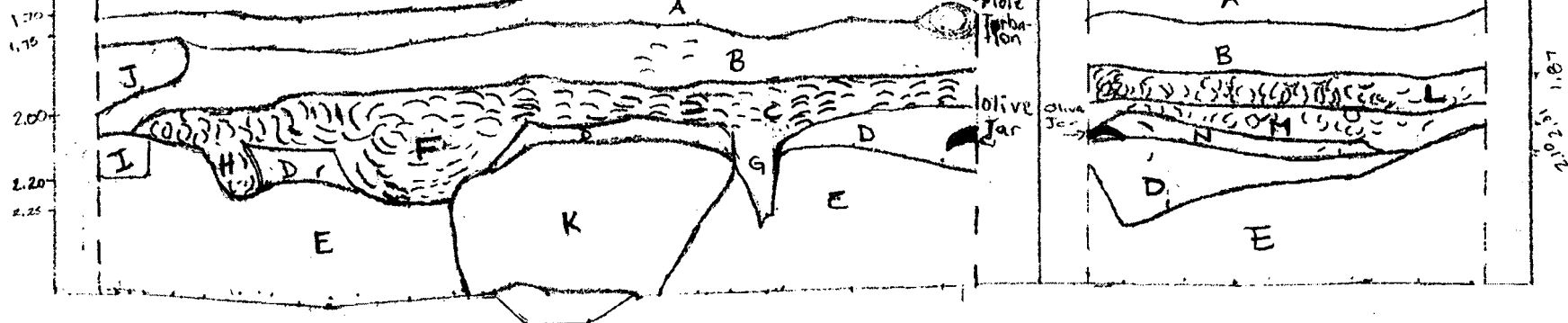
1.0 MBD

North Wall

422.5N  
521E

East Wall

421N  
521E



D

A - Modern Humic zone

B - ZONE 1 crushed shell 10YR 3/1

C - ZONE 2 10YR 4/1 Dark grey heavy shell (shell lenses)

D - ZONE 3 10YR 3/4 yellowish brown

E - STERILE SOIL MATRIX

F - F. SS 10YR 3/1 - very dark grey dense shell concentration

G - PPM 2

H - undesignated - shell intrusion (PPM?)

I - undesignated

J - A1

K - A8

L - A3

M - excavated as part of A3

N - A6

8-5 J-31-2000

421N 518E

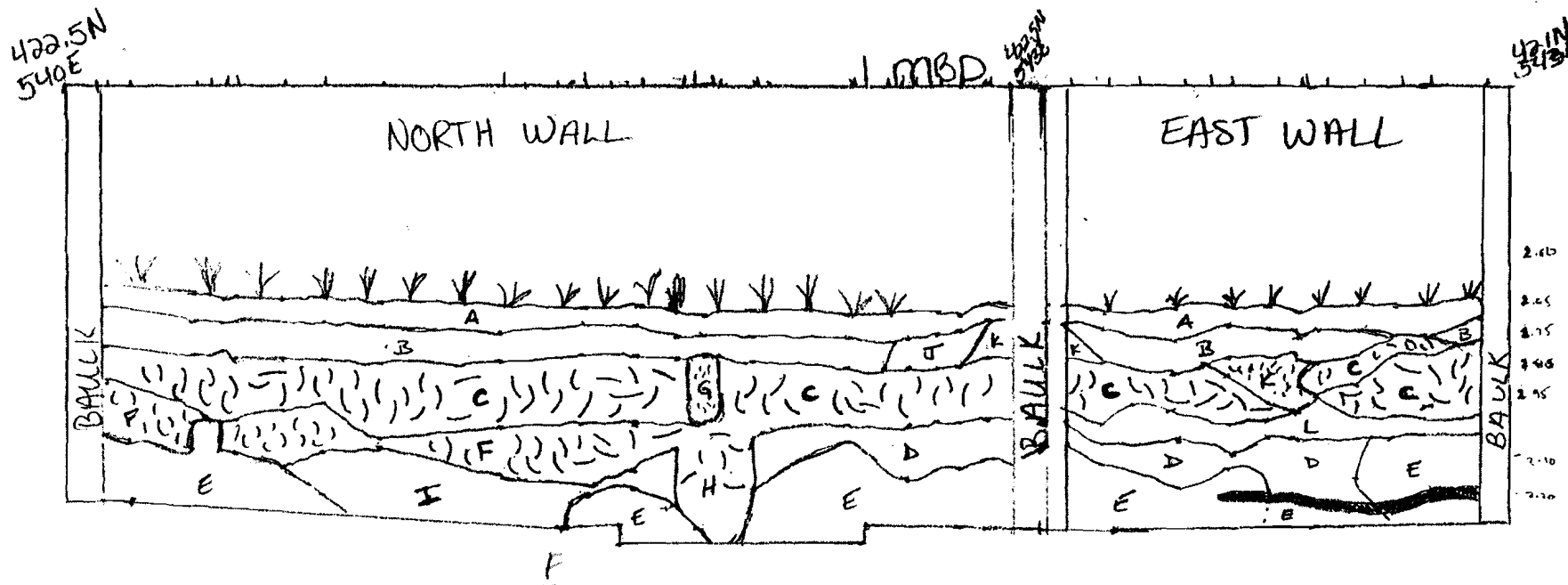
3/28/2000

Pauline Kulstad

Shanna Schopf

1:20 Metric scale

SR 39 1 OF 2



KEY

- ↓ = GROUND SURFACE
- = LARGE ROOT
- ⌋ = HEAVY SHELL CONCENTRATION

- A = MODERN HUMIC LAYER
- B = ZONE 1 DARK GRAY SOIL WITH SHELL
- C = ZONE 2 DARK GRAY SOIL WITH DENSE CONCENTRATION OF LARGE & MEDIUM SHELL
- D = ZONE 3 - MEDIUM BROWN TO TAN SOIL
- E = STERILE SOIL
- F = DRY TAN/BROWN SOIL, HEAVY SHELL CONCENTRATION
- G = LINEAR INTRODUCTION OF SMALL COARSELY COUING SHELLS, DARK GRAY/BROWN SOIL
- H = POSTMOLD - MOTTLED DARK/LIGHT BROWN SOIL WITH SHELL.
- I = HOMOGENEOUS DARK BROWN SOIL
- J = VERY DARK BROWN SOIL w/ SHELL
- K = DARK GRAY SOIL WITH DENSE CONCENTRATION OF COUING AND CRUSHED LARGE SHELLS
- L = DRY BIEGE/TAN SOIL WITH SMALL COUNT OF LARGE SHELL.

8-SJ-31-2000

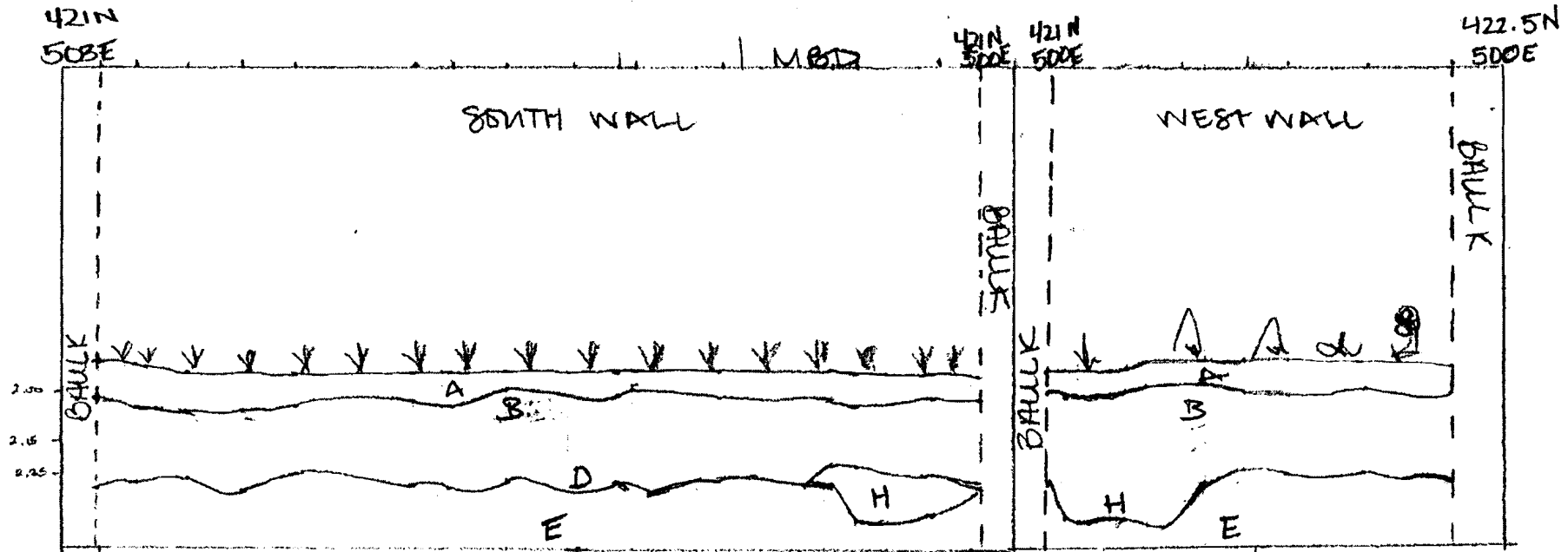
17421N 540E

1-20 SCHLE

J JEROME, K. FISCHER

4-18-00

SR 37 (2 of 2)

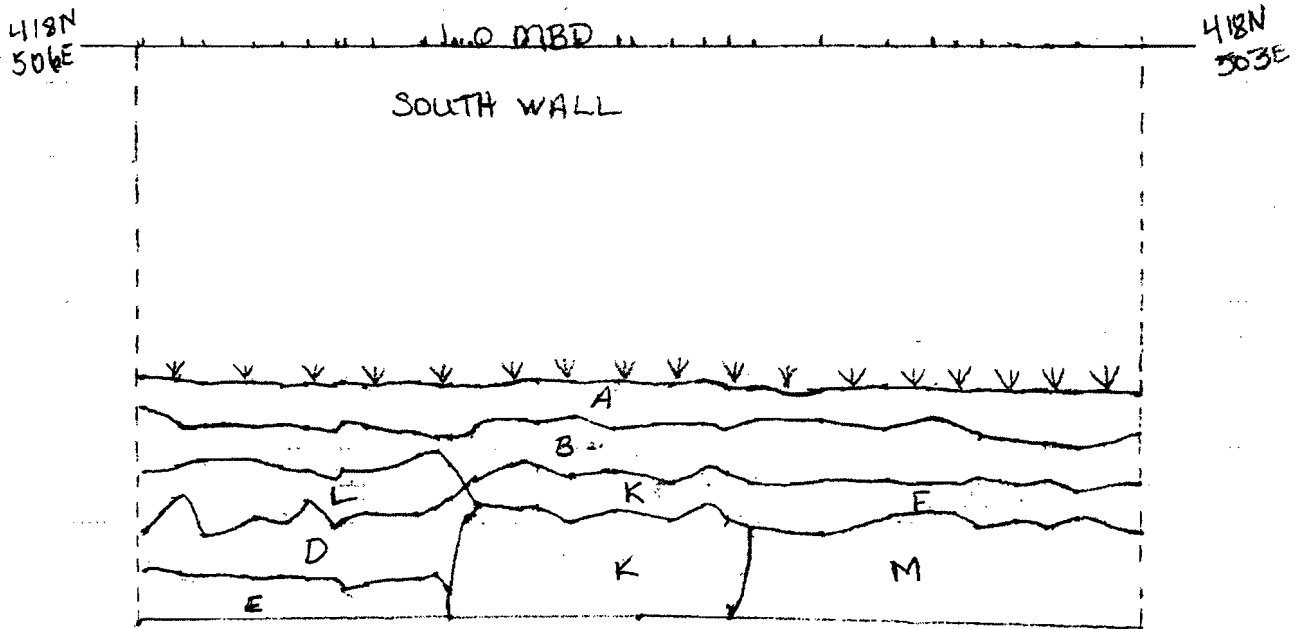


A-MODERN HUMIC ZONE  
 B-ZONE ONE  
 D-ZONE THREE  
 E-STERILE  
 H- FEATURE 51

B-83-31-2000  
 421N 500E  
 1-20 SCALE  
 J. JEROME  
 3-28-00

\* SEE SR37 FORM FOR EXPLANATIONS

SR 34 30F3



A-MODERN HUMIC ZONE

B-ZONE 1 10YR 3/1 - 3/3

D-ZONE 3 10YR 4/2 MOTTLED TAN-GRAY SOIL W/ RUST STAINING

E-STERILE SOIL

F-AREA 2 - GRAY SOIL W/ LIGHT RUST STAINING 10YR 3/2

K-FEATURE 54-DARK & LIGHT GRAY MOTTLED SOIL W/ SHELL FLECKING 10YR 3/3

L-AREA 1 - DARK GRAY W/ WHOLE SHELL CONCENTRATION - 10YR 3/3

M-DARK GRAY & ORANGE/BROWN MOTTLED SOIL

8-5J-31-2000

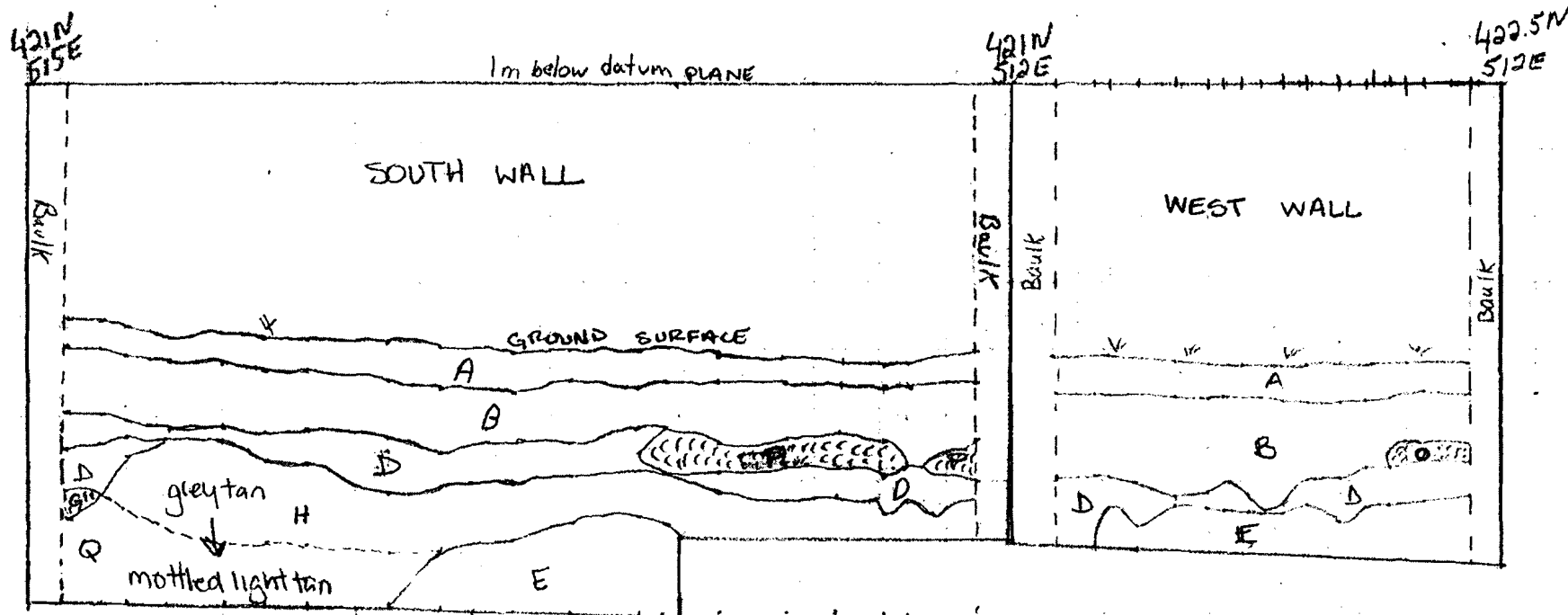
418N 503E

3-1-00

SCALE - 1:20

MAPPER: J. Jerome

SR #35 MAP 2 OF 2



8-55-31-2000 Foy

42IN SIDE

3/3/2000 1:20

Jake Bailey-mapper

= Shell Lens

A = MODERN HUMIC ZONE

B = ZONE 1

D = ZONE 3

E = STERILE SOIL

H = AREA 5 (STAINED STERILE SOIL)

P = AREA 1 (10YR3/2-3/3 AMORPHOUS AREA OF MODERATE TO HEAVY SHELL CONCENTRATION)

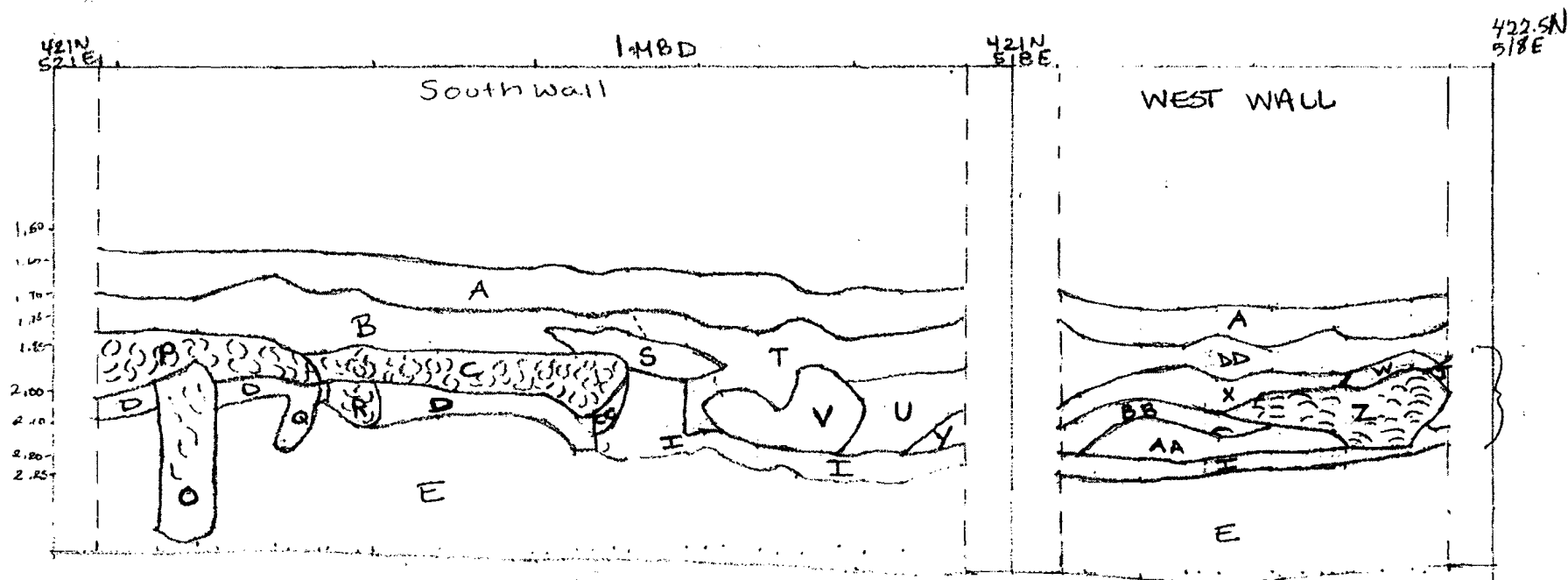
G = F53 EXT.

O = UNDESIGNATED SHELL LENSE

Q = MOTTLED LIGHT GREY TAN



SR # 36 (2 OF 2)



8SJ31-2003

421N 518E

3/28/2000

Pauline Kulstad

Shanna Schofield

1:20 Metric Scale.

A - Modern humic zone

B - ZONE 1

C - ZONE 2

D - ZONE 3

E - STERILE

I - undesignated

O - ppm 3

P - A5

Q - undesignated intrusion

R - undesignated intrusion

S - A2B

T - A2

U - excavated as A2

V - undesignated (part of A2)

W - undesignated (A1)

X -

Y - A1, not excavated as A1 due to ppm 1

Z - A4

AA - PH1

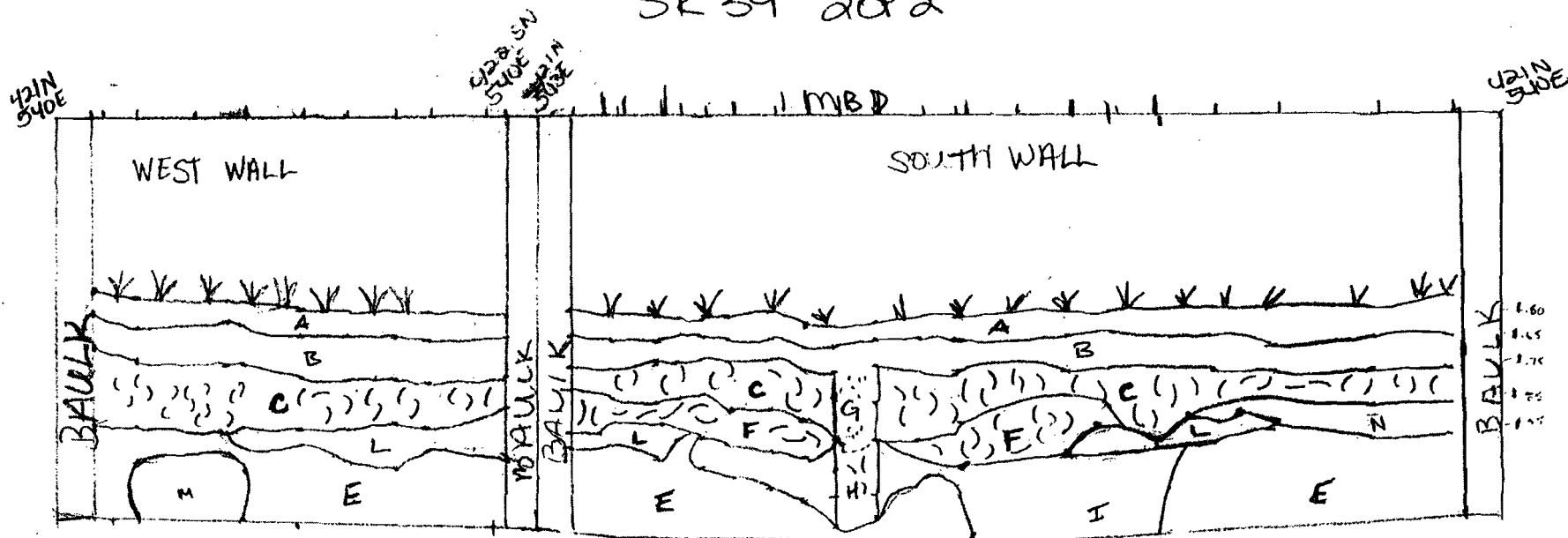
BB - undesignated

J - A1

CC - undesignated, part of I

DD - undesignated

SR 39 2002



# KEY

- ▽ GROUND SURFACE
- (S) = HEAVY SHELL CONCENTRATION

- A = MODERN HUMIC LAYER
- B = ZONE 1, DARK GRAY SOIL WITH SHELL
- C = ZONE 2, DARK GRAY SOIL WITH DENSE CONCENTRATION OF LARGE WHOLE SHELL
- D = ZONE 3 - MEDIUM BROWN TO TAN SOIL
- E = STERILE SOIL
- F = DRY-TAN/BROWN SOIL, HEAVY SHELL CONCENTRATION
- G = LINEAR INTRODUCTION
- H = POST MOLD - MOTTLED DARK/LIGHT BROWN SOIL WITH SHELL
- I = HOMOGENEOUS DARK BROWN SOIL
- L = DRY BIEGE/TAN SOIL WITH SMALL COUNT OF LARGE SHELL
- M = BLACK SOIL HEAVY CHARCOAL STAIN
- N = DARK GRAY/TAN SOIL WITH LARGE SHELL THROUGHOUT

8-SJ-31-2000

□ 42IN 540E

1:20 METRIC SCALE

K.F., J.J., J.G.

4.18.00

## **Goggin Exploratory Unit / Block Excavation Units 1&2 / Ground**

### **Penetrating Radar**

During the course of the field season, a number of exploratory endeavors were incorporated into the research strategy at varying locations around the site. It was believed that investigating portions of 8-SJ-31, outside of the 421N trench line, would produce concise information about other unknown subsurface anomalies around the site related to the Spanish campsite. All activities were conducted with the hope of supplying enough data so that work could proceed in a more productive region of the site. Below is a brief description of each exploratory unit, explaining the reasons and strategies for why we approached the locales and how they function in the larger scheme of site operations. These are currently being analyzed and will be reported in detail by the project's principal investigator.

The southern most region of 8-SJ-31 was investigated to test the idea that a large square depression was in fact John Goggin's 1951 Test Pit #8. It was thought that by investigating the area we might discover the test pit not only to shed light on the cultural component of the southern edge of the shell mound, but also to tie in Goggin's excavation into the site grid. The unit was not excavated in increments of ten centimeters, but rather the sod zone was removed to reveal the top of a large circular feature intruding into shell midden (see Figure 8).

This was revealed to be a trash pit filled with post 1945 modern debris. It included many shards of drinking bottle glass, as well as numerous whole medicine bottles. The fill of the trash pit was removed and discarded, revealing it had destroyed all but a small portion of the shell midden in the unit. The midden was left unexcavated. The unit did not lend any

insight into sixteenth century cultural processes, nor did it set precedence for further investigating the southern edge of the presumably prehistoric shell mound.

Nearing the end of the field season, Dr. Deagan felt that it would be beneficial to explore a larger area of the site. Excavation activities were conducted solely under the instruction of Dr. Deagan, along with the daily recordings, which was performed according to standard site protocol.<sup>2</sup> All recording numbers were continued in consecutive order with other site records. In addition, the exploratory units were divided into sections. A large area (Block Excavation Unit #1) extending twenty meters north / south and five meters east / west, was opened directly west of the sixteenth century Spanish settlement, discovered in previous year excavation. To expedite the removal of the upper horizons a backhoe was used to quickly reveal the contact period living surface. Severe skid marks were left by the backhoe tires. This created depressions throughout the unit and sometimes made it difficult to discern the soil anomalies.

Approximately 90-120 cubic feet of soil per section, was screened during a weekend screening fest in hopes of collecting an adequate sample of artifacts. Roughly, a dozen volunteers were present to help screen dirt from each of the sections, removed by the backhoe. All Features, Areas and PPMs were dealt with by the crew during the workweek. To date the recovered artifacts have not been analyzed. However, observed during screening was various modern debris, prehistoric, as well as Spanish and British period artifacts. This further suggests that the upper horizons were of a highly mixed context.

Within days of ending the field season Dr. Deagan identified a sixteenth century housing configuration in the northern region of the unit at 2.29mbd (sections 3 and 4, see Map #180). The angled linear formation of the stain was similar to those found during early

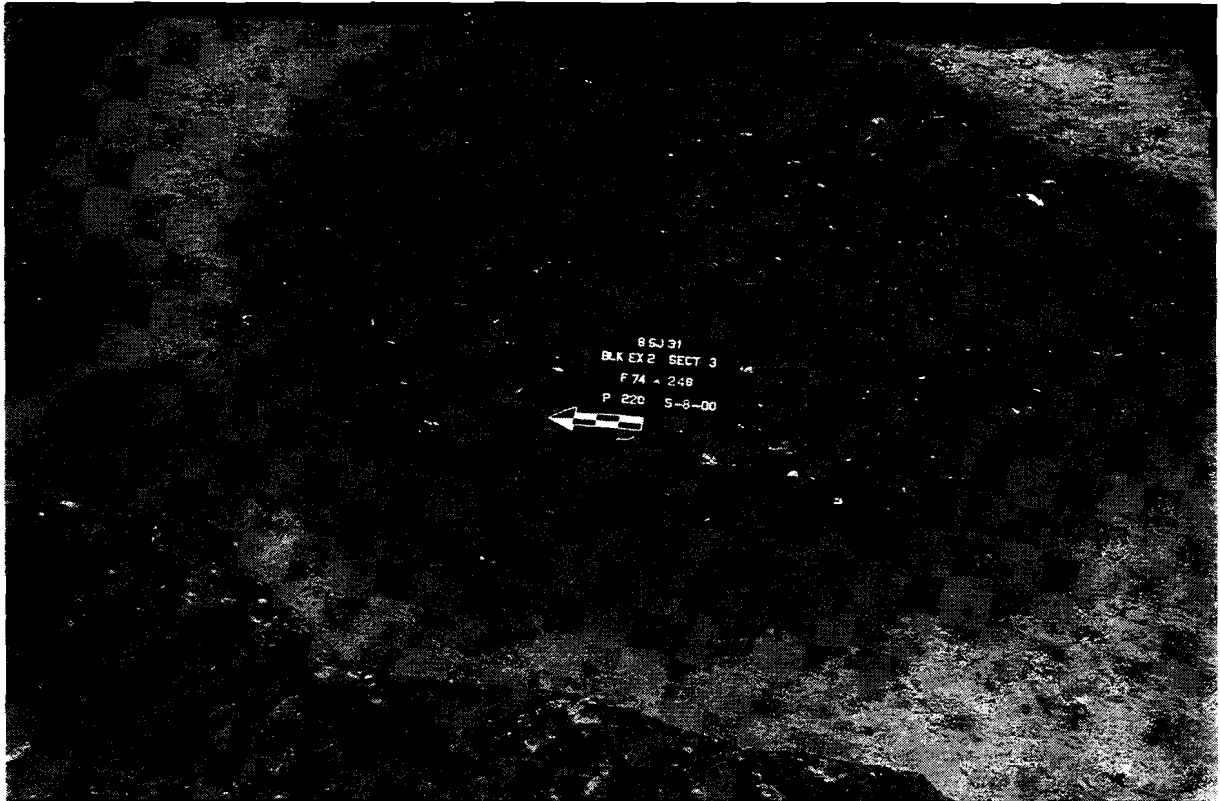
excavations, suggesting a Menendez era living quarter. Due to the untimely nature of this find it was deemed unlikely that proper excavation could proceed. The unit was later covered in plastic at the depth of the cultural layer and backfilled. Further investigation of this portion of the site will be conducted in the future.

The unexpected find in BE#1 established the precedent for further site exposure. As work on the 421N trench line came to an end, and still hoping to reveal a continuation of the pattern indicated by the Feature 50-52 formation in 421N / 500E, Dr. Deagan decided to expand into the region just northwest of the trench line. John Shultz of the University of Florida Anthropology Department conducted a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) exercise directly north of the 421N trench line. The findings of the radar depicted a high density of subsurface activity in the proximity of 421N / 515E. Block Excavation Unit 2 is five meters north / south and thirteen meters east /west. As with BE #1, the daily direction and recordings of BE #2 was conducted solely by Dr. Deagan and followed the same numbering sequence for the site. A backhoe was used to remove approximately 40cm of soil from the upper horizons. The goal was to arrive at roughly the same depth, 2.30mbd, as 421N / 500E Features 50-52. The unit was divided into three sections, with section one beginning at the far western edge.

Work at BE #2 was being conducted within days of the of the field season end. Section 3 of the unit gave way to what was originally believed to be a well. This large dark circular feature (74), approximately two meters in diameter turned out to be a trash pit overlying a large post that had been removed from the ground during the Menendez occupation (see Figure 7). It produced several slabs of wooden planks. The feature also yielded a Figa, a symbol of Spanish supernatural beliefs. Like BE #1, BE #2 was mapped,

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<sup>2</sup>For an in depth explanation of Block Excavation #1 & #2, see Kath Deagan's field notebook, Book 1 of 1.



**Figure 7. Block Excavation #2, Feature 74**

covered and backfilled for future excavation. Unfortunately, we encountered the more structurally interesting regions of the site too late into the field season. However, their presence has qualified the site for future excavation. This may shed light on some other aspect of the life patterns of the first Europeans in St. Augustine.

## **Summary**

The Spring 2000 field season served its purpose as a reconnaissance project. A sufficient amount of data was produced to further substantiate the material use of sixteenth century Spaniards. The assemblage of prehistoric ceramics will also aid in the understanding of Timucuan material culture.

This field season produced a noticeably higher yield of Native American structural remains than what was found in earlier years work at 8-SJ-31. In the vicinity of the 421N trench line, the Native American remains, in the form of post molds and corresponding post holes, and possible post molds were not found in association to any historical structural remain. The findings suggest that a Seloy structure may have solely existed near the shell mound. Further supporting the assertion that the Spanish fortified Timucuan longhouse was in relative distance to the *pueblo*. Excavations of Chaney (1987), Gordon (1992), and Shtulman (1994) produced compounding information depicting Menendez period structures. Each unfolded evidence confirming the first European settlement in America.

Nevertheless, what of the Seloy village which helped to matriculate the Spaniards into their New World setting? The findings of the 2000 field season has demonstrated that to date, there are no late sixteenth century structural remains on the periphery of the shell mound (the southern region of the site and the more strategic locale for a presidio). The shell mound as Goggin understood it, was the result of an intentional disposal of aboriginal



**Figure 8. Goggin Exploratory Unit**