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# Reconstructing 830 Simpson Avenue; An Archaeological Investigation of Household Life Cycles in a 19th and 20th Century Working-class Neighborhood

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An Honors Thesis  
Submitted for partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for graduation with honors in Cpy tqr qmgi {  
from Hamline University

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## ABSTRACT

The Simpson Avenue site is a household site dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. It is located on Hamline University's current campus in the 'backyard' of the White House. The site was discovered during the fall of 2013 by the Excavating Hamline History class. While the original intention was to find a shed structure pictured on an 1886 plat map, a post-hole and an intact cultural deposit were uncovered. A 2x1 meter test unit and six shovel tests were conducted on the property that determined site boundaries and the vertical and horizontal distribution of artifacts and features. The excavation units show clear soil changes that define the fluctuating use in landscape at the site. The home originally on this property, the 830 Simpson Avenue house, contained an assemblage of 19th and early 20th century artifacts. The collection from the site was relatively small, however, the artifact analysis showed the presence of women based on the kitchen refuse associated with women's roles, clothing components, and personal items of women and girls. Similarly, archival documents provided evidence that places women at the site during the period of time consistent with the intact 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century assemblage. This indicates they were active participants in creating the assemblage.

By the 1940s, this site experienced a variety of changes in occupation and site use. Ownership of the 830 Simpson Avenue home was private until 1916 when it was purchased by Hamline University. Students then began residing in this home as well as those along Simpson Avenue (between Hewitt and Wesley Avenue), and eventually these homes were rented to individual families. In 1946, the 830 house moved to a new location across Hewitt Avenue and became 862 Simpson Avenue. In place of the 830 house, the White House was moved onto the property. The construction and demolition debris observed in the soil stratigraphy indicates this crucial change from a residential neighborhood to the landscape influenced by university expansion. From 1946 on, the White House has remained in the same location on Hamline campus with remnants of the original Midway neighborhood just below our feet.

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## **Reconstructing 830 Simpson Avenue: An Archaeological Investigation of Household Life Cycles in a 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Middle-class Neighborhood.**

The 830 Simpson Avenue site is an historical 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century household site on the campus of Hamline University. The former university President's home, the White House, currently sits on top of the Simpson Avenue site. The assemblage collected from this site begins to narrate a story of the men and women who built the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. Today, the White House is proposed to be demolished the summer of 2014. It is probable that by the time you have read this, the White House will be gone. The opportunity to study the past of the Hamline-Midway will be lost, the ultimate decision of future research at the 830 Simpson Avenue site rests in the hands of the Hamline Administration. This project serves simultaneously as an analysis of the archaeological excavations, and as a stepping-stone to save the history still preserved on campus. The neighbors, students, faculty, and alumni of Hamline have a connection to the land, these buildings stand as a reminder of their experiences and memories of the Midway. If demolition on campus of the remaining historic buildings continues, the history of the neighbors will vanish into the debris.

The Hamline University campus contains historical, archaeological sites that mark significant social changes in history. The 830 Simpson Avenue home exhibits multiple household life cycles and patterns of cultural behaviors that indicate co-resident occupation and a strong presence of women in the intact cultural deposit dating from the 1800's to the early 1900's. The role of women and household composition speaks to the consumption patterns typical of a middle-class neighborhood of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

centuries. This paper will describe the theoretical perspectives necessary to conduct historical archaeological research, the methods utilized during fieldwork and analysis, the results of archival research and the fieldwork, the analysis of the site in regards to social composition and household life cycle of the 830 Simpson Avenue home, and finally the importance of the public archaeology aspects of this project to creating a narrative of the neighbors distinct from that of Hamline University. The Simpson Avenue site acts as a lens through which we can begin to tell this new story of the past neighbors in the Hamline Midway.

*History of the Hamline Midway and Hamline University*

*"Tread reverently upon this ground,' Ireland advised in 1890. 'It is the Midway, the very heart of the coming great city. Look at it! Admire it! Has not providence been generous to it? It is the precious gift by which St. Paul will woo and win fair Minneapolis.'"*

-- **John Ireland and the American Catholic Church** by Marvin Richard O'Connell, 1988

This coming great city, the Midway-Village, or as it is known today, the Hamline-Midway, is a working-class neighborhood situated in St. Paul, Minnesota. It's name originated from its location *midway* between downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. This neighborhood thrived in its beginnings with the help of the Territorial Road and the railroads. The expansion of the Saint Paul & Pacific Railroad and the Great Northern Railway brought freight into the Minnesota Transfer yard, found in the heart of the Midway district (Hamline-Midway History Corp 2007). When Minnesota became a territory in the 1800's, the trails of the Territorial Road were laid down by the Red River fur traders and utilized for exchange between St. Paul, Mendota and St. Anthony Falls (or

Minneapolis). By 1830, the Territorial Road had taken hold as the main trade route between the Mississippi River and regions to the west (NRHP 1987).

In 1854, Hamline University was established in Red Wing, Minnesota but eventually closed their doors in 1869 due to hardship from the American Civil War (Hamline University 2014). The location of the new university had been undecided for several years until a 77-acre prairie lot had been purchased in the Midway; the construction of the new University Hall began in 1873 (Nelson Pace 1939). Hamline University's presence in this up-and-coming neighborhood as well as the extension of the railroads brought a variety of people to the area and allowed for the development of an industrial and commercial center, and synchronously, the neighborhood inhabited by workers, students, and immigrating families. Over time, this city had transformed from a quiet town on the prairie to a bustling area of commerce that maintained a close-knit community of working-class men and women.

These men and women that came to, and established this neighborhood, are the most important characters in the history of the Midway. In 1920 the foreign-born residents made up 22% of the city's population, and contributed to this working-class (Minnesota Historical Society 2002:165). Those who immigrated here brought with them new cultural beliefs, traditions, innovations, and material culture. This diversity of this community in the past tells an important story of the people who settled in the Midwest and the changes overtime that created the urban landscape. This diversity of culture is something that can still be seen today in the Hamline-Midway and is embraced and celebrated by the neighbors, and students, faculty, and staff of Hamline University.



Fast-forward through time and the area once bustling with European immigrants, Native Americans, and Canadian and American fur traders has vanished from the landscape. What remains of the original neighborhood is a few homes, businesses, and university buildings. One factor of this change came from Hamline University's expansion into the neighborhood that left behind little evidence of the men, women, and families that once had a strong connection to Hamline. Nevertheless, traces of the neighbors can be found in the archaeological record that tell the story of their history and provide a better understanding of a working-class neighborhood in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This paper will explain the archaeological investigation of a backyard site at one of these Midway homes, the 830 Simpson Avenue site. The home was built next to campus sometime during the latter half of the 1800s and was eventually swallowed up by Hamline's development of the landscape. The 830 Simpson Avenue home was replaced by the University's presidential home, known today as the White House.

### *Excavating Hamline's History*

Hamline University Professor, Brian Hoffman, teaches a course directly related to the Midway history through archaeological excavation. The course, ANTH 3130; *Excavating Hamline History* was first offered in 2004 and since then has conducted research on and near campus to learn more about the people who immigrated here and built the community presently named the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. Some of the sites the class has previously investigated include the *Hamline Methodist Episcopal Church* (built in 1900 and destroyed by fire in 1925), Hamline University's original *Hall of Science* (dedicated on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1888, and torn down in 1971), as well as 'backyard

sites' of Hamline-Midway families, and most recently, the Simpson Avenue site discovered this past field season of 2013. As mentioned on Brian Hoffman's blog, Old Dirt- New Thoughts;

“The Hamline Village History Project is an ongoing collaborative community research project focused on the early history of the Hamline neighborhood. We are a loose affiliation of people and organizations, including the Hamline-Midway History Corp, Hamline University (especially our archives staff), and a variety of local history enthusiasts, genealogists, and architectural historians” (Hoffman 2006).

One goal of the Excavating Hamline History course is to create a neighborhood identity through history and foster an environment to spark interest among the community members to get hands-on participation in the open community digs, hosted twice during the semester. The participation of the neighbors offers an opportunity for community building and stimulates a desire to preserve the history of the Midway. In addition to that, the class provides students with an experiential approach to learning through a multi-disciplinary lens. Past students taking this course have come from a variety of departments and contribute to the class in a multitude of ways that enhance our archaeological knowledge. Similarly, the involvement of the special interest groups, such as the Hamline-Midway History Corps, has been invaluable to finding these sites and working as a starting-point for historical research on the area.

During the fall of 2013 a 2x1 meter test unit and six shovel tests were excavated with a group of students in the Hamline History class. The original research design was to locate the shed foundation, which had been mapped on an 1886 plat map (*see Figure 1*). We anticipated that if we observed foundational remains, there would also be a large amount of metal artifacts that would be associated with the shed structure. Fieldwork began September 17<sup>th</sup> and continued until November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Rather than finding the

foundational remains of the shed, historic artifacts from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century that are consistent with a household of this time period we excavated. Artifact categories in the assemblage include, but are not limited to; ceramics, glass, bone toothbrush heads, German bisque doll parts, tin cans, a glass lotion bottle, nails, building materials, coal, and coke. Based on the stratigraphy within the 2x1 meter unit, three distinct cultural zones were recognized near the end of the fieldwork. These zones are associated with stages of occupation, land use, and household life cycles at the site.

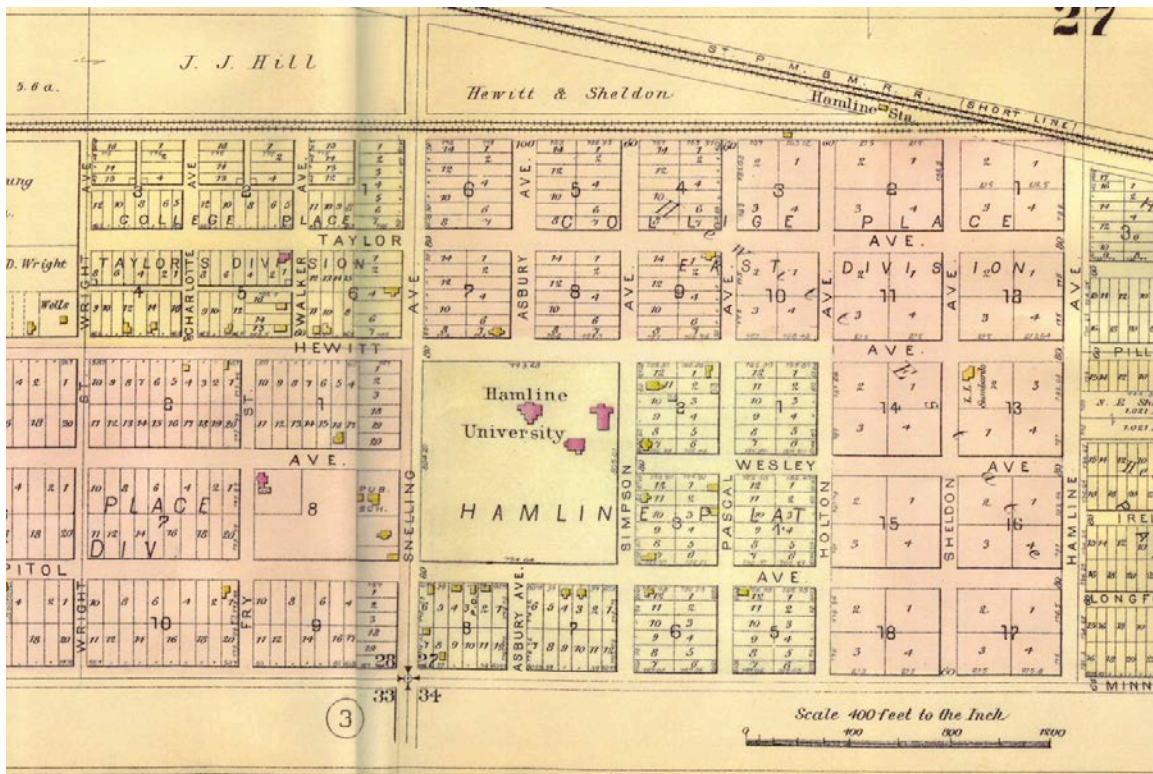


Figure 1; 1886 plat map, obtained from the Hamline Midway History Corp webpage, “Hamline-Midway History through Maps.”

## Theoretical Perspectives in Historical Archaeology

The research presented in this paper is informed by the variety of research in which archaeologists have examined historic sites in terms of household and life cycles, gender, consumerism, and agency in consumption (Barile & Brandon 2004; Beaudry 2006; Cook et. Al. 1996; Deetz 1996; Little 2007; Majewski & Schiffer 2009; Orser 2010; Orser 2004; Seifert 1991; and Wilson 2008). By examining the assemblage of a household originally not affiliated with the University, I aim to reach conclusions of broader social issues during the periods in history that parallel the time periods represented at the excavations. I will elaborate on the purpose of historical archaeology, the concepts of household and life cycles, domesticity in historical archaeology, and agency in consumption in order to distill the vast amount of information available and explain the perspective used in this research.

At the beginning of historical archaeology, much debate was made over defining the sub-discipline and it's ultimate purpose (Orser 2004:6). James Deetz had a profound impact on the field of historical archaeology by incorporating themes of historical supplementation, reconstruction life ways, processual studies, archaeological science, and cognitive studies, the later three being termed by Barbara Little as historical ethnography (Orser 2010:114). Charles Orser gives a notable definition of historic archaeology in his book *Historical Archaeology*, he writes, 'historical archaeology is a multidisciplinary field that shares a special relationship with the formal disciplines of anthropology and history, [...] and seeks to understand the global nature of modern life' (Orser 2004). Historical archaeology can also be considered a text-aided archaeology; documents are a primary source of information. These documents often include maps, land deeds, court

records, diaries, and contemporary histories (Deetz 1996). While the early historical archaeologists were utilizing these documents, often the focus was primarily on defining classifications for artifacts observed and relating the socioeconomic status that artifact implies (Cook et. Al. 1996). The broad definition of historical archaeology can include periods dating as far back as there is textual evidence to interpret. For the purpose of this site, a 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century American home site, I utilize Orser's definition of historical archaeology as the study of the creation of the modern-world (Orser 2004). Historical archaeologists like Orser concern themselves with research on world-systems, capitalism, and political realms.

Defining the term "household" is equally important to the context of this research. As far back as the 1800's households were viewed as a static architecture of 'the great men of history' (Barile & Brandon 2004). Wilk and Rathje describe household as, "the most common social component of subsistence, [a] strategy to meet the productive, distributive, and reproductive needs of its members" (1982:618). Stanley South proposed a processual theory to household as a system within a larger system that creates an observable uniformity; the household patterns then are used to understand the processes of cultural evolution (1977:2-5). For the sake of this analysis, I adopt Gregory Wilson's definition of "household" as a "minimal, co-residential social group present in a given society" (2006:5). Wilson's description disregards kinship and allows for the household to be based on context of the site and allowed me to develop research questions accordingly. The terms "home" and "household" also imply different meanings, a home being the structure people reside in and household is the people within the home. The changes to the home can mark changes in the household, for example, expansion or

demolition of the home might correlate to changes within the household. The Sanborn maps are an excellent resource for observing the physical changes to a home and naturally the use of landscape can be seen in this manner as well.

Using artifacts and historical research to reconstruct a household involves methods to determine the site use and formation process, span of occupation and associated dates, household size and structure function, and the life cycle of the household (Wilson 2006:5). The life cycle of a household can be influenced by marriage, birth, death, moving, all of which change over time. The assemblage can show the life cycle at a certain point or over multiple cycles that indicate change in society and the reproduction of culture (Wilson 2006; Barile & Brandon 2007).

For the purpose of this paper I have combined the household life cycle with the idea of household composition, defined by Seifert as the members of the household and their designated roles within that structure (1991:104). The definitions of “roles” represented in a household have also changed as the efforts of researchers to be more theoretical have influenced the discipline (Barile & Brandon 2007). Consumption and consumer choice, as well as feminist issues and the role of women at historic sites are among these driving theoretical forces. Women can be seen in an assemblage of gendered artifacts, as with Mary Beaudry’s work on the *Material Culture of Needlework and Sewing* (2006), or as the primary consumers of material goods as mentioned by Cook (1996), or even as a working class that creates different patterns of household function and consumption seen in the comparison of the red-light district and working class households in Washington D.C., by Siefert (1991).

This shift in theoretical approaches to include consumerism and agency strive to represent the people who give material culture meaning in different situations. Consumerist archaeology as defined by Majewski and Schiffer indicates that the methods include an appreciation 'for the involvement of people in the suite of activities making up the life history of an artifact or artifact type' (2009:193). They also agree with the theories presented that artifacts carry diverse utilitarian and symbolic function. Studying choice or agency in consumer studies has often lead to the omission of women, since they were often not seen as the head of household and controlling consumption of goods (Cook 1996:53). Making interpretations of the data collected at the Simpson Avenue site from a domestic context would benefit significantly from having another site as comparison to see what household artifacts are represented in a variety of homes in the Midway that date to the same time period. The excavation of a backyard site in the Hamline-Midway, the Levin site, analyzed by Yvonne Thorpe (2013) can function as a starting point for the comparison of the Simpson Avenue site. The Levin site is a garbage pit dated to the 1940's that has a variety of personal artifacts in the assemblage that indicate gender as well as depositional patterns of household goods (Thorpe 2013).

As it applies to all anthropological research, we must also recognize our biases when interpreting an assemblage and interpret a group of people, past or present. Often our views of events in the recent-past are influenced by our own class-based assumptions. Recently archaeologists have worked hard at breaking these barriers and expanding the knowledge of domesticity, consumer choice, and household life cycles (Barile & Brandon 2006). When interpreting the assemblage of artifacts, features, and architectural remains of historic sites, it is important to consider these social issues presented above

often referred to as middle-range theory. In the sections to follow, I will describe the methods used to conduct this research, analyze artifacts, and interpret the data in relation to these themes.



## **Methodology**

I utilized spatial, historical, and temporal methodologies for the purpose of this project, which have helped to create a holistic archaeological understanding of the Simpson Avenue site. The spatial methodologies include the archaeological survey of campus and the landscape analysis of Hamline. The focus is mainly on the change in use of the Simpson Avenue property and the homes along this road, which no longer passes through campus. This methodology also involves the use of stratigraphic analysis of the 2x1 meter excavation and shovel tests, as well as chronological analysis of the occupation at this site. The analysis of the evolving use of this property on campus can also be considered part of the historical aspect of this research, focusing primarily on land deeds and documentation of occupation, and plat maps. Additionally, the historical methods include a brief oral history with two members of the Hamline-Midway community and archival document research. The temporal methods employed are related to the stratigraphic analysis of the site and aid in defining time periods represented in this excavation. Also, I will explain in this section how and why the Simpson Avenue site was chosen.

Questions about customs and past life ways and the factors that produced the changes in the neighborhood are answered through the historical methods. Historic maps and the use of documents available facilitated this background text-aided research. These documents included the building permits for the property purchased by Hamline, the movement of homes in the neighborhood, and Sanborn insurance maps, which documented the home on this lot prior to the White House. This research was conducted with the assistance of Kevin Koontz, the research center associate at the Ramsey County

Historical Society. The maps and building permits were utilized to answer questions about what years these buildings were standing and the aerial maps also helped determine the years that change to the landscape occurred. Another valuable resource utilized was the digitized version of the Hamline Alumni Quarterly from 1913-1918; these periodicals provided glimpses into the social aspects of campus life as well as the use, and to some extent, the expansion of campus.

In December 2013, with the help of two students of the Excavating Hamline History course, Yvonne Thorpe and Demian YaDeau, an oral history of Jane McEvoy and Mary Sanford Hegge was conducted (McEvoy and Sanford Hegge 2013). Both women are long-term residents of the Midway who were eager to talk to us about their experience growing up in the neighborhood. The interview was later transcribed by Demian for analysis. During our interview we used a voice recorder, video taken on a cellphone camera, and hand-written notes. Before our interview was conducted, we prepared a list of questions about their recollections of the campus's built environment and of their connection to the University and campus land over time. We made sure to follow closely to the oral history methods used by both historians and anthropologists. A useful source for these methods came from Barbara Sommer and Mary Kay Quinlan's, *The Oral History Manual* (2009).

The temporal analysis helped provide an historical timeframe from which additional questions about the context of the site can be framed. For example, is there evidence of pre-Hamline farmsteads and agriculture, or a period of time when Hamline did not own the homes on the property? Contrasting this, are there any distinct, observable features from when Hamline purchased the property or after the house was

dismantled? The vertical and horizontal distribution of artifacts and features were compared with the soil analysis to determine if there is evidence of a plow zone or if undisturbed soils contained historic artifacts. This tells whether the deposits are associated with specific time periods of interest.

The landscape analysis will contribute to an understanding of the human interaction with the land over time. Questions about of the cultural processes that created the soil, the distribution of artifacts, and the visible landscape are answered via spatial analysis. Orser describes in his article on 21<sup>st</sup> century historical archaeology that, “historical archaeologists generally no longer view landscapes as static backdrops for human action, but rather as places created and imbued with diverse meanings, disparate ideologies, and variant perspectives” (Orser 2010). The landscape we see on campus can be viewed not only as being effected by the cultural processes, e.g., the settlements and human activities, but also by natural processes from climate and geology. Literature reviews and careful attention to the soils and ‘C’ horizon were utilized in gaining understanding of the natural, geologic changes to the area. The cultural processes are represented in the built environment and the archaeological record, which show a completely altered landscape.

The examination of the landscape and the spatial analysis of the artifacts are crucial. As James Deetz explains, historic sites contain sizeable quantities of fill, a mixture of soil and refuse that has been shifted around, the fill must be considered an artifact in and of itself. The study of this soil can be informative, as most frequently, this appears in urban-areas where the soil often is removed, shifted, and re-deposited many times (Deetz 1996). The data queries run through Microsoft Access allowed for a refitting

analysis of the artifacts to determine if this assemblage represents a fill or if the artifacts are undisturbed in their original context. This analysis in conjunction with the observations of the soils and soil profiles, allowed me to address the questions about landscape history.

#### *Finding the Simpson Avenue Site-*

Finding this site began with looking at the historic plat maps obtained from the Hamline-Midway History Corps' webpage, 'Hamline History through Maps.' During the Excavating Hamline History class, we spent a day utilizing these maps to make measurements on campus. Each teaching assistant took a group of students to find potential areas in which to conduct shovel tests. The 1886 plat map of the Midway indicated that the 830 Simpson Avenue property (on the corner of Hewitt and Simpson), originally had a shed or outhouse in the backyard. Four students and myself used this map to measure as accurately as possible from the existing landmarks (the remaining section west of the White house) to where we believed the outhouse or shed to have stood. Based on the map, it was about 120 feet south from Hewitt and between 140-150 feet east of Simpson. These measurements put us in a section of bushes next to the path behind East Hall. We planned to shovel test this area the following class period. Later that week Brian Hoffman and I looked at the White House property<sup>1</sup> and arbitrarily chose another location out of the bushes to the conducted our first shovel test for soil profiles.

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<sup>1</sup> During the course of our fieldwork we referred to the site as the White House site due to its location in the backyard of the White House. Further analysis informed us the assemblage was not related specifically to the White House occupation but instead the 830 Simpson Avenue home. For reference, any catalog and bag log data is listed as the White House site.



*Photograph of Professor Brian Hoffman and student Colette Hayward beginning shovel test 1 at the Simpson Avenue site.*

*Field and Laboratory Methods for The Excavating Hamline History Class*

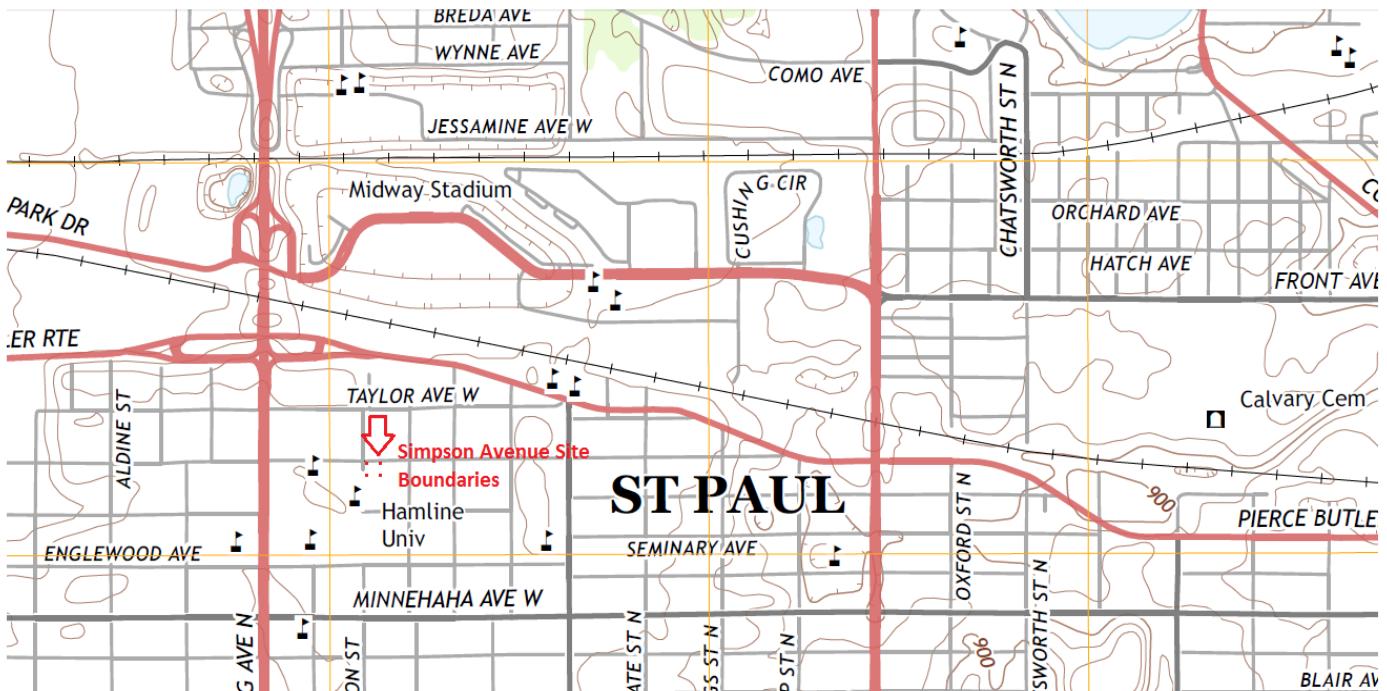
Fieldwork in archaeology aims to be as scientific and accurate as possible. Conducting archaeological excavations is destructive and once the artifacts are removed from the ground, all the provenience information (origin or location of an artifact or feature) must be noted. The location of the artifacts is essential, not only will this aid in analysis, but it also allows for future archaeologists to reconstruct where artifacts were found at the site (Kelly & Thomas 2013). Similarly, the methods employed in the field are invaluable to an accurate analysis of the site. With the Simpson Avenue site, excavation began with a shovel test then moved on to a 1x1 meter unit. Careful attention was paid to the collection of artifacts, mapping, photographing the site, and keeping even levels in the excavation unit and all associated provenience information.

The methods for conducting shovel tests and excavating 1x1 meter units were reviewed prior to excavations. Our shovel tests were excavated according to the Hamline University Archaeology and Osteology Lab Manual (Hoffman, Myster, et al. 2013) and the Hamline Archaeology Program Field Notes and Bag Log Protocol (2013). The shovel tests should be 45cm in diameter and dug as a single level. We continue to dig until we reach the bottom of what we can affectively excavate, about 90cm, or when glacial deposits are encountered. All excavated sediments are screened through ¼” mesh screens. Any artifacts encountered are collected except for bulky low value items such as chunks of asphalt (Hoffman and Elm 2014).

Excavation units follow the same archaeological protocol (Hoffman and Elm 2014). Generally they are 1x1 meter unit squares excavated in 5 or 10cm arbitrary levels, or levels following natural or cultural stratigraphy. For more precise control of provenience within the 1x1 meter units, often they are divided into 50x50cm quads. Larger objects and diagnostic artifacts are piece plotted when uncovered in situ. All sediments are screened through ¼” inch screens. Any bulk samples, soil samples, or fine screen samples are collected when warranted. Additional details for the Hamline Archaeology Manual and Hamline Archaeology Protocol can be found in *Appendix A*.

In order to map out the Hamline campus, we created a grid system of square meters and established a datum (0,0) at the northeast edge on the sidewalk of Snelling Avenue and Englewood Avenue. At the northeast corner of the sidewalk and parking lot entrance east of the White House lot, we set a secondary datum, N247 E306m. After consultation with Bruce Koenen, of The Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), on establishing site boundaries and creating a state site form, submitted to the Office of the

State Archaeologist, we decided that the campus grounds of the original Hamline campus would be one site (21-RA-XX)<sup>2</sup>. Since the Simpson Avenue site is currently on campus but contains artifacts not necessarily consistent with the University, it will be given a separate state site number (21-RA-XY). The site boundaries were chosen at four points around the perimeter of the lot; the boundaries can be seen in the topographic map in *Figure 2*. The UTM coordinates of the site were determined through the use of USGS 7.5' Quadrangle maps. The coordinates are as follows; the northeast corner is 487146 E 4979234 N, the northwest corner is 487093 E 4979235 N, the southeast corner is 487144 E 4979190 N, and the southwest corner is 487095 E 4979192 N.



*Figure 2: USGS 7.5' Quadrangle map of St. Paul with UTM coordinates of site boundaries*

<sup>2</sup> Official state site numbers have not yet been assigned to these sites.

After the Hamline campus grounds were mapped out, we used the secondary datum to measure the first shovel test located at N220 E298 m. Provenience information was kept on each bag, including the detailed location, date, and initials of each student. For the 1x1 meter excavation units, a level form was filled out and a plan view map was sketched if any artifacts, soil changes or features were present in the dirt at the base of the level. Each bag collected in the field was also recorded in the Hamline Village History Project bag log for 2013. The bag was given a number and set aside for later analysis in the lab.

Each class period the group of students I oversaw worked hard to maintain the exactness of the site information and conform to the standards of conduct needed to complete this type of research. However, since the majority of students excavating, mapping, and bagging artifacts had little to no experience with archaeology, small errors were encountered. In order to maintain the consistency, I supervised the work done by students and checked for errors, corrected and took note of them when necessary.

After the fieldwork had been completed, the Excavating class began washing and sorting artifacts. Similarly we discussed the protocol for how to wash and sort artifacts and re-bag if necessary. Each bag was cleaned and dried then put back on a designated shelf to eventually be cataloged. Over the month of January, Colette Hayward and I cataloged the artifacts from the Simpson Avenue site. We followed the Hamline Village History Project Lab Manual (Seaberg-Wood & Weber 2011) for the process of cleaning and cataloging our artifacts, which can be found in *Appendix A*.

The provenience information on each bag was maintained in the lab, as well as the location of the bag before, during, and after the process of cleaning, sorting and



cataloging, as to not misplace bags or artifacts. Once a bag was cleaned and sorted, it was stored in the lab until it dried and was ready for cataloging. The catalog protocol is used to make the standard observations necessary to answer basic questions about the Simpson Avenue assemblage; what objects did were recovered, what materials are they made of, what is the observed condition, and what are the quantities?

## **Results of Archival Research; Place, Space and Time**

This section will concentrate on the outcomes of the oral history conducted last fall as well as the archival research of maps, building permits, and letters. The oral history interview with Jane McEvoy and Mary Sanford-Hegge (2014) provided this project with valuable information on the White House site but more importantly it gave a personal history of the Midway neighborhood through the memory of long-term residents. Jane McEvoy's home on Pascal was built around 1884 and she moved in with her family when she was 3 months old in August of 1939. Mary Sanford also lived just around the corner of Hewitt Avenue in a home now owned by Hamline University. Throughout the interview the two discussed their experience as children running through the neighborhood with other children, playing in the baseball field, and scaling the edge of the Carnegie library, now part of the Giddens Alumni Learning Center, to peek in on the University students.

The two women mentioned the local stores they would walk to and purchase candy and shared stories of riding the street cars to visit each other. They mentioned Montgomery Ward, a department store that also offered a catalogue for those living outside the urban areas, was influential to their experiences as young consumers. The small shops and stores in the Midway at the turn of the century became a source of symbolic and economic power shaping the consumer ideals (Cook et al. 1996). They mentioned briefly how WWII had impacted them, but since they were children at the time they don't remember much of a change in social dynamic within the neighborhood. We shifted the conversation to talk about the White House property and Jane mentioned she had two good friends who lived in the 830 Simpson home, Pam and Judy Robinson.

Jane recalls, “after the Robinson family had been kicked out of the home they were renting from Hamline, they moved to 1477 Hubbard Avenue” (2014).

Jane also had told Pam and Judy that our class was excavating their old backyard but they did not remember burying their trash on the property (2014). Although if multiple families or co-residents occupied this property, it is possible the trash could have been thrown in the yard to discard rather than buried. Also, Jane mentioned that she had a document of the home the Robinson’s rented being built by a Hamline professor, however she could not find the document and I was unable to definitively determine if the property owner listed (Harvey H. Williams) was a professor at Hamline. However, the Hamline Alumni Quarterly (1919) listed that a professor Ada B. Kuntz married a H.H. Williams in 1919. The written transcript from the interview with Jane McEvoy and Mary Sanford-Hegge can be found in *Appendix B*.

The archival research at the Ramsey County Historical Society proved to be very beneficial to getting exact dates via building permits and a Sanborn fire insurance map from 1927 to 1958 (1927). The benefit of using the Sanborn maps is that each time a new home was built, the house was sketched and overlaid on to the same map, covering the existing structure but it remains visible underneath. From this, it was determined the address of the home once standing where the White House is today, was in-fact, 830 Simpson Avenue. Using this address, the archivist Kevin Koontz (2014) and I looked through the building permits related to 830 Simpson and found two permits pertaining to this lot. The first was September 1945; the home at the time owned by a Harvey Williams, was moved across Hewitt Avenue and became 862 Simpson Avenue. By March 1946 it was utilized as a duplex home. The second permit is also from 1945; this

permit was for the creation of a basement to move the presidents' home onto this property (Ramsey County Historical Society 2014). Both documents are significant because they show the transition and landscape uses that explain the stratigraphy observed in the test units. Prior to 1945 the home on this property was most likely occupied by a family, the definition of family here is fluid and not a static definition, and it is possible there were periods of co-residence by students, faculty, or other neighbors if the home.

The Hamline Alumni Quarterly (1913-1918) had valuable information pertaining to the homes on Simpson Avenue. A passage in the 1916 issue mentioned that Hamline purchased the 'Warner property', which was on the corner of Hewitt and Simpson just across Simpson from the front of campus. The house was improved and used as an annex for Goheen Hall (the former Ladies Hall dormitory). The Goheen Annex was listed as a campus resident for several students until 1918. However in 1917 the 830 Simpson Avenue home is listed as having two freshman residing there, Gladys Holmberg and Ethel Fossness (Hamline Alumni Quarterly 1917). Since no physical address is given for the Goheen Annex and two students are listed as residing at 830 Simpson the same year other students are listed under the annex, I can only speculate if this house functioned as the annex or not. In a publication of the history of private liberal arts colleges in Minnesota by Merrill Jarchow (1973), she notes that the women's dormitory underwent construction to refit the building with electricity and new plumbing around 1912. It was still not adequate for the growing student body and three nearby homes were used as annexes that were renamed the Cottage, the Gables, and the Lodge. Again, with this

information there is no address given so I cannot positively say which homes served as annexes during this time.

Furthermore, the additional maps utilized were then compared to each other to observe the change in homes on the entire block between Simpson and Pascal Avenues and Hewitt and Wesley Avenues. These maps included the 1886 Plat map and a 1916 G.M. Hopkins Real Estate map. Comparing these two maps, as well as the Sanborn map, you can see the change in land ownership and land use. For example, the 1886 Plat map shows 12 lots on the above-mentioned block with three frame buildings (homes) and two 'stables' or other similar structures. By 1916 there are 12 lots with 6 frame buildings and one stable structure (Hopkins 1916). The Sanborn map shows 8 frame structures with 6 stable structures however the lot numbers have changed and lots 11 and 12 are combined as well as lots 1 and 2. Today, the White House is all that remains of this block of homes. Each one was eventually torn down by 1970 (Ramsey County Historical Society). There is a high probability that Hamline's campus and the neighborhood backyards possess more assemblages comparable to the Simpson Avenue site.

## **Results of Field Data; From Post Holes to Porcelain Dolls**

### *Summary of Fieldwork*

The Hamline history class began excavations on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The first day consisted of shovel testing at an open grassy area on Hewitt Avenue, which gave the students who were new to archaeology an introduction to the methods necessary for fieldwork. We continued our fieldwork until November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 excavating primarily on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. We also conducted two weekend digs that took

place on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. These digs were open to local Midway neighbors of all ages, as well as Hamline students and others invited by members of the class.

We excavated six shovel tests at the Simpson Avenue site. The first shovel test was measured from the secondary datum point and was located at N220 E298; it produced glass, coal, plastic wrappers, and, at 45cm below surface a concrete post-hole. A separate group of students under the supervision of Yvonne Thorpe continued shovel testing other localities of the property while my team and I opened up a 1x1 meter unit. Shovel test 2 was located at N225 E298, this produced glass, ceramics, cut nails, coal, clinker and ash. Shovel test 3 was moved 5 meters north to N230 E298, this was in the landscaping underneath a silver maple tree, a large root obstructed digging so the test was not finished. Shovel test 4 was moved 1 meter west, putting its location at N230 E297. Bricks, glass, coal, clinker, plaster and mammal bone were recovered from this test. Shovel test 5 was the original flag pinned in the bushes near East Hall, N210 E297. Glass, a large brick, metal, clinker and a bullet casing were recovered from this locality. The final shovel test, shovel test 6 was at N215 E288, one yard north of the bushes in the open grassy area behind the White House (*see figure 3* for site map).

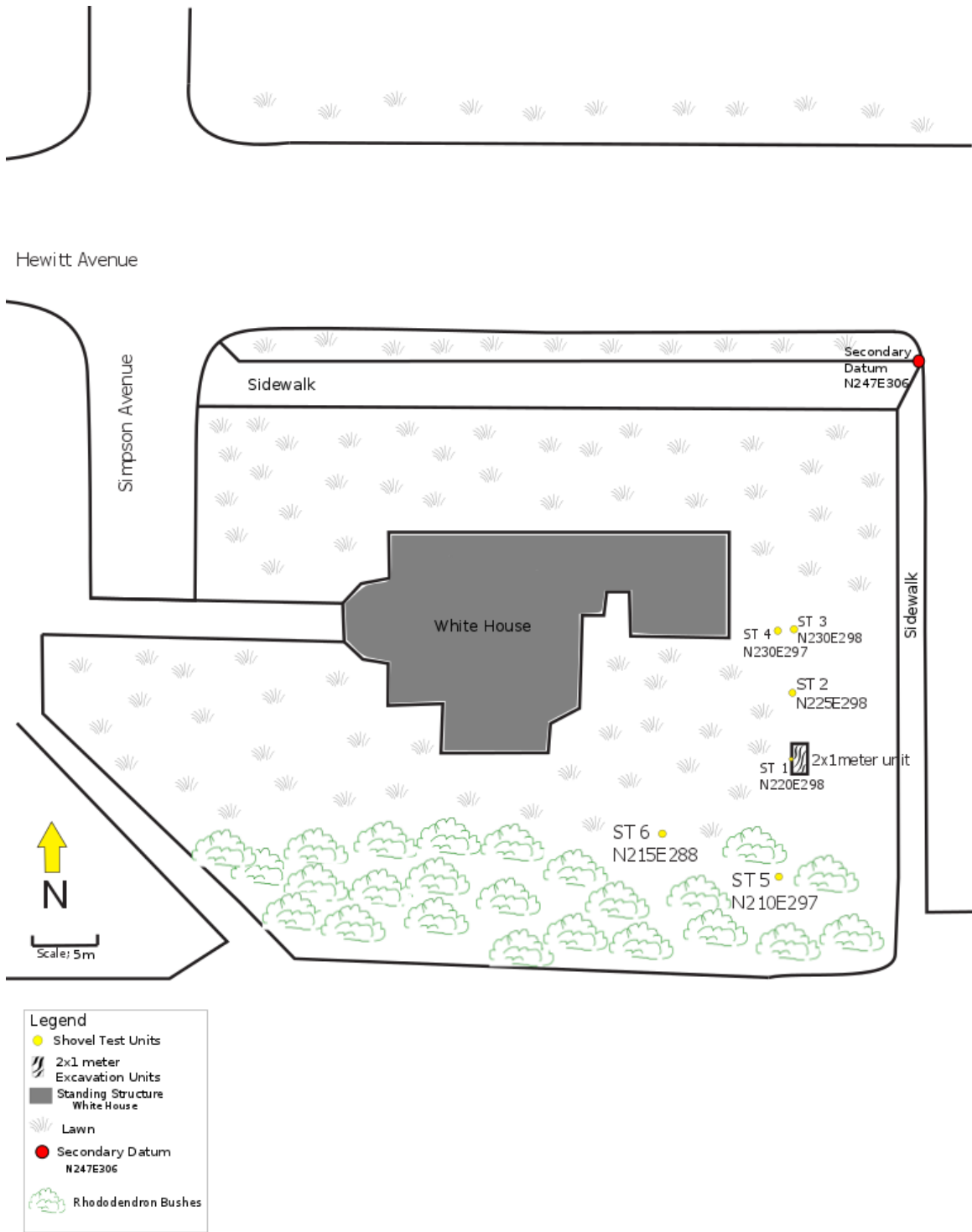
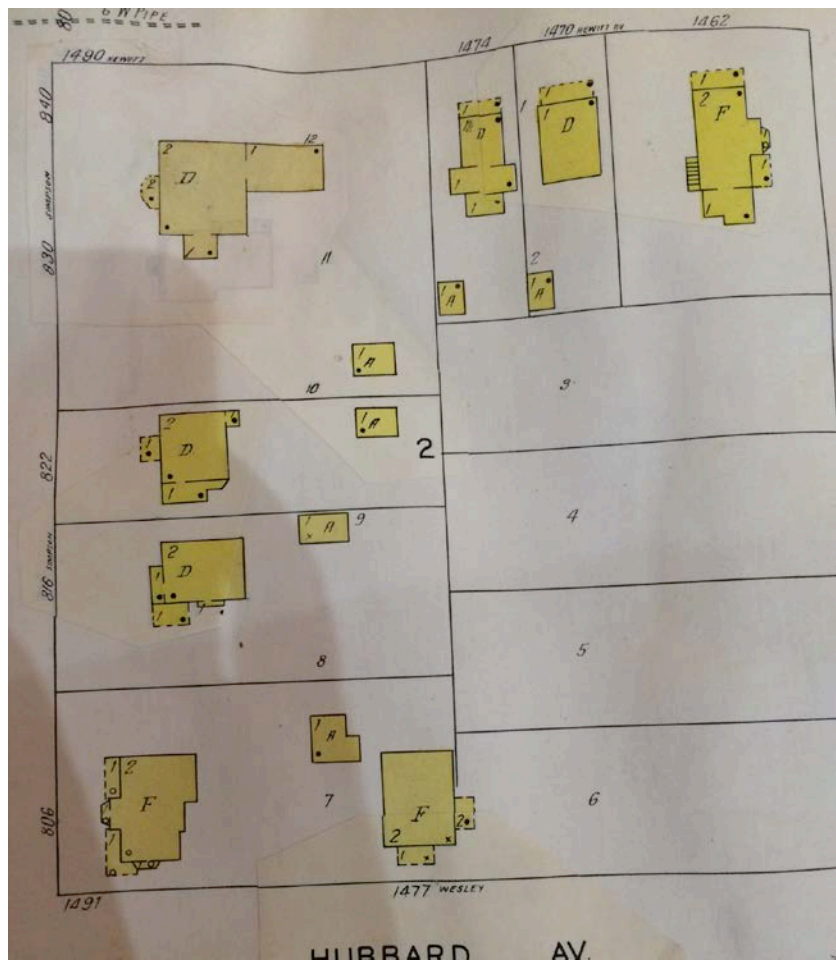


Figure 3; Simpson Avenue site map

The shovel tests showed soil profiles but more importantly, they gave a way to interpret horizontally what the landscape looks like. A closer look at the Sanborn maps show the White House isn't resting directly on top of the foundation from the 830 home (see figure 4). We observed interesting hints that point to what could be foundational remains in two of our shovel tests; shovel test 1 and shovel test 6. Shovel test 1 produced the post-hole, it was later noted in our level reports that what might be a continuation of the foundation could be seen. Nails, ash, burned residue, and brick were recovered from shovel test 6 but more importantly the soil stratigraphy of this test resembled what would be consistent with a foundation that would have been removed.





*Figure 4; 1927-1958 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. The current White House is visible in the upper left hand corner and the foundation of 830 Simpson Avenue can be faintly seen beneath.*

The 1x1 meter unit was excavated adjacent to shovel test 1 to find additional features or foundation remains. The datum was set at ground surface, which was used to measure depth of levels and piece plotted objects. We began in 20cm increments for levels one and two, and switched to 10cm at level three. The first 20cm was composed mostly of woodchips from landscaping and a large amount of pebbles. In level two we exposed three large limestone slabs and two concrete chunks, we piece plotted these features before removing them. In this level we had more ceramics, coal, and glass with signs of heavy damage. In level three as well as level four we also excavated a porcelain bisque doll leg and an arm. We continued excavating to 60cm before we switched to 5cm levels to provide finer detail for locations of artifacts.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> we opened our second 1x1 meter unit next to Unit 1, at the Saturday dig on October 19<sup>th</sup> the Simpson Avenue site had close to ten community members digging throughout the morning. The neighbors helped in uncovering more porcelain doll pieces, coal, nails, glass and a bone toothbrush head. After the public dig on the 19<sup>th</sup> we evened out the level in Unit 1 to 65cm below surface and began excavating level 7 at 5cm increments with quads. Unit 2 was evened out to 60cm and followed the same procedure of 5cm increments with quads. Since the assemblage was proving to have great research potential it was necessary to slow the pace of the excavation.

At the bottom of level 8 in Unit 1, we noticed our first feature in the northwest and southwest quads. This feature resembled a pit feature based on the semi circle shape visible at the floor of this level. We excavated this feature separately from the rest of each quad to determine if this might have been used as a garbage deposit at some time. We continued excavating both quads until the weather became too cold to continue digging

and until time allowed. Unit 2 was excavated to 75cm below surface due to the lack of time and weather getting too cold. Unit 1 was excavated to 105cm below surface with a shovel test in the southwest quad that continued another 42cm (total of 147cm below surface) before we reached what we believed to be the parent soil. Interestingly enough, the artifact count started to go down in level 10 of this unit although we did uncover a rather large and freshly broken ceramic sherd in the shovel test. The sherd also appeared to be in what would have been part of feature 1 but at 130cm below surface.

At the close of our fieldwork, the wall profiles of the east and west walls of both units were mapped before backfilling the hole. The wall profiles are a map to the visible soil change or stratigraphy of the excavation units. The walls showed clear lines of soil changes, which I used to determine if the soil changes represent different time periods, or if the site is consistent with a fill (*see Figure 5 & 6*). The artifacts collected are used in conjunction with the wall profiles to answer the above-mentioned questions and the questions outlined in the methodology section.

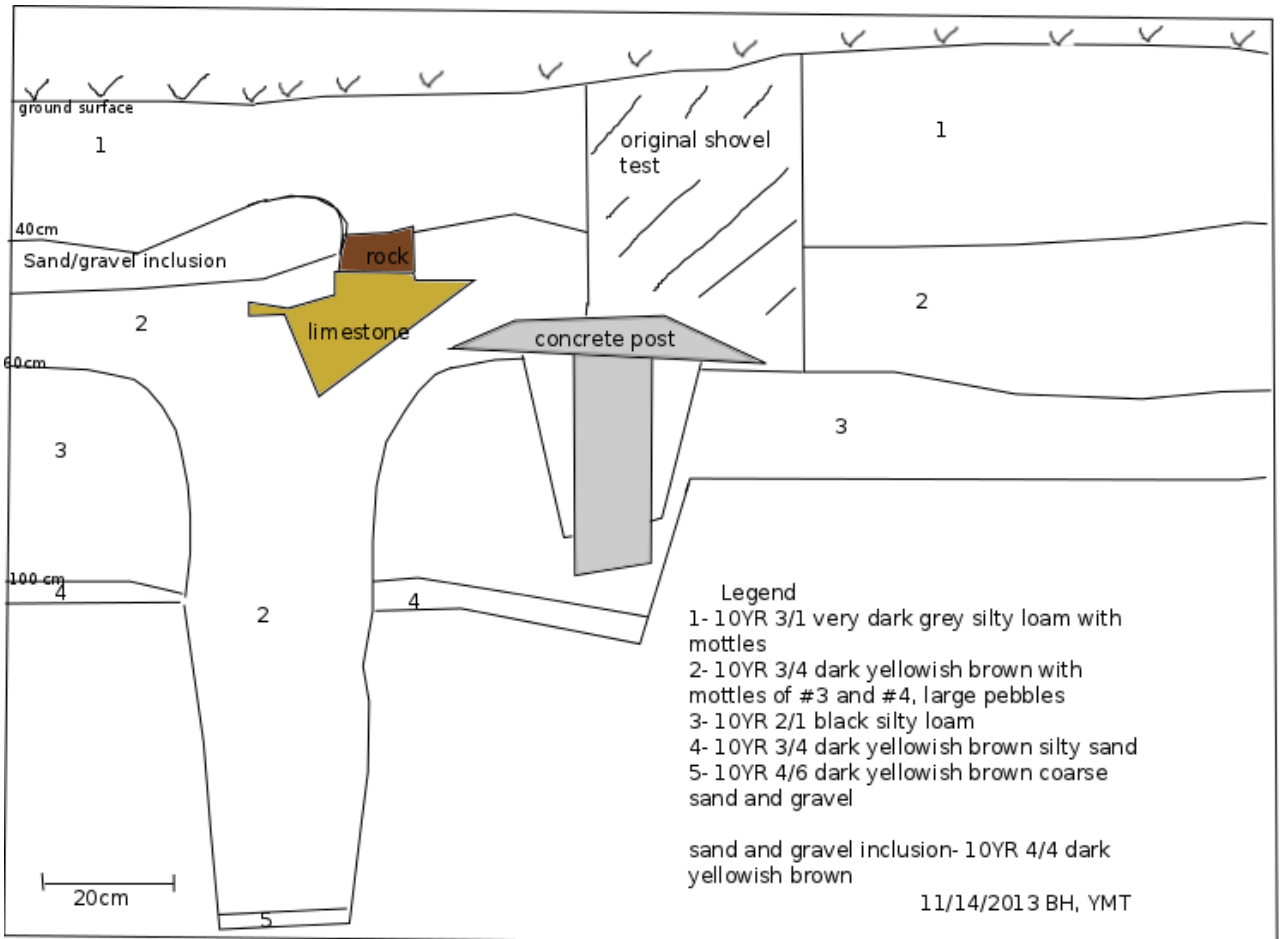


Figure 5; West wall profile

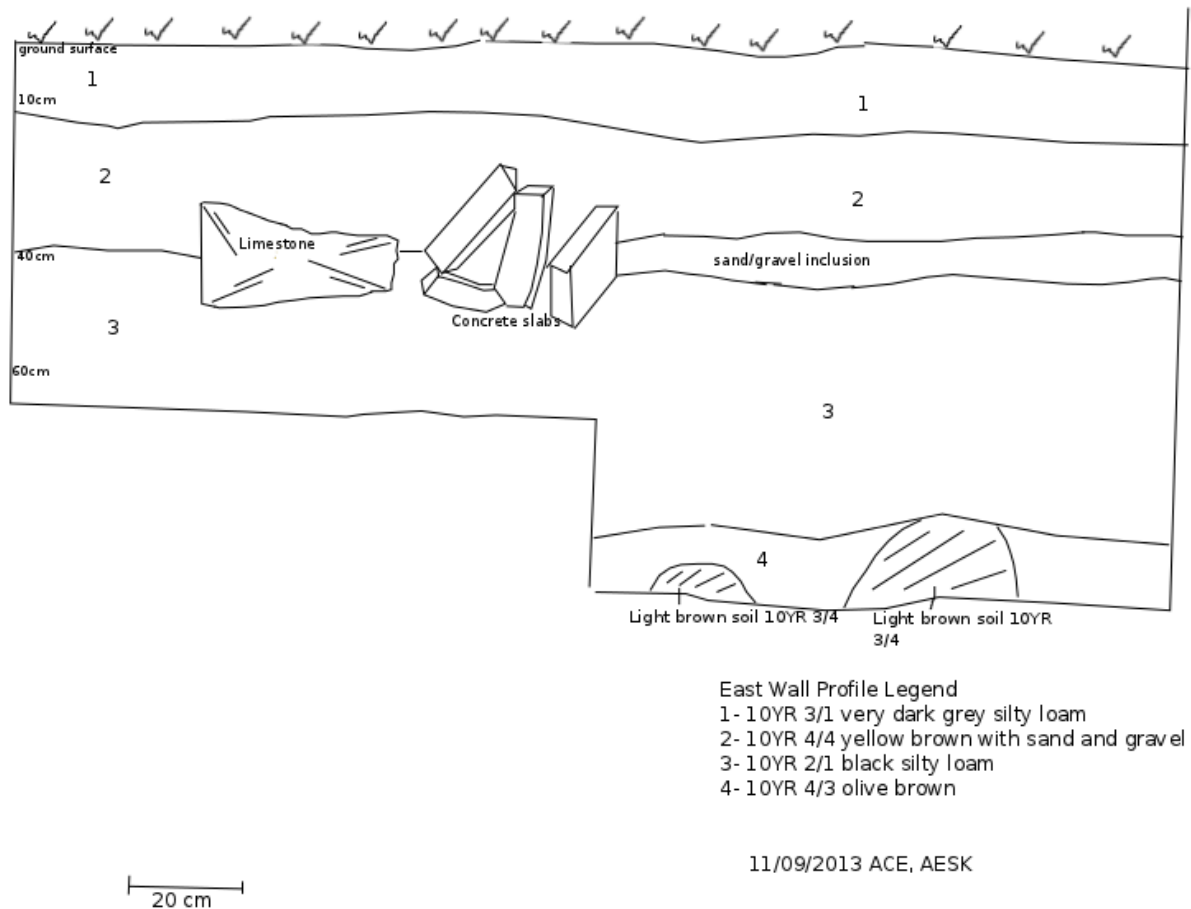


Figure 6; East wall profile

### Soil Stratigraphy

When we opened the first unit of our 2x1 we started at 20cm to more efficiently dig through the landscaping layer. Within that first 20cm there was a large amount of pebbles and with a sandy loam soil. In the next 20cm level we uncovered 3 large limestone slabs and 1 concrete foundation piece, the limestone slabs were mapped and measured for size but not taken to the lab due to the large size and low value. We were able to remove these large foundation pieces at the end of digging level 3 (40-50cm). At this level the soil was slightly sandier than the first 20cm and had more pebbles and

gravel. After 50cm the artifact count increased significantly with more diagnostic artifacts. After this, the soil became more homogenous with a loamy texture and a dark brown/black color, 10YR 2/1 on the Munsell Soil Color Chart. As mentioned before, at level 8 we encountered our feature (feature 1), which was a loose packed sandy clayey loam inclusion in the NW and SW quads of the unit (*see Figure 7*). In our final level, level 13 (100-105cm), the soil was a clayey loam and lighter brown color 10YR 4/3. Due to a lack of time to continue excavating until the soil was sterile (meaning no cultural materials are encountered in the soil), we dug a shovel test in the SW quad 25cm in diameter. At 147cm below surface, we hit the C-horizon which was all sand, 10YR 5/8 in color.



*Figure 7; Photograph of West wall showing Feature 1, post-hole, and the distinct soil layers.*

Unit 2 followed a similar pattern throughout the excavation. The first level was a 10cm level with no quads and at the next level we switched to 20 cm to get through the landscaping layer. There was a little mottling to the soil as this level, but it was consistent with Unit 1 and the high concentration of rocks and pebbles. At 30cm we switched to 10cm levels again, we noted there was less building materials then we had excavated in Unit 1 at this level. There was some brick and limestone foundation pieces that were in the east wall exposed by the end of level 4 at 40-50cm (*see Figure 8*). At this level we began to notice the mottling in the wall that extended through both units. The east and north walls had a layer of rubble and a brown sandy loam with clayey inclusions mixed with pebbles. The impending winter meant we had little time to finish our excavation before the ground froze. We had reached 75cm in Unit 2 and stopped excavating this unit to focus our attention on Unit 1, from 50-75cm the soil was homogenous with a few coal deposits, it was noted as 10YR 2/1 and a loamy silt.



*Figure 8; Photograph of East wall showing the foundation remains.*

## **Results of the Artifacts; Counting Coke, Coal, and Clinker**

The results of the artifact assemblage will be discussed in this section mainly to summarize the finds in terms of total numbers of artifacts for each test unit and shovel tests. The 2013 excavation at the Simpson Avenue site produced a total of 4,907 artifacts. From Unit 1 the total artifact count is 2,106, and Unit 2 contained 1,626 artifacts. The highest percentages of artifacts from both units fell into the categories of; residues (coal, coke, and charcoal) with 2,035 objects, wire and cut nails with 218 objects, colored and colorless glass represented a total 319 objects, and for ceramics and bone there was a total of 209 objects. The total number of artifacts from the shovel tests is 1,175. The largest percent of artifacts recovered from the shovel tests are glass, coke, coal, and building materials (*see Table 1, containing the artifact totals*). The shovel tests were useful in the analysis and interpretation of the horizontal artifact distribution and to determine the site boundaries. The artifacts from the shovel tests are comparable to the collection from the 2 units based on the categories represented and largely are comparable in the number of artifacts.

There were several artifacts from the assemblage that indicate time periods of use or production. The artifacts I was able to date include a GE-Mazda Christmas light bulb (H474.421), a clay pipe stem (H474.72), a nearly complete Jergen's lotion bottle (H474.1408-1426), bisque porcelain doll fragments (H474.1,4,31-35,199,206), bone toothbrushes (H474.2-3,456,1391-1392,1664), a few ceramic sherds with maker's marks (H474.411-412,532,695,781-785), hose supporters (H474.925,1662), a bone collar button (H474.40), and select depression era glass (H474.151,262-264,328-329,363,419-

420,527,1095,1229,1291-1294). I will describe the dates and techniques used to determine this in the analysis section to follow.

<b>Artifact Count Totals by Category</b>	<b>Unit 1</b>	<b>Unit 2</b>	<b>Shovel Tests</b>	<b>Total for Category</b>
Ceramics	79	23	8	110
Bone	85	22	8	115
Glass (colored/colorless)	206	113	81	400
Nails (wire/cut nails)	207	11	69	287
Visual/ Recreational	34	34	2	70
Metal (non-nails)	97	13	13	123
Residue (coke, coal, clinker)	1,155	880	690	2,725
Remaining assemblage (building materials, stone, non-cultural artifacts)	243	530	304	1,077
<b>Total:</b>	2106	1,626	1,175	4,907

*Table 1; Artifact totals by category (item count), these represent that most prevalent groups of artifacts.*



## **Doing the Housework; Analysis of 830 Simpson Avenue**

### *Conducting a Phase I & II Analysis*

When investigating sites for cultural resources, a phase I survey is the first analysis that will help identify the presence of sites and define the boundaries. Systematic subsurface testing is done in this phase to analyze the vertical and horizontal distribution of artifacts (Anfinson 2005:9). A phase II analysis for cultural resources involves an investigation through literature and record review, and more extensive testing to refine the site limits and assesses the significance of the site. As noted in the SHPO Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota (2005:9-10), “field methods must provide critical details with regard to the depositional setting, cultural contexts, site integrity, artifacts and feature densities, and the potential of the site to answer important research questions.” The phase II survey is ordinarily done to determine a site’s eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. While a formal submission for the site’s inclusion on the NRHP will not be completed in this work, the analysis of the site will identify the site boundaries, determine the historical significance, and answer research questions.

This analysis involves initially answering questions that will allow Professor Hoffman to prepare future research at the site; what time periods are represented? Where did the artifacts come from and how did they get into the deposit? I begin the assessment of the phase II analysis by comparing the soil horizons observed in the wall profiles. Once the stratigraphy of the site has been examined and the nature of the visible horizons is described, I will explain the refitting analysis that will further clarify the nature of the deposit. If artifact refits cross the different zones in the deposit, this would be consistent

with a mixing, if there is no crossing of similar cultural materials between zones, the deposit is then considered intact. I will then explain the temporally diagnostic artifacts and give a date to the deposits by giving an estimate based on the manufacturing marks and other pertinent documentation. Finally, I will use these 'foundational studies' of the site as the building blocks to make references to the higher-level questions of the household life cycles, gender, and agency in consumption.

The wall profiles supported the identification of three primary soil deposits, these are cultural zones that correspond to different time periods and formation processes taking place (*see wall profiles in Appendix C*). The east and west walls do differ slightly and this is due in part to the minor slope in the ground surface and the variation of the demolition layer across both units. Zone 1 extends from the ground surface to about 15cm on the east wall and from ground surface to about 34cm on the west wall. The next zone includes the demolition debris, it extends from 15cm to 45cm on the east, but the west wall is more complicated in this layer. A dark yellow/ brown soil with sand and gravel mottling observed in the east wall of this zone does not extend throughout both units entirely, but ends before the foundational debris that remained in the wall of Unit 1 and continues again in Unit 2 after the shovel test. In the west wall this zone is defined by two layers, one that includes the sand and gravel mix (about 10cm) and below that a somewhat mottled soil extending to 60cm below surface and appears to funnel down into what eventually became feature one. It is plausible this feature comes from a post-hole or foundation that had been removed and filled, then eventually covered by the construction debris. It is important to note this feature is not necessarily consistent with a garbage or privy pit. This layer is also slightly mottled in Unit 2 of the west wall but becomes more

homogenous with the silty loam of zone 3. The third zone is composed of two different soil types that are consistent but differ moderately in color and texture. This zone starts at about 50cm and extends to the bottom of Unit 2 and until about 90cm in Unit 1 of the east wall. In the west wall we see this zone starting at around 60cm and extending until the bottom of Unit 2 and to 100cm in Unit 1. A small layer on the bottom of Unit 1 about 5cm on the west wall is a dark yellowish brown 10YR 3/4 silty sand and about 10cm on the east wall that is a dark olive brown 10YR 4/3 with inclusions of the 10YR 3/4 seen on the west wall.

So what can these soil layers and zones say about the stratigraphy? Well, in short the zone we see that extends from ground surface to about 30cm is the zone associated with occupation during the time the White House was on the property. The next zone extending from about 30-50cm is the demolition and construction zone that came from the digging of a basement for the White House to sit atop and the dismantling of the previous home. The third zone starting around 50cm to the bottom of the unit, is the intact 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century soils containing the artifacts associated with the 830 Simpson Avenue home.

To support this idea further, the artifact distribution analysis will indicate where the peaks in artifacts are found and with what time period they might coincide. Since the majority of artifacts found were related to kitchen refuse and building materials I will use these categories for the data analysis. This includes ceramics, glass, bone, nails, building materials, and residues such as coke, coal, and clinker. I ran queries in Microsoft Access to determine the patterns in disposal of ceramics, glass, and bone. Since these items correspond most to kitchen use, I wanted to determine if there is a patterning to the

disposal. I ran queries of the 2x1 separate from the shovel tests getting a sum of the weight of artifacts from both units and dividing that by the total density (in liters) of soil excavated at each level. The most evident pattern is a bell-shaped curve of artifacts indicating in which zone the highest concentration of a particular artifact is found. With ceramics, bone, metal, nails, and coal the highest peak falls between 60-85cm, putting these in zone 3 or the intact deposit.

Building material and glass both showed two peaks, for glass one peak was 20-40cm (zone 2) with another at 75-80cm (zone 3) and building materials peaking at 20-40cm (zone 2) and again at 50-60cm (zone 3), putting both peaks in different zones. The first peaks in these categories fell in the demolition zone. The layer of limestone, concrete and brick were most likely deposited around the property at this time, the glass could have been mixed in, since the majority of glass from the first 40cm was flat colorless glass it is consistent with window glass. Building materials and glass also have a large peak within the first 40cm due to our collection of a large concrete slab as well as a nearly complete glass Jergen's lotion bottle, which adds more weight to the percentage for those levels (*see Table 2*). What we see with the peaks of particular artifacts in zone 1 versus zone 3 give clues about the behaviors behind these two deposits. In order to qualify the results I also analyzed the artifact counts of the same categories to the density per liter of soil. I anticipated the distributions would look very similar if the theory of three distinct cultural zones is true because the count and weight should remain consistent and maintain the densities in each particular zone. (*see table 3*).

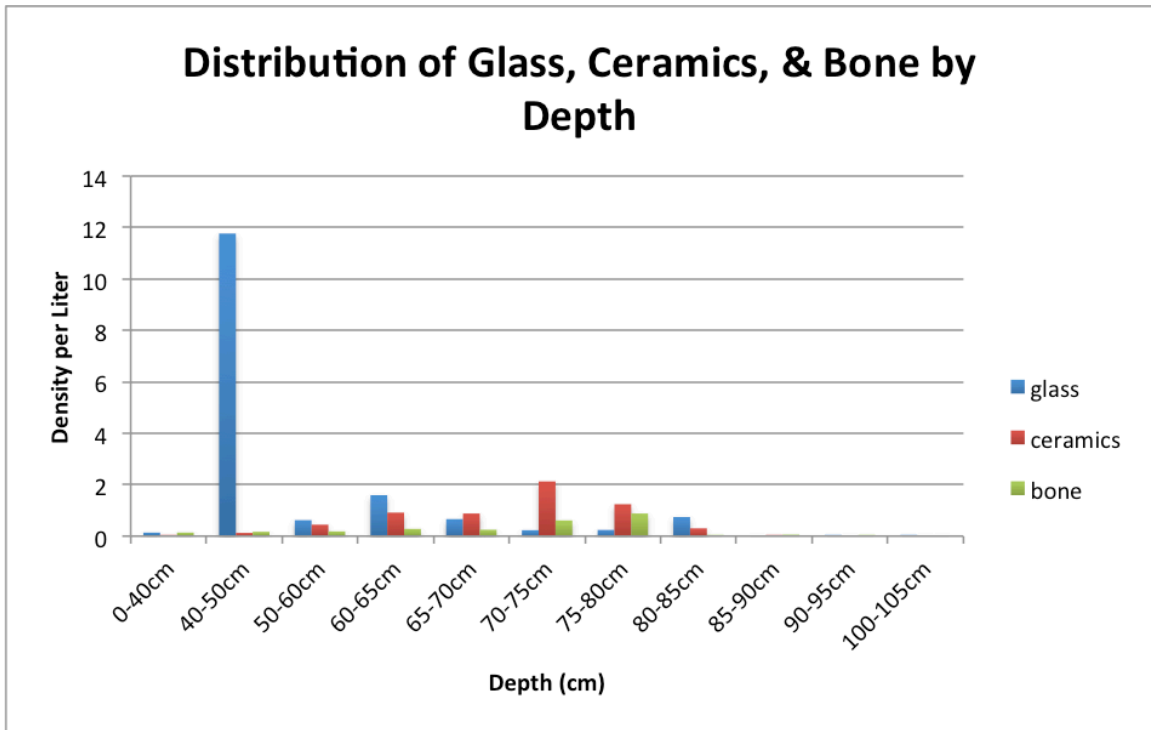


Table 2; Graph representing the distributions of glass, ceramics, and bone. The large peak at 40-50cm is due to the weight of the Jergen's lotion bottle.

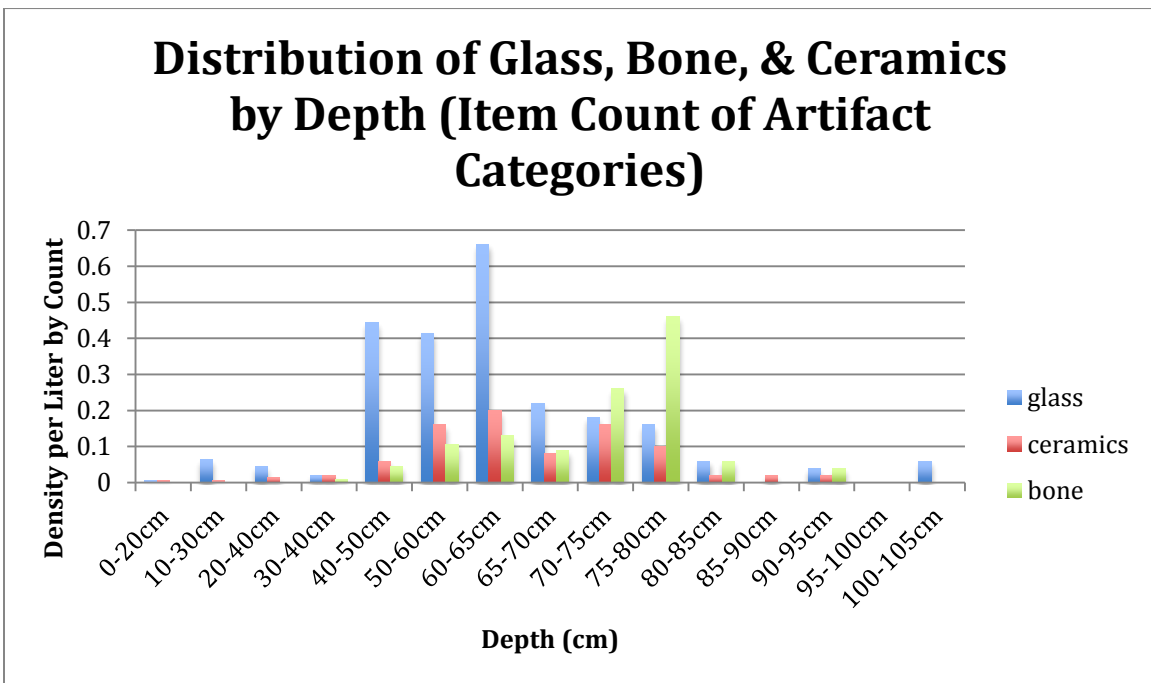


Table 3: Distribution of glass, ceramics, and bone to depth based on artifact item count

To better understand the peaks represented in the graphs I did a correlation analysis between the most predominant artifacts. The strongest correlations were between nails and other metal ( $r= 0.912$ ), bone and ceramic ( $r= 0.835$ ), glass and building materials ( $r=0.659$ ) and glass and bone ( $r=0.439$ ). These correlations suggest behavioral associations that correspond with certain behaviors and the defined zones. The correlation of bone and ceramic are consistent with typical kitchen refuse of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The peak for ceramic and bone falls at 70-80cm, or zone 3, and in this level the Charles Meakin ceramics were found, as well as other pieces used in the refit analysis. The correlation of metal and nails is also worth discussing in relation to the bone and ceramics. For this query the nails were excluded from the metal category to get an accurate weight of non-nail artifacts. A majority of the metal found was from aluminum cans that presumably contained food, as well as small household metal such as safety pins, hose clasps, overall components, screws, small hooks, curtain rod components, and so-forth. The peak of metal and nails was around 60-65cm, which lies just above the bone and ceramic peak. It is possible there was a change in food consumption to canned foods at this time or even that the metal remains and nails were deposited as part of an interior home project.

The positive correlations between glass to building materials and glass to bone are also worth noting. I separated the glass into categories of flat and curved to determine if the building materials and flat glass were correlated and curved glass (most likely from dishes, jars, and various containers) keeps the correlation with bone. I found that the building materials and flat glass maintain a correlation supporting the above-mentioned hypothesis of window glass and building materials being linked in the debris layer.

However, the curved glass and bone did not maintain the same correlation as anticipated, the peak in curved glass appears at 60-70cm while the bone peaks around 75-80cm. Since the data gave a different result than expected, I examined which bones were found at the levels associated with the peak in curved glass. The recovered bones at this level were beef shank cut bones and sawn rib fragments. The remains found at the peak of bone distribution was a long bone fragment believed to be from a pig or similar animal. I consider the peak in curved glass and beef shank bones found in the same layer has a stronger relationship than what the data presents. The majority of curved glass of the assemblage is consistent with kitchen refuse and the modified bone implies a pattern in depositional activities at this time.

The amount of data collected from this site is limited; this makes accomplishing this extensive investigation of the site difficult. However, some of the recovered artifacts are considerably significant; they allowed for dating the site as well as the refitting analysis. Kerri Barile and Jamie Brandon authors of *Household Chores and Household Choices*, note that at excavations where defining household composition is challenging or at sites with little comparative information, one must analyze the data by linking structures and artifacts to social activities and in turn to the larger social issues and processes (2004).

To better understand the land-use at the site and depositional patterns, the refit analysis focused on five ceramic dishes and two glass dishes, two of them also having temporally diagnostic attributes. The Charles Meakin ironstone dish was a particularly exciting find; we were able to determine the manufacture date for this dish as between 1876 and 1882, produced in Burslem, England. Seven fragments of this dish were

uncovered that could be refitted. These fragments were found between 60-80cm primarily in Unit 1 with one fragment in Unit 2 at 65-75cm in the southwest quad touching Unit 1. This dish is concentrated in zone 3 further supporting the hypothesis that this zone is an intact soil horizon. The next dish was white stoneware with a distinctive appearance of “dirty” cracked glazed. Three fragments of this dish were found in zone 3 between 70-85cm. The last three ceramic dishes (one dark brown earthenware, a burned ceramic bowl, and a white earthenware), all were located in zone 3 between 60-70cm. As with the ceramic dishes from above, these refit sherds are all from the same intact cultural zone.

The glass refits were not restricted to zone 3, as was the case for the ceramic refits. I found two glass dishes that could be refit, the first of these dishes was an amber English Hobnail style dish that dates from the 1920's -1970's (Florence 1979). The fragments of this dish were spread a bit more throughout Unit 1 and 2. Five fragments were found at 40-50cm and eight more fragments were found at 60-70cm. This distribution alone does not dismiss the theory of intact zones since there are fragments in the contact area of zone 2 and zone 3. It is possible that the processes that created zone 2 could have shifted small cultural materials from zone 3 up or vice versa. The second glass dish followed the same stratigraphy as the amber glass yet with fewer pieces.

There were no datable artifacts found in zone 1, in fact there were few finds at all in this zone. I believe zone 1 is a fill that represents soil brought to the site sometime after 1946 when the White House was moved to this location. Zone 2 also did not contain any refits but there were dateable artifacts that would be consistent with the time period the debris layer was created (*see Table 4 of datable artifacts*). The first was the Jergen's lotion bottle that dates to the 1940's, as well as a GE Mazda Christmas light bulb also



dating to the 1940's, both of which were found in zone 2 in the northwest quad of Unit 1 near the foundational remains. A third artifact found close to the debris level was a Maddock & Co ceramic sherd dating to the 1930's (Kowalsky & Kowalsky 1999). It is within a reasonable timespan for a ceramic dish to be deposited in close proximity to artifacts of the next decade because of the durability and intended longevity of these household items. With the combination of evidence from the soil stratigraphy, artifact refits, and temporally diagnostic artifacts, I am confident that zone 3 is the intact assemblage of the 830 Simpson Avenue home. The artifacts we uncovered in zone 3 became the focus for the analysis of the social composition of this site.

<b>Datable Artifacts</b>	<b>Zone 1</b>	<b>Zone 2</b>	<b>Zone 3</b>
Clay pipe (1800s +)			1
German Bisque doll parts (1800s)			9
Bone collar button (1800s)			1
Charles Meakin ceramics (1876-1882)			7
Toothbrush fragments (about 1885)			5
Hose Supporters (1890-1930)			1
Garter Clasp (1890-1930)			1
English Hobnail glass dish (1920s-1970s)		13	
Maddock & Co ceramics (1930s)		1	
Jergen's Lotion bottle (1940s)		33	
GE Mazda light bulb (1940s)		1	
Total Number of Datable artifacts per Zone	0	38	25

*Table 4; Datable artifacts by zone*

### *Social Composition at 830 Simpson Avenue*

There has been a wide array of research on the connection of artifacts to social implications of a particular culture that are often found in archaeological assemblages. For example, the ironstone ceramic sherds recovered were mass-produced and easily accessible to American consumers around the 1870's with women as the primary purchasers of aesthetic household goods (Majewski & Schiffer 2009), the ceramics begin

to shed light on the role of women at the site and their choices in consumption. Likewise, ceramics in early America ‘play an important role in understanding food ways, when [food ways] change, we might expect a change in the pattern of ceramic use’ (Deetz 1996) which in turn can tell us about the availability of food, the functions it served, and the social status of the family. Another common artifact type used in analysis is the clay smoking pipes. The clay pipe stem was found in zone 3 at 60cm, measured 4/64 mm, which corresponds to the larger stem bore hole of clay pipes produced after the 1800s. I had originally utilized James Deetz’s chart for calculating manufacture date by bore hole dating the pipe to 1750-1800, but this technique only applies to English made pipes. Since I cannot conclusively say this is an English pipe, and it would predate the rest of the assemblage, it is unlikely a fragile clay pipe lasted longer than 50 years before being disposed.

However, both the ceramics sherds and clay pipe help make connections to the behavioral processes of the past residents because in historical archaeology, ceramics, glass, clay pipes, and bone are considered the most informative artifacts, however, “other sorts” of artifacts are underrepresented in analyses that can also address these processes in addition to questions of gender and roles within households (Beaudry 2006:2). The ‘other’ artifacts Beaudry is referring to are related to sewing, but I would argue that the personal artifacts excavated at the Simpson Avenue site can paint a picture of the household composition and explain the gender and age of the people that once lived here. We excavated a variety of personal items including; the bone collar button, the clay pipe stem, a harmonica reed plate, pencil lead, the porcelain doll parts, bone toothbrushes, and clothing components.

Overall, the assemblage shows little indication of boys or babies, and minimal evidence of men at the site, except for the bone collar button. The majority of the personal items in-fact doesn't indicate gender in one way or another; the harmonica reed plate, the pencil lead, the toothbrushes, and the clay smoking pipe (although tobacco pipes are most often associated with men, it is not impossible it belonged to a woman), all belonged to one individual but whether it belonged to a man or a woman can't be determined. However, these artifacts still play an important role in understanding the social practices of the neighbors. For example, tooth brushing was a common daily practice among the middle classes of the nineteenth century (Shackel 1993). The five toothbrush heads we recovered were all heavily burned and missing the handle, because of this it is difficult to give an accurate date, however the brush head style and shape are similar to the mass-produced toothbrushes patented by H.N. Wadsworth in 1857 and produced in America around 1885 (Library of Congress Online Catalog). What is most striking about these artifacts is the fact that they are heavily burned while almost none of the rest of assemblage shows burning, and that there were no handle fragments discovered (*see Figure 9*). I believe when disposing of toothbrushes there was extra effort put into destroying it, this might be in part because it was common for boar hair bristles to become very filthy and the standards of personal hygiene during the period of time it was used would have been highly valued (Shackel 1993).



*Figure 9; Burned bone toothbrush heads*

In terms of gendered artifacts, one of the most recognizable is the German bisque doll parts. The fragments composed a minimum number of 2 separate dolls found 50-65cm below surface. I was able to compare a few of the fragments found in the assemblage to a bisque doll uncovered previously at the Hamline Methodist Church that was identical. The maker's mark on the neck helped guide research on the maker and production year, but I was unable to determine anything more than it being a 19<sup>th</sup> century German bisque doll. Majewski and Schiffer note 'how children's material culture serves to reproduce the values, attitudes, skills, and activities of a consumer society' (2009:205). Dolls especially from the period of 1830-1930, were used to teach girls to imitate the

behaviors of high society and learn social conventions. While the doll parts also predate most of the uncovered material culture at the site, it again is possible a family immigrating to the area brought the dolls with them.

Another class of artifacts that imply gender and social status at a site comes from clothing. At the Simpson Avenue site we recovered a bone collar button dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century most likely imported from France but widely available in American marketplaces. We also discovered overall components and hose-supporters; one overall component had the visible brand name 'Buster Brown,' which was a popular producer of children's clothing dating back to 1904 (Peterson & Kellogg 2008). The hose supporters and garter clasps were dated to around 1890. Most often the garter clasps and supporters are associated with women's under garments, however it is mentioned that both children wore long stockings with hose supporters in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Parker 2006). The popularity of these declined by the 1930's which could relate to the depth at which these were found. The hose supporters, overall components, garter clasps, and even the doll fragments mentioned earlier were found at 50-60cm which could indicate a pattern in disposal of a young girls belongings right before the construction on this property.

Through this analysis I have addressed the artifacts and how they pertain to gender and social composition of the site. There is no indication of a single family conforming to the typical preconceived gender roles of an early In the section to follow I would like to address the importance of historical archaeology, understanding households and the potential of this site to say something about the domestic sphere, consumer agency, and influences from the outside social world and it's presence in the archaeological record. There are several questions left unanswered that I can begin to

explore in depth more with the data. For example, the questions of women's roles and what the assemblage can say about the domestic sphere or the household dynamics. Do the artifacts represent a family, multiple co-residents, students, or faculty of Hamline? Why is the assemblage spread out rather than concentrated in one area? Does this indicate behavioral processes that created this unique site? Also, what can be said of consumption and the factors that influence consumer choice and household life cycles?

## **Tidying Up; Discussing the 830 Simpson Avenue Site**

In Nesta Anderson's article on the archaeology of nested households, *Finding the Space Between Spatial Boundaries and Social Dynamics*, she notes that defining the concept of household has numerous definitions, but co-residence is considered a necessary criterion. She continues, "[T]he ideal living arrangement, for example the nuclear family in our society, is not always attained. Other definitions focus less on co-residence and concentrate instead on relationships among household members" (Anderson 2005:109). The factors that could influence the household composition at this site would include the occupation of non-kin residents at this home in the early 1900's, the renting of the home to a family or families, and the eventual President's occupation of the White House in 1946. Anderson's concept of 'nested households' on plantations in the Bahamas, as a series of more discrete household units with fluid boundaries between them, where each member engages in production, co-resides in more than one structure, and reproduce socially, (Anderson 2005:115) apply at this site where students once resided here as well as a family, they may have even rented rooms to Hamline students. The students had a larger connection to the University where they would be engaging in cultural behaviors atypical of a normal middle-class household, and creating a complex life cycle at this site. Future excavations should be conducted according to the zones rather than arbitrary levels to analyze the separate cultural periods and attempt to find new patterns that might indicate co-residence in the home.

In order to make sense of the data I have presented, and put into perspective why this research took place, I engage in a discussion that will first aim to elaborate on the importance of this particular site to historic archaeology as a discipline, then explain why

studying archaeological sites of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century should be done. In the same degree, the inquisitions current archaeological research informs pertaining to gender and household are applied to the Simpson Avenue assemblage.

*Presenting the Past; Public Archaeology on Hamline's Campus*

What is so significant about a home that *was* on Hamline's campus? Why spend the time excavating something that is recent enough we can find text and maps about it, or even talk to people who grew up nearby? Archaeology can function as a primary vehicle to presenting the past to the public and I argue that not only do we have valuable historic research potential at the Simpson Avenue site, but that there are educational and community building aspects that add value to this work. The artifacts we collected are unlikely to have belonged to the former Hamline president or someone with a 'significant' role in history, yet we have uncovered traces left by residents from a middle-class neighborhood during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, we give a 'voice to the voiceless' as Charles Orser might assert (2004). Going beyond the historic aspects, the Simpson Avenue site provided an educational process for each student in the Excavating Hamline History class to learn more about the history of their school and the neighborhood, and gave me the opportunity to conduct a research project at a higher level. Through this process I have learned about methods and theoretical perspectives in historic archaeology, archival research, oral histories, public archaeology, also how to interpret data in relation to larger social processes. The initial interpretations of this site will guide further research for the Excavating Hamline History course and hopefully inspire the



future students to answer the questions posed related to the broader social issues relevant to historic archaeology today.

The opportunity to meet residents of the Midway neighborhood and involve the public in our digs was another incredible benefit of the class and this research. Through our two “open dig” weekends we were able to spark interest in the neighborhood history as well as provide an opportunity to contribute to our research. I believe the openness of the neighbors to becoming involved, and especially to Jane and Mary for taking part in an oral history, reflect a good relationship between the University and the community.

Hamline has been buying the property surrounding the campus since the 1900s. This interaction between the University and neighborhood may not have always been good. I make this assertion because I believe Hamline’s expansion of campus into the neighborhood could have created tension amongst residents in the past as it does today. For example, the former residents at the 830 Simpson house, owned and rented out by Hamline, having to relocate due to campus construction plans tell of the dynamics between neighbors and the University in the past, as well as Hamline’s authority in land-use of this area. Today Jane McEvoy is the only resident who still has ownership of her entire property and upholds that she would like to stay in her home. She has strong memories growing up here and a special connection to her home and the neighborhood that would be lost if she were to sell her property.

The change of the Midway that has been seen by the neighbors points to the potential of this site to be a source for activist archaeology. Hamline plans to tear down the White House to create a parking lot on the property; the damage that would occur from this work would destroy the archaeological site. If we lose the opportunity to

continue digging, we may lose the opportunity to enrich the story of the Midway neighbors and how this small railroad community developed overtime and the lasting impact it left on St. Paul's history. There are members of the Midway community and Hamline students that do not want to see the White House torn down. Continuing archaeology can give a strong voice to the past, and it can contribute to a representation of the Midway that some neighbors would feel proud to be connected to. The future students of Hamline History course can take a variety of roles to become activists for the community and become attuned to the neighborhood of the past and today, and create a positive change in the community (Stottman 2010: 139). The past plays an important role in the culture and identity of the residents (Stottman 2010:129), and because Hamline asserts they are the oldest university in Minnesota, how could this long history be ignored?

#### *Defining a Changing Household in the Hamline-Midway*

While it is true that research can be done on the time periods represented at the Simpson Avenue site through different avenues (archival, map data, oral history, etc...) archaeology analyzes the artifacts with the *supplementation* of textual data. The physical evidence of a household can tell a story that puts people back into the history of the University and the neighborhood that would not be found otherwise. The combination of studying artifacts and architectural remains of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century give answers to land use, residential succession, and consumption within a household over time (Rubertone 1982:139). Little has been done to understand the socioeconomic changes in the Midway neighborhood and the assemblage of 830 Simpson Avenue is a starting point

to provide answers in regard to this. The Simpson Avenue site also provides an excellent opportunity for place making and gaining an understanding of the neighborhood, but it also engenders interpretations of women's roles, consumer agency, and the household composition.

While the data set is small in size, it can offer some suggestions regarding the nature of the Simpson household and how women's roles relate to the use of the household over time. The records of the residents in the Alumni Quarterly state two freshman women were living at 830 Simpson in 1917, a year after the property was purchased by Hamline. The home isn't mentioned again in the Alumni Quarterly in years to follow, and no records of tenants were found until 1946 when the home was moved. It was listed as being owned by Harvey H. Williams at this point but the oral history with Jane mentions her friends were renting this home from Hamline. The information is still unclear and further research is necessary, however it is evident that women were present in this home either temporarily or for extended periods. The two women living there in 1917 suggest a co-residency occupation and later an occupation by single families. There are artifacts related to women but the most commonly associated artifacts such as needles, pins, scissors, thimbles and other related paraphernalia (Beaudry 2006:1) were not found. Sewing was an important activity for women as a pastime and source of income and because sewing kits often were very valuable to an individual, why are more of these artifacts not seen? One idea is that during occupation at this site, the women living here used these items very little and brought them with wherever they went after college. Another idea is that a larger garbage pit feature was missed during the excavations and the artifacts associated with this were not uncovered. Lastly, it is

possible the women in college living at this home did not follow the social norms of sewing and needlework that is commonly seen in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century households.

In summary the data set shows 3 cultural zones; zone 1 is a fill dating after 1946 determined through the use of historic records and the low concentration of artifacts. Zone 2 is the debris layer, this dates to the 1930's - 1940's, also determined by historic documentation, the high concentration of building debris and the artifacts associated with this time period (i.e., GE light bulb, Jergen's lotion bottle). This zone explains the site formation process that created the assemblage for the associated time periods. Zone 3 is the intact deposit with cultural materials dating as early as 1800's up to the 1930's. The levels associated with this zone contain artifacts related to girls and women, which include the artifacts associated with kitchen refuse, as well as the dolls, and clothing components. The presence of artifacts from the mid to late 1800s in zone 3 (clay pipe, bisque doll, ceramic ironstone, bone collar button) does not imply the site occupation began at that time but suggests these types of cultural materials were valued and most likely brought to the site. I was unable to attain the building permit for the original construction of 830 Simpson home but would assert that this site dates from the 1880 to the 1950's since very little change happened to this section of campus after that point in time.

## Conclusion

The combination of archival research, oral history, and historic maps accompanied by the recovered artifacts, allowed for the phase I and II analysis of the 830 Simpson Avenue site. The collection of questions and answers presented throughout this paper can provide to a thoughtful evaluation of a middle-class neighborhood situated within a changing urban landscape influenced by University expansion. An interpretation of the cultural zones and factors that influenced their deposition into the archaeological record has been presented here. The history of this neighborhood has been undergoing change since the arrival of the Territorial road in the early 1800s to the addition of the St. Paul and Northern Pacific railroads. The booming railroad town expanded over time and with the change, the stories of the men, women, and children who created this neighborhood were forgotten, overshadowed by the history of the University and sprawling urban environment. Excavating the site begins to tell the story of these invisible actors in creating the culturally diverse area we see today. The historic value at this site that can be uncovered through future archaeological excavations has potential to expand on the ideas of agency, consumption, women's roles, household relations, and connections to the outside world.

In order to put people back into the history of Hamline-Midway or the Midway village, more excavations must take place in years to follow. The Sanborn fire insurance maps indicate the foundational remains of the original house may still be there, future students should utilize these maps and archival data to determine the year this home was built and investigate who occupied this home. Finding the foundation can put the horizontal distribution of artifacts, and the relative spread of cultural materials across the

property, into perspective. A larger assemblage containing more ceramics, glass, and personal items will help with interpretations of the individual within a consumer driven society. The material culture alone cannot address all the belief systems of a culture, so it is important that students should build rapport among the neighbors and communicate with the residents who have a life-long connection to the area. I hope to inspire students to keep excavating this site, and that they become connected with the past through excavations and to the present through conversations with neighbors. The impending plans of the University to tear down the White House will destroy the research potential of the site, so I want to engender a desire to preserve the history of our campus and the neighborhood before the past slips from our grasp due to the same expansion that in turn created the Simpson Avenue site assemblage. We don't want to be remembered for what we destroyed, but rather for what we created. The scattered traces tell a history worthy of being told and shared with the public, they can be the connection needed to create something that perpetuates inspiration and action.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A; Lab Manuals

Appendix B; Oral History Transcription

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