

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS
AT THE SITE OF
GUILFORD COURTHOUSE

PREPARED BY THE RESEARCH LABORATORIES OF ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHAPEL HILL

Archaeological Excavations at the
Site of Guilford Courthouse

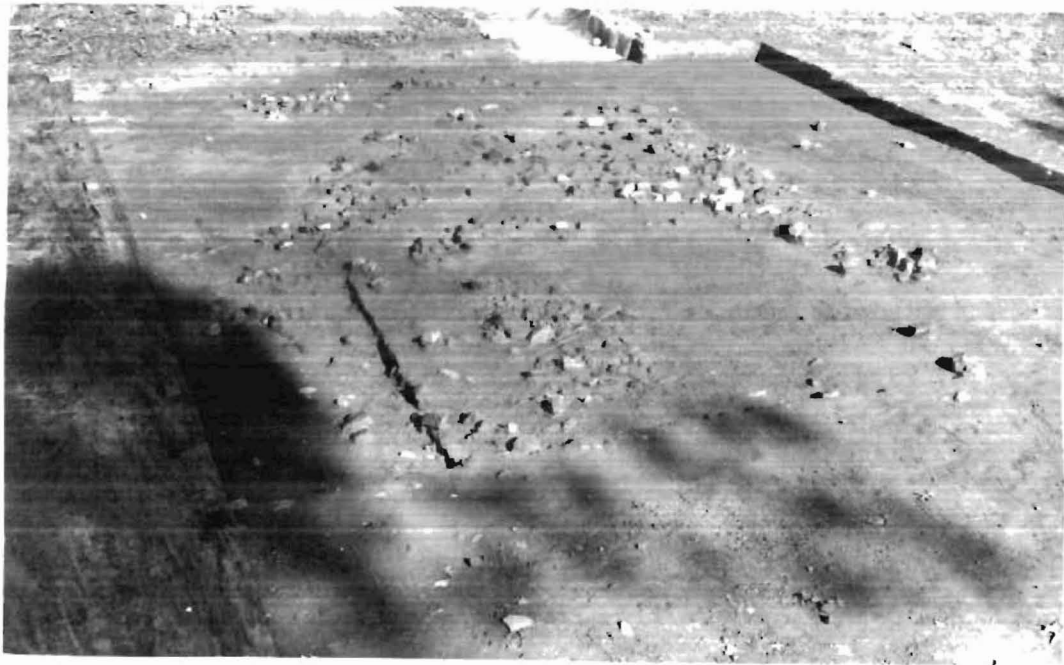
Trawick Ward
Field Director

Joffre L. Coe
Principal Investigator

Prepared By
The Research Laboratories of Anthropology
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill

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1976



Brick Rubble - 1974 Excavation



Foundation Postholes - 1975 Excavation

REMAINS OF GUILFORD COURTHOUSE

Abstract

Because the precise location of Guilford Courthouse cannot be determined from the existing historical record, archaeological research was conducted at the traditional courthouse site in an effort to find remains of the old building. Structural remains which reflect the character of the courthouse as described by the historical record were uncovered. These structural features and associated artifacts are discussed.

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INTRODUCTION

In 1771, the county of Guilford was established by combining portions of Rowan and Orange counties. At least three years passed before the construction of public buildings commenced, and the first definite reference to a "Guilford County Courthouse" was not made until 1776. However, during the Revolutionary War, Guilford Courthouse and its environs became increasingly well known and important as a rallying point for soldiers and as a storage facility for military supplies. In 1781, the courthouse at Guilford was indelibly etched in the pages of American History by providing its name to one of the pivotal battles of the Revolutionary War.

After the war, an attempt was made to establish a community using the courthouse as a focal point. Eventually, thirteen contiguous lots, comprising 100 acres, were sold and in 1785, the settlement was formally recognized as Martinville. However, the little community was to be the final, not beginning, chapter in the active history of Guilford Courthouse. Pressures to move the county seat to a more central location were successful, and by 1809, a new courthouse had been constructed, and the town of Greensboro was formally established. The re-location of the county seat in Greensboro proved to be a fatal blow to Martinville. By 1849, there was nothing left of the little community except dilapidated buildings and the stoic ruins of the old courthouse chimney. Nonetheless, the historical significance of Martinville and the battlefield

was not forgotten, and a military park was founded by David Schenck in 1887. The traditional courthouse plot was purchased in 1905, and the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park was established in 1933.

However, because the Guilford County Minute Packet of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions covering the period from 1770 to 1782 was lost, detailed descriptions and locations of the original courthouse and other public buildings were not preserved. Consequently, with the passage of time, the original locations of the courthouse, jail, and other structures and features so important in providing a datum for those dramatic events of 1781 have been lost or maintained only through oral tradition and speculation.

Lacking historic documentation concerning the location of the courthouse, Joseph C. Robert, a member of the historical staff at the park, suggested in 1934 that archaeological investigations at the traditional site might prove fruitful in verifying the courthouse location. This suggestion that the courthouse might be found archaeologically was not raised again until 1967, and in January 1968, Jack Walker, Park Service Archaeologist, excavated several test trenches in the cleared field around the courthouse site. Several artifacts were recovered, and some evidence of possible structural remains were found, but the short duration and limited extent of these tests were not sufficient to allow any conclusive statements as to the identity of the putative structural remains.

On June 22, 1972, the Research Laboratories of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, began archaeological tests at the park. This initial work resulted from the planned construction

of several new facilities designed to enhance the park's utilization and to improve upon the existing interpretative features. Planned improvements included the construction of a belt road with several accompanying parking lots, a rest station, and a new museum and parking area. In addition, the existing New Garden Road was to be restored to a historic trace, and the Retreat Road was to be re-located and restored to reflect conditions at the time of the battle. The large amount of area to be disturbed by the construction activities necessitated an archaeological investigation to insure that no historically significant remains would be disturbed. Archaeological research was also required to attempt to determine the eighteenth century alignment of the Retreat Road.

An initial survey revealed that most of the construction sites were to be located in areas with a very low potential for concealing archaeological remains. However, a parking lot and a segment of the belt road were planned in the area east of the courthouse site where it was suspected that remains of Martinville might be preserved. For this reason, intensive archaeological testing was necessary here before the final construction plans were completed. These excavations resulted in the discovery of several important archaeological features including the remains of a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century house. Naturally, these discoveries necessitated the re-location of the parking lot and required a slight re-alignment of a short segment of the belt road. The remaining construction sites were also tested and/or extensively surveyed, but additional archaeological features were not found.

The work in 1972 conclusively demonstrated that in situ remains of Martinville lay beneath the surface in the cleared area around the traditional site of Guilford Courthouse. Having established this fact,

the National Park Service felt that the location and identification of the courthouse itself might be possible with additional archaeological investigations. To this end, the Research Laboratories of Anthropology, under National Park Service Contract Number CX500041697, resumed excavations in the courthouse area September 25, 1974. Field work continued until November 22, 1974 when cold weather and fall rains forced a temporary halt (Figure 1). Laboratory work and a preliminary analysis were carried out from December 1974 until May 1975. On May 5th, the site was again opened and excavations continued until July 4th, 1975 (Figure 2).

During this period, 2,346 cubic feet of earth were removed from an area encompassing 4,055 square feet. Compared with the 1972 work, the density and variety of artifacts were considerably greater as a total of 2,614 catalog numbers were assigned to approximately 100,000 specimens. In addition, a number of features and postholes were recorded in the area of the traditional courthouse site. This evidence suggests a structure very similar to the old courthouse as described in the extant historic accounts.

THE EVOLUTION OF GUILFORD COURTHOUSE

Considering the importance of the courthouse and the many references made to it, the information that has been gleaned from historical documents concerning its physical description is remarkably sparse. However, the records that are available suggest an evolving, and ephemeral, structure in constant need of repair, which was not completed until just prior to its abandonment, if even then.

When the county was established in 1771, the General Assembly also passed legislation to insure that the physical facilities would be available for the county to carry out its business. Specifically, a poll tax of two shillings was levied for a period of three years on each taxable person living in the county. This revenue was to be used to pay for the construction of a courthouse, jail, and stocks. However, this construction did not begin immediately, and it was necessary in 1774 for the assembly to again call for the construction of public buildings. At this time, one acre of land was purchased from John Campbell for the specific purpose of providing a site for the jail, courthouse, and stocks. Evidently, the delay in beginning the construction was the result of many factors, not the least of which was pressure to move the site to a more central location, but the pressures were temporarily abated, and the courthouse was constructed at Guilford sometime between 1774 and 1776. The first mention of "Guilford Courthouse" was made in October 1776 in the Moravian Manuscript Records (Robert 1934:4). Historical evidence indicates the jail was also in existence by this time. Col. James Martin, in charge of the Guilford militia, received an express in November 1776 "from our courthouse" to apprehend several

Tories living in Randolph County. Col. Martin took five prisoners, but they could not be held at Guilford because, "our goal not being sufficient I sent them in waggons to Hillsborough" (Clark 1907:145).

Although some form of public facilities were present by 1776, they must have been incomplete because the North Carolina Assembly had to authorize an additional tax in 1777 to complete the construction of the public buildings (Robert 1934:4). In 1782, the court ordered the sheriff to let bids to build a bar, and the ". . . (illegible) supporting of the Court House on blocks or pens be let to the Lowest undertaker" (Minute Packet of Court 1782:21). In 1783 the order to build a bar was re-issued along with an order to carry out general repair work. Evidentially, the work was never done or not done very well as a commission was established in 1786 to let bids and supervise the repair of the courthouse. It then took an additional year before the contract was awarded to Patrick Shaw. Either Mr. Shaw was extremely busy with other matters, or the courthouse was in a pitiful state of repair, because it was not until 1794 that his work was completed satisfactorily (Hatch 1970:41-42).

As Shaw's work was nearing completion, another commission was formed to inspect the building and compare it with the Rockingham Courthouse. The resulting report, filed by Capt. John Rankin and Samuel Bell, provides one of the few descriptions of the structural features of the courthouse, and this description refers to a building which had been considerably modified since its initial construction.

Agreeable to an order of Court we the Subscribers have Inspected Guilford Courthouse and find it to be thirty-six feet in Width and Eleven feet nine inches in Hight the poorches eight feet three Inches in length and four feet deep the sealing and purtitioning Chiefly popular the benches made in an Ordinary manner the Banasters of the Creast of the bench diferint in number and with a Crest on the upper rail the Crest of the barr without banasters the posts unbourded and Capt. and the others parts done in an Ordinary manner the floor of the Courtroom of thin plank and bad Joints the windows chiefly unglased the underpinning unpointed the Chimney of indiferient workmanship the remainder of the workmanship Equal or rither preferable to the Rockingham Courthouse (Minute Packet of Court 1792:199).

The report made by Rankin and Bell was reviewed by another committee in 1793 in order to determine if the contract with Shaw had been fulfilled.

The committee to whom the Inspection of the Courthouse was refered to report as followeth VZ. Agreeable to the order of last court we have examined the report made by Capt. Rankin and Samuel Bell in regardo to Rockingham and Guilford Court House and were of Opinion that Guilford Court House is not completed agreeable to contract first in regard to the underpinning not being pointed with lime also in respect of the pertition not being of pine plank likewise in respect of the Chimney not being pointed with lime and in Every other respect where Guilford differs from Rockingham Courthouse except where the Articles of Difirences is stipulated in the bond as will appear of record (Minute Packet of Court 1793:212).

These discrepancies must have been corrected by Mr. Shaw, as he was awarded the final installment of his contract on November 28, 1794. However, the repairs did not stop the seemingly continual deterioration, and when the building was finally abandoned in 1809, disrepair was given as one of the reasons for constructing the new courthouse in Greensboro (Hatch 1970:47).

Regretably, there are no written accounts describing the final disposition of the old building, but the fact that when the land was deeded to Robert Donnell in 1811, there was no mention of structures suggests the courthouse and other public buildings were torn down soon after the move to Greensboro. Oral tradition is also replete with accounts of timbers from the old building being used in the construction of the Greensboro courthouse, which would mean that it was torn down even before the final move (Robert 1934:7). Whether or not materials from the old courthouse were used in the new building is not as important archaeologically as the fact that the courthouse was, from all indications, purposefully dismantled. Even the most run down structure will not simply "melt" into the ground in two years, the time between the last adjournment and the Donnell deed.

From this brief review, it is obvious that the courthouse evolved throughout its existence, never attaining architectural stasis. The descriptions of the building during its latter stages are fairly detailed, but the formative years remain obscure. The only reference to the structural particulars of the early courthouse is the mention of its being supported on "blocks or pens" in 1782. Although lacking in detail, this reference is significant for obvious archaeological reasons. These "blocks or pens" would presumably have been wooden and set into the ground where they would have left archaeologically discernable traces even if they were later replaced or removed. The 1792 and 1793 commission reports refer to an underpinning not "being pointed with lime", which suggests that sometime after 1782, the original wood piers were replaced or supplemented by unmortared brick columns.

Assuming Shaw's work was completed, the final underpinning would have been of mortared brick. At this time, the chimney should also have been cemented with motar, but at no time could the courthouse be described as a substantial building. The stubbornness with which it was started, its constant need of repairs, and the decision to build a new structure in Greensboro all point to an inadequate, flimsy, unkept building which was never the apple of the public eye.

EXCAVATION RESULTS

~~Procedures~~
Procedures

The grid system established in 1972 was again utilized, but because the area under investigation was from 100' to 200' west (left) of the 100R100 datum, it was necessary to use the "L" prefix for coordinates along the east-west axis of the excavation grid. Basic excavation units included 10' squares and 3' and 5' trenches. The grid coordinates of the southeast corner of each square were used to maintain horizontal control over the material recovered from the squares. Beginning with the next number in the 1972 sequence (number 12), the trenches were numbered sequentially as they were excavated. An arbitrary 100' elevation was established and vertical control was maintained by transit readings relative to this datum. The plowed soil was normally excavated in .3' arbitrary levels down to the top of the subsoil. The subsoil surface was then troweled and plotted. In addition, a black and white and color photographic record was kept for each excavation unit. All excavated dirt was hand sifted through 1/4" mesh to facilitate the near total recovery of specimens.

The Retreat Road Area

All of the available historic records indicate that the courthouse was located immediately east of the Reedy Fork or Retreat Road near its junction with New Garden Road. The present alignment of the New Garden Road appears to correspond closely to its eighteenth century location, especially in the area of the courthouse. Today surface indications of the Retreat Road are vague and consist primarily of a broad U-shaped, swale-like depression running north-south through the cleared area west of the traditional site of the courthouse.

In 1972, a trench was excavated across the floor of the swale in an effort to isolate ruts or other subsoil evidence of the old road bed. Unfortunately, nothing indicative of the road bed was found. However, because a precise definition of the road's alignment in the courthouse area would greatly facilitate locating the courthouse, the initial phase of the work in 1974 was concerned with pinpointing, if possible, the location of the Retreat Road. These efforts were not completely successful, but the search for the road led indirectly to the discovery of structural evidence in the area of the traditional courthouse site.

The first unit to be excavated was Trench 12, a 105' by 3' east-west cut across the swale and its banks (Figures 1 and 2). As was the case in 1972, no subsoil evidence of ruts was found, but as the western bank was intersected at approximately L100, the plow zone changed abruptly. The sand content increased noticeably and numerous small gravels appeared. The gravels were also embedded in the top of the subsoil in such concentrations that troweling became virtually impossible.

To determine the extent of the gravel matrix, a 10' square, 190L100, was excavated, and Trench 12 was extended westward as a 5' unit. The gravel concentration continued throughout the square but began to fade in the last 10' of the trench. At this point, it was felt that there was a possibility the gravel band was in some way associated with the Retreat Road. Its abrupt occurrence and fairly restricted east-west distribution did not seem to be natural or fortuitous. To determine if the gravels extended southward toward the New Garden Road, Trench 13 was excavated parallel to and 65' south of Trench 12. In addition, three 10' squares were laid out to check the

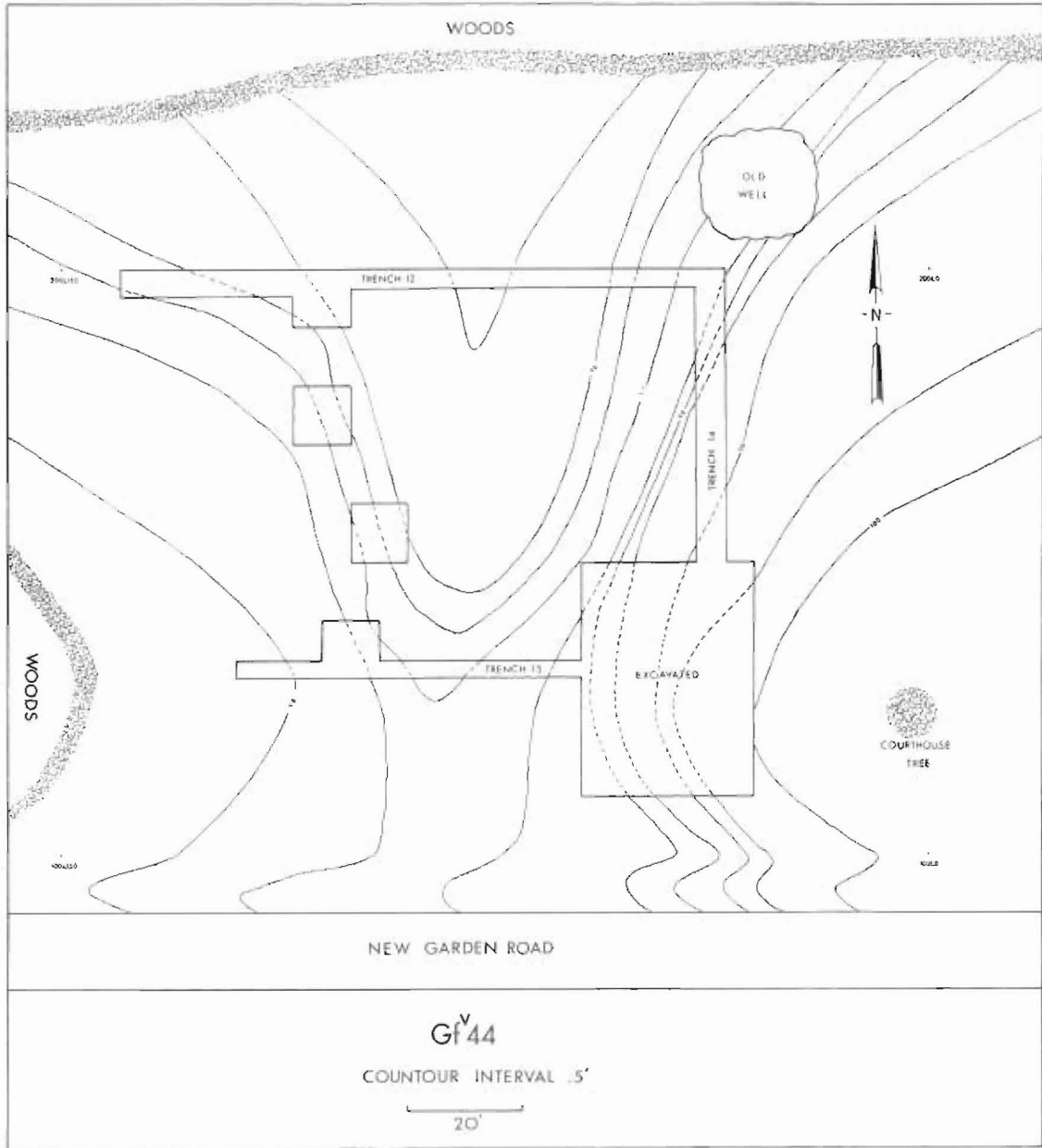


Figure 1
Excavations at the End of the 1974 Season

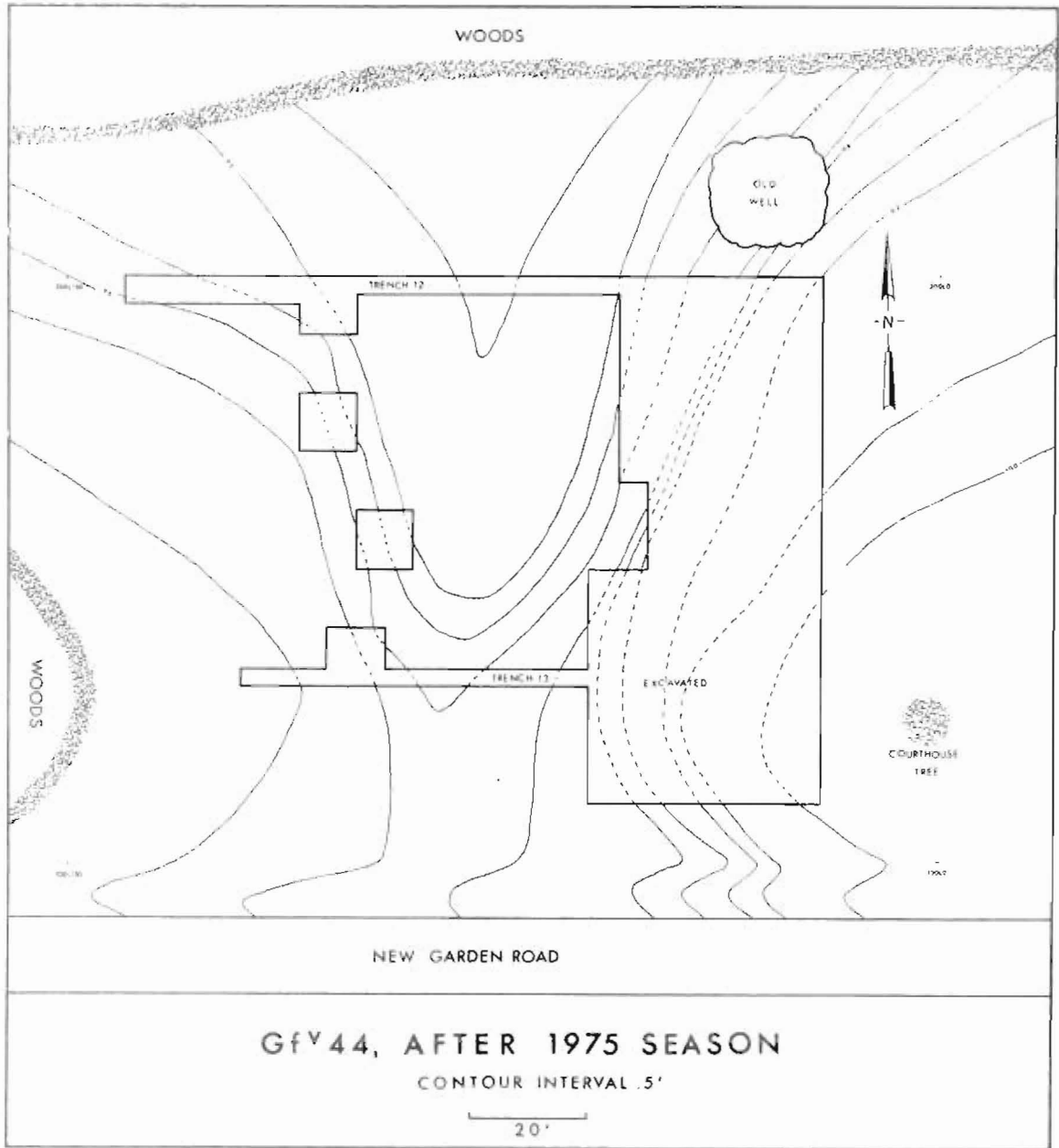


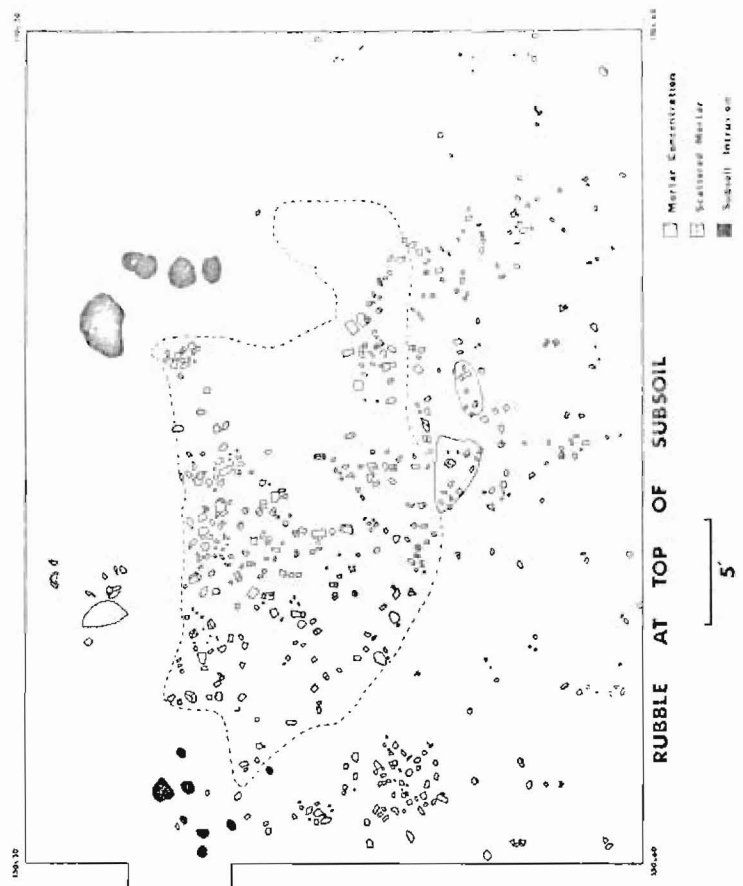
Figure 2

area between the two trenches (Figures 1 and 2). The gravels continued in 170L100 and the western half of 150L90. The western end of Trench 13 and 130L95 had been badly eroded and recently disturbed. In both instances there were only about .3' of sod overlying the subsoil, and the area immediately west of the trench had been the site of a twentieth century house, which was occupied until the park acquired the property in the 1960's. As a result of its construction, occupation, and destruction, the western half of Trench 13 and 130L95 contained nothing more than a few scraps of modern garbage.

It still cannot be stated with certainty what forces were responsible for the deposition of the gravels, but their compactness and restricted distribution seem anomalous as a natural occurrence. One possible interpretation is that the gravels were brought in and laid down in the process of maintaining the Retreat Road. It does not seem unreasonable to expect that some efforts would have been made to maintain the road, at least in the area of the courthouse, and the gravels could have served this purpose by inhibiting rutting and increasing traction during wet weather. However, this interpretation cannot be verified archaeologically, because plowing and/or erosion have obliterated any subsoil traces of the road bed itself.

The Courthouse Area

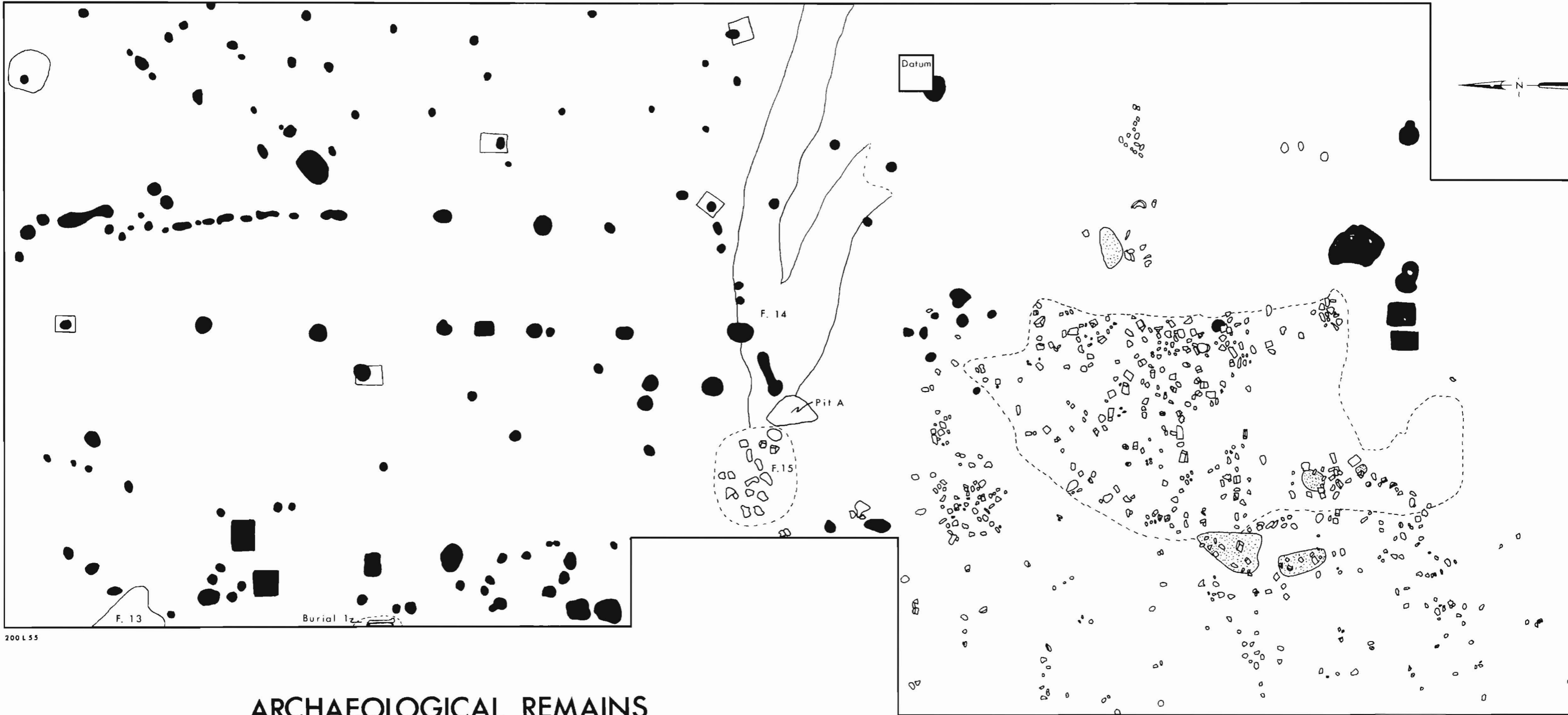
As was previously mentioned, the western end of Trench 13 revealed a thin, badly disturbed modern deposit. In contrast, the eastern end of the trench contained a large number of small eighteenth century brick fragments in the plow zone and embedded in the upper portion of the subsoil. The discovery of these brick fragments led to the initial excavation of a 40' by 30' area approximately 25' west of the traditional courthouse site (Figure 3).



ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS
OF
GUILFORD COURTHOUSE

The excavation of this area was completed in three steps. Because the broken brick and rock rubble was extremely compact and began to appear just beneath the surface, the entire area was first taken down to an average depth of only .3', and all brick fragments and stone were left in situ. Although no whole brick or articulated patterns were discerned, this initial clearing made possible the definition of the edges of the rubble, which was designated Feature 12. It was then mapped and photographed, and excavation continued to the subsoil surface. All brick, brick fragments, and stones resting on or intruding into the subsoil were again left in place. In addition to the rubble, traces of mortar were found throughout and in three instances, fairly thick homogeneous lens were noted. However, no articulated brick or rubble patterns reflecting definite structural or functional characteristics were in evidence (Figure-3). At this point it was felt that some type of footing was probably set in the subsoil and concealed by the rubble. Again, the feature was mapped and photographed prior to the complete clearing of the subsoil to determine if such a footing was present. This final operation revealed that no articulated structural remains were associated with the rubble mass. It was simply scattered throughout the 40' by 30' area, although it was concentrated in the center of the excavation.

While the rubble was being exposed, Trench 14, extending from the eastern end of Trench 12 to the northern edge of the rubble, was excavated. Although no building rubble was encountered in the trench, a line of rather large (.9' to 1.3' in diameter) postholes was uncovered (Figure 3). They were spaced at fairly regular intervals and averaged



ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS
 OF
 GUILFORD COURTHOUSE
 END OF 1975 SEASON

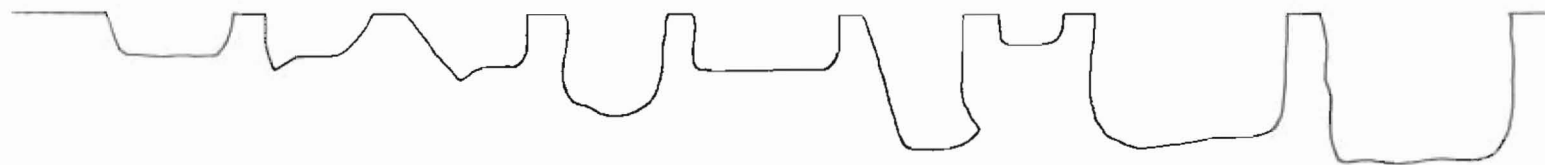
0 5 10
 FEET

approximately 1' in depth. The size, spacing, and alignment of the postholes suggested they might have been dug to support wooden piers used in the underpinning of a structure. It was expected that parallel lines of similar intrusions would be found along one or both sides of this initial line. The search for supportive evidence led to the eventual excavation of a strip 15' wide on either side of Trench 14. A series of 10' squares was also taken out along the eastern edge of the rubble in hopes of finding additional structural evidence. At the end of the 1975 field season, the evidence for the existence of a structure in the courthouse area was substantial. In addition to the rubble, numerous postholes and features were uncovered indicating a considerable amount of construction activity (Figure 4).

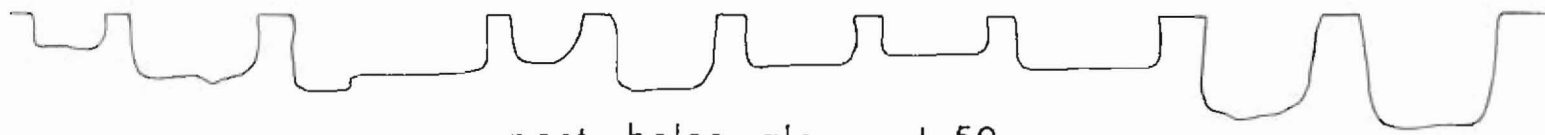
The postholes could be divided into two types depending on size and shape. The most numerous category was generally circular, no more than 6" in diameter, and seldom more than 6" deep with rounded or pointed bottoms (Figure 5). (It should be kept in mind that all the postholes and features had been truncated by plow action and, in some instances, also by the archaeologist's shovel). The other type of postholes was circular or rectangular and averaged around 1' in width and 6" in depth. The sides were straight, and the bottoms were normally flat but sometimes stepped or peaked (Figure 5). The rectangular variety of the postholes almost always had a circular postmold tucked along one side or in a corner. It is suspected that this latter type was used for primary pier supports, while the more numerous, smaller postholes were



post holes along L 30



post holes along L 35



post holes along L 50



GfV44, 1975
POST HOLE CROSS SECTIONS

Figure 5

dug to hold up secondary supports and, in most cases, probably resulted from repair work. Artifactual material in the fill from all the postholes was generally sparse but dated from the Revolutionary Period to the early nineteenth century.

If it is granted that the postholes were associated with the underpinning of a structure, the rubble probably represents the remnants of a chimney. This assumption is suggested by its position relative to the postholes and by comparative data gathered in 1972. At this time, two distinct types of brick were found to be associated with the house that was partially excavated. A large buff colored variety was used in the chimney footing, while a smaller red type was found in the foundation rubble rimming the cellar fill. The majority of the brick in the rubble exposed in the current project was buff colored, and the almost complete specimens conformed in size and shape to those used in the previously excavated chimney footing. Also of note is the fact that at the Colonial settlement of Long Bluff in Darlington County, South Carolina, work carried out by the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, revealed that the only structural evidence remaining after the site had been cultivated was clusters of brick rubble which was interpreted as chimney remains (Lewis 1975:17).

The coexistence of the postholes and rubble within spacial parameters consistent with Revolutionary Period structural dimensions certainly supports the conclusion that a building was present in the excavated area. The proximity of this area to the traditional site of the courthouse is, of course, not sufficient evidence to allow an identification of the

structural remains as the courthouse. However, from what is known about the courthouse and its history, the extant archaeological evidence is not inconsistent with what should be expected.

The roughly rectangular area circumscribed by the postholes from approximately 165-195L50-L30 falls within the size range expected for the courthouse foundation. Further, it is known that the courthouse was initially set on wooden pens; the three lines of postholes running north-south along L30, L35, and L50 could very well have served to seat these supports. The rather haphazard alignment of the postholes and their variation in size is suggestive of the ephemeral and dilapidated nature of the courthouse throughout its history. Although set on brick underpinnings toward the end of its existence, it is not surprising that archaeological evidence for these supports has not been forthcoming. Since the courthouse was torn down shortly after its abandonment, these foundation elements were probably also removed. If not dismantled at this time, they most surely were as the area came under cultivation. It is possible that some of the rectangular postholes without postmolds could have been dug as footing for the brick piers, but this is unlikely as no brick, other than a few small fragments in the fill, were recovered from them. The brick piers were probably either layed directly on the ground surface or in relatively shallow depressions which would have been plowed away. The absence of an articulated subsoil footing in the immediate area of the chimney fall was unexpected, but evidence for a footing was present in adjacent squares and will be discussed in the following section.

Other Features in the Courthouse Area

As stated previously, the features were numbered sequentially starting from the last number assigned in 1972. The first feature was the chimney fall, Feature 12, which was discussed above. Feature 13 was located along the west profile of square 190L35 and extended 2.85' into the western portion of the square. It was a little over .5' deep and measured 3.7' along its north-south axis. Although the entire feature was not excavated, it appeared to be a fairly shallow basin-shaped depression that had been filled with dark brown soil containing hand-wrought nails, some copper scraps, a few fragments of animal bone, and late eighteenth historic ceramics. The contents suggests a trash pit, and the shallow depth probably resulted, to some degree, from plow truncation.

Feature 14 extended from 150L20 through 150L45. In 150L40 the feature split into a "Y" shape with a northern and southern branch extending into 150L30 and 150L35. The feature consisted of thin bands of red and white sand overlying a layer of fine gravel. It had a shallow "V" shaped profile and was only a little over .3' at its maximum depth which was in the northern arm. Toward the western end the feature thinned out and the sand bands became indistinctive. Artifactual material was generally sparse, but the larger heavier specimens, such as hand-wrought nails, and musket balls were restricted to the gravel layer, while ceramic and glass sherds occurred in the upper sandy soil. The configuration of the feature and the laminated structure of the fill would seem to indicate the presence of an old gulley.

At the western end of Feature 14 was a basin-shaped ovoid pit, Feature 15, which contained a good deal of brick and rock rubble, as well as general refuse. At first glance it appeared that Feature 15 might be the remains of the stone wall ordered by the court in 1796 to stop the "gullies by the gaol", however, Feature 15 was intrusive into Feature 14 and extended to a depth almost .5' below the bottom of the putative gully. In addition, the thinness of Feature 14 at ~~its juncture with~~ Feature 15 implies that although it probably was a gully, it would hardly have needed a stone wall to control it. An alternative and more plausible hypothesis is that the pit was created in the process of taking out the courthouse chimney footing. This would explain the large amount of rubble within the fill, and its location between the posthole alignments and the chimney fall. Granted its size (5' by 4.5') is smaller than the domestic footing found in 1972, but since the fireplace in the courthouse would not have been used for cooking, there is no reason for it to have been any larger. The size suggested by the pit is certainly consistent with fireplaces found in contemporary structures of comparable size in the rural south, and a Revolutionary Period fireplace of approximately the same size was also found at Fort Stanwix in New York (Hanson and Hsu 1975:44-46).

In addition to these features, a pit containing two human tibiae and fibulae along with a left calcaneum, a metatarsus, and a phalange was located in the west profile of 170I45. The "D" shaped pit was 1.5' by 2' and a little less than a half foot deep. Both left and right legs were represented with the distal ends of the right tibia and fibula

lying next to the proximal ends of the left tibia and fibula. The foot bones were scattered along the bottom of the pit. Although the distal ends of the leg bones were shattered and the proximal ends poorly preserved, they appear to have been associated with the same individual.

No knife or saw marks were observed, consequently, the bones must have been separated at the knee joint. The most plausible explanation is that they represent a double amputation most likely resulting from wounds received during the battle. The shattered distal ends of the long bones and the absence of most of the foot bones suggest traumatic injury in the lower leg area. Further, the position of the pit relative to the line of postholes believed to have been part of the courthouse underpinning points to the fact that the courthouse might have served as an aid station during and after the battle (Figure 4).

HORIZONTAL DISTRIBUTIONS OF ARTIFACTS IN THE COURTHOUSE AREA

Since almost all of the material was recovered from the plow zone, in conjunction with the fact that the site was occupied for such a relatively brief period, vertical, stratigraphic separation was impossible. However, while excavating squares in the courthouse area, it was noticed that some units tended to produce more material and different kinds of material than others. To determine if there were any horizontal patterns to these variations and to see if various artifact classes co-varied, the occurrence density of the most frequently encountered artifact groups (ceramics, nails, and flat glass) were calculated. These calculations were made by dividing the total number of specimens in each class by the total volume of excavated earth from each horizontal grid section. Specimens from postholes and other sub-soil intrusions were excluded because of their extremely low densities and the difficulties involved in calculating the volumes of irregular configurations. This exclusion had minimal impact on the procedure as over 95% of the artifacts were from the plow zone. After density figures were derived for the grid units, they were transformed into contours and frequency profiles (Figures 6, 7, and 8).

Each artifact class had a different overall distribution, but all were similar in that there were low densities in the area of the postholes. There was also a general tendency for the densities to increase in the east-central area of the excavation from roughly 140-160L30-40. The ceramic density increased fairly evenly from west to east and began peaking along the L30 line. There was also a peak in the northeast

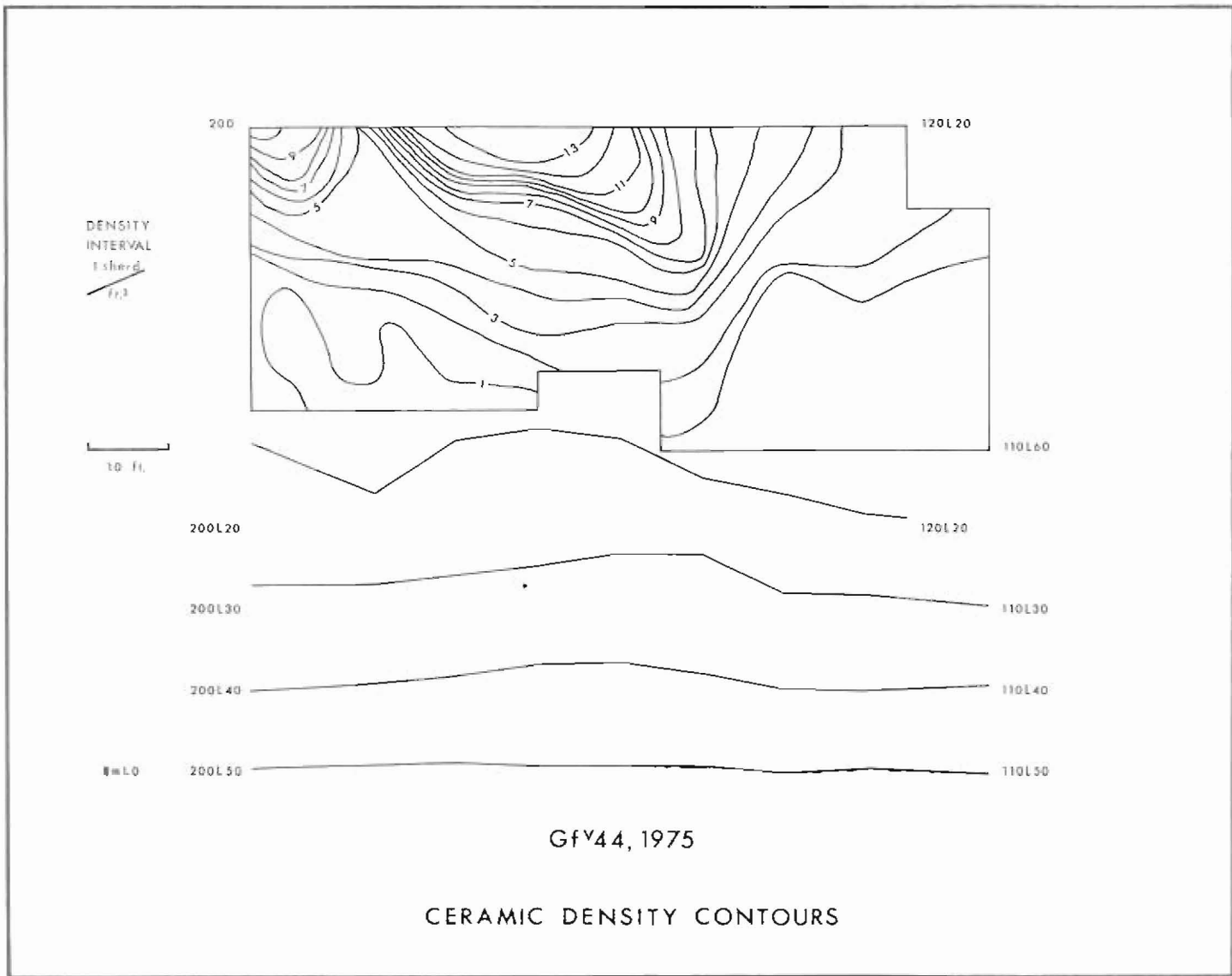


Figure 6

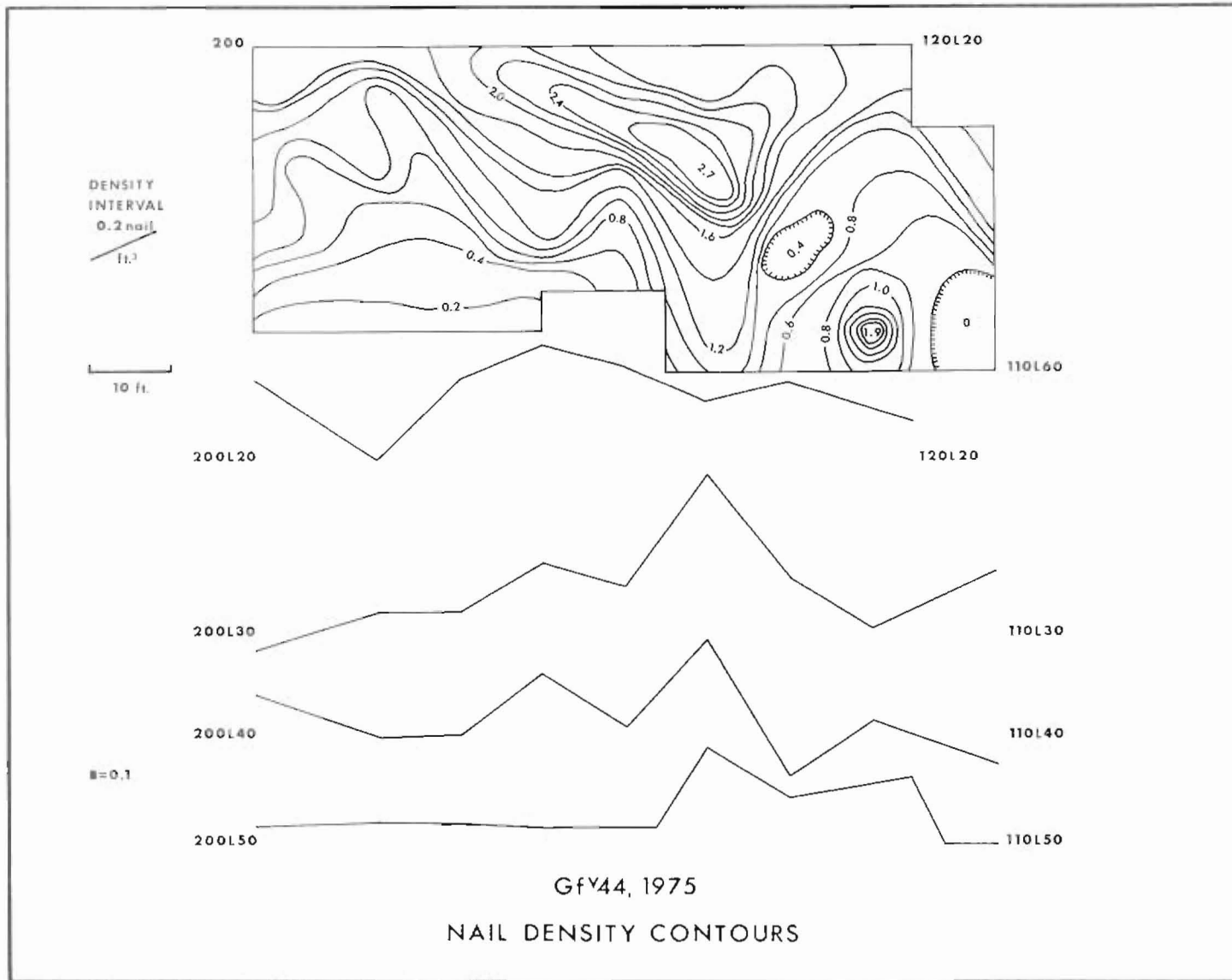


Figure 7

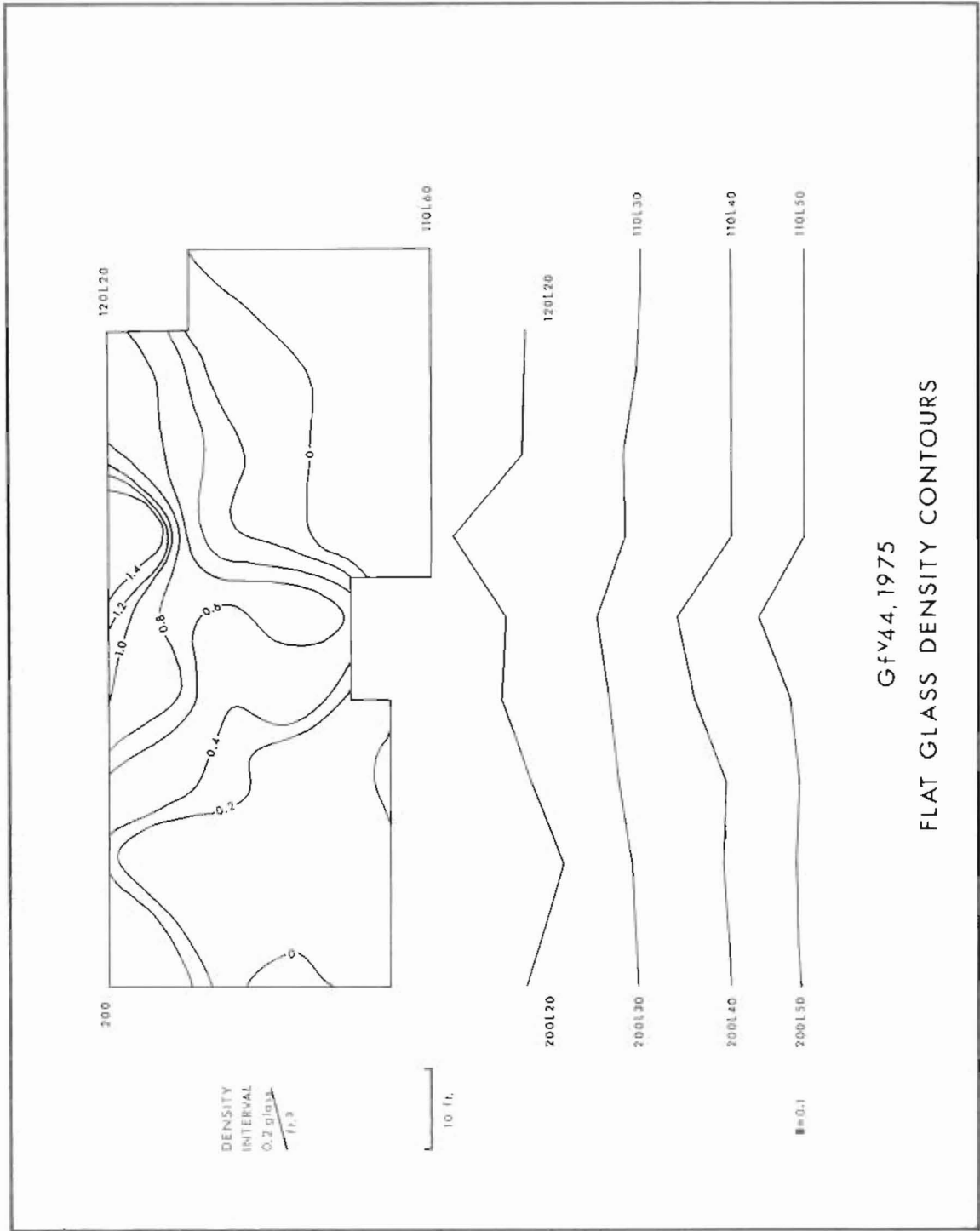


Figure 8

corner next to the old well (Figure 6). Nails were most common between 140-160L30-40 and also had a high occurrence in the southwest section of the excavation adjacent to the western edge of the chimney fall (Figure 7). Flat glass, in most instances window glass, had the lowest densities of the three artifact classes, but in terms of distribution, it was very similar to the ceramics (Figure 8).

It is not certain what, if any, conclusions can be drawn from this data, but two general trends were evident. First and most obvious is the fact that artifact concentrations were increasing to the north and to the east. This increase could indicate additional features and domestic structures in the area south of the old well, but only extended excavations can substantiate this evaluation. The second and most significant trend in terms of the current project was that material occurred with a low density in the area where the courthouse is believed to have stood. This distribution would be expected if a public building was present which could effectively seal the area from the accumulation of domestic debris. The low density of artifacts, especially nails and glass, also supports the conclusion that the courthouse was dismantled and salvaged for use elsewhere. Albeit speculative, these observations are not inconsistent with the functional and structural aspects of the courthouse as revealed historically and archaeologically.

ARTIFACT DESCRIPTIONS

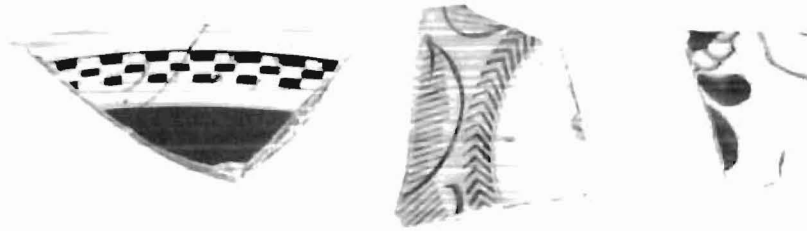
Pottery

A total of 14,040 sherds were recovered during the course of the excavation. Over 93% of these came from the courthouse area while the remainder was collected from the trenches and squares excavated during the search for the Retreat Road. The total sample was analyzed to see if significant temporal variation existed in the various sections of the site.

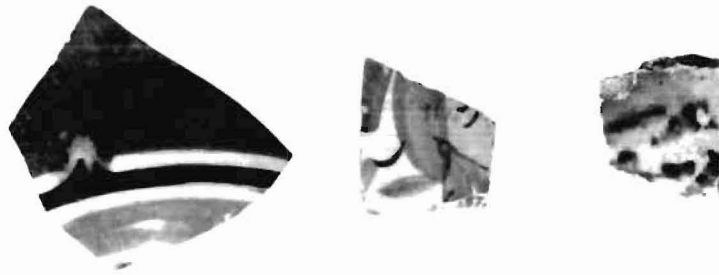
The sherds were first divided into datable and nondatable categories. The datable types included those described by Hume (1970) and refined by South (1972). These types are well known and used by most historical archaeologists. As a consequence, the literature is replete with type descriptions, and no attempt will be made here to paraphrase these sources by discussing the various distinguishing attributes. The interested reader is referred to Hume (1970) and South (1972).

The nondatable ceramics were, for the most part, locally produced wares which evidently came from the kilns of Goftfried Aust and his student, Rudolf Christ. Both men were accomplished Moravian craftsmen working between 1756 and 1821, initially in the settlement of Bethabara and later at Salem. Neither location was more than thirty miles from Martinville.

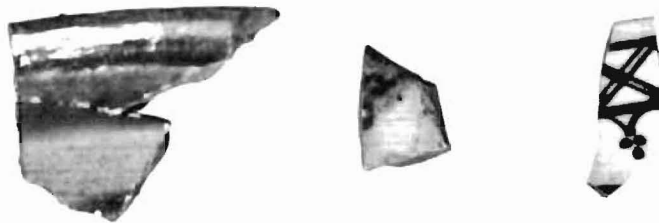
Because of their specialized, utilitarian nature, these ceramics did not change sufficiently through time to permit them to be used as sensitive temporal barometers. Here they are referred to as "jug" wares although a considerable variety of forms were no doubt represented.



A



B



C

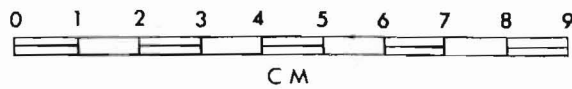
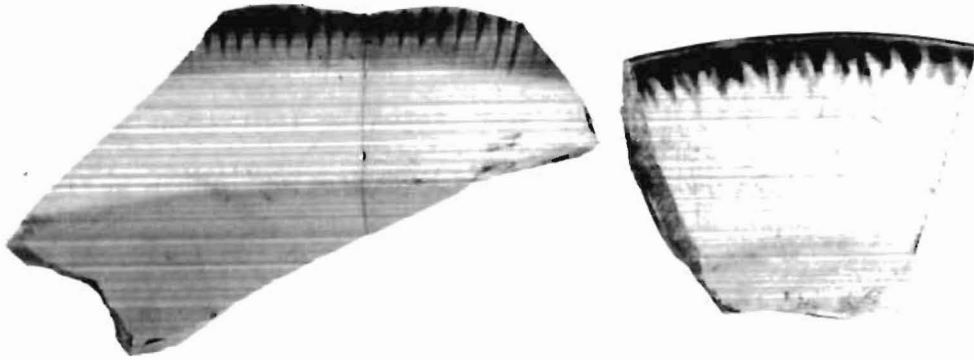


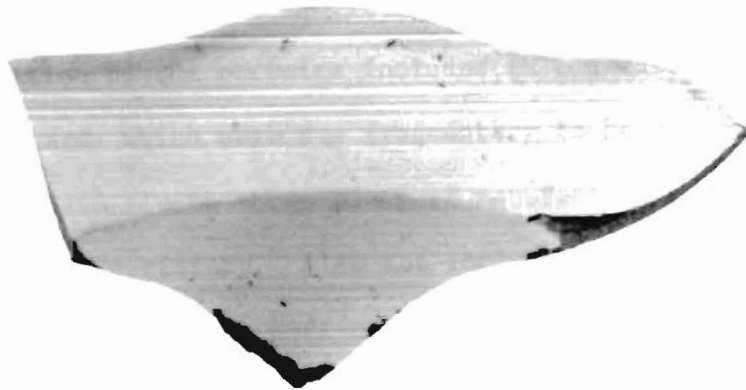
Plate I

Typical Small Sherds

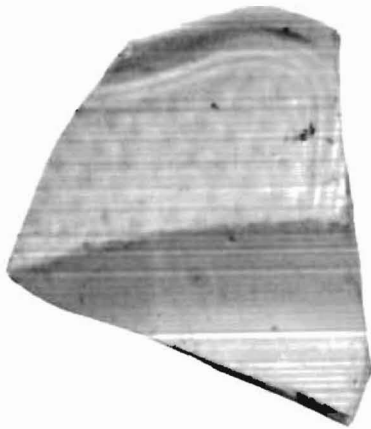
Left to Right, Row A; "Annular Wares", "Scratch Blue" Salt-Glaze, Delft. Row B; Mocha, Underglaze Polychrome, "Clouded" Ware. Row C; Polychrome Lead-Glazed, Transfer Printed, Underglaze Blue Hand Painted.



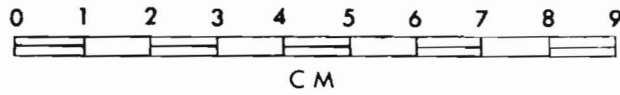
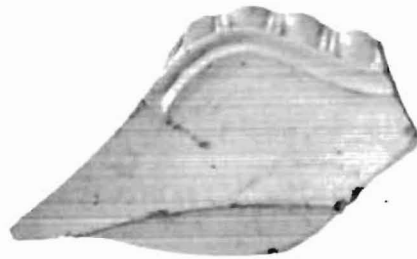
A



B



C



CM

Plate II

Atypical Large Sherds

Row A; Edged Pearlware. Row B; Whiteware. Row C; White Salt-Glaze.

Most of the sherds themselves were too small to allow vessel reconstructions, but the Moravian records indicate that jugs, jars, bowls, skillets, and crocks were all part of the Aust-Christ inventory (Bivins 1973). For analytical purposes, the "jug" wares were separated into descriptive niches defined by color and glaze characteristics. Although beyond the scope of this report, a detailed, comparative study of the Guilford and Salem ceramics would be extremely interesting and should provide considerable etic insight into the nature of the different cultures represented at the two settlements.

In addition to the ceramics included in the various tables, there were 1,147 sherds which were too fragmentary to be adequately identified and 282 porcelain pieces whose place of manufacture could not be established with certainty. Also not included were 19 aboriginal body sherds. These were plain, buff colored specimens with a compact fine sand tempered paste, giving an overall appearance reminiscent of historic Catawba types, as would be expected in the Martinville area during the Colonial period.

As stated previously, the primary concern of the ceramic analysis was to determine if significant temporal variation existed in those areas excavated. Although 86% of the sherds were from the plow zone, there is no reason why they should not be useful in segregating broad spacial proveniences which were temporally distinct. This utility results from the fact that horizontal displacement tends to be minimal after years of plowings, and artifacts in the plow zone normally mirror the contents of the undisturbed deposits that were, and in many instances still are, present beneath the furrow slice.

Initially, the ceramics were broken down into two horizontally defined zones, those from the courthouse area and those from the trenches and squares west of the courthouse area. Then in order to see how closely the plow zone material resembled the ceramics from the undisturbed features beneath, the sherds from the courthouse area were further subdivided into three groups; those from the plow zone (Table 1), those from postholes and feature fill (Table 2), and those associated with the rubble (Table 3). It was necessary to lump the specimens from the individual postholes and features because, with one exception, there were not enough sherds to permit valid statistical manipulations. The exception was Feature 12, the rubble from the chimney fall. The 101 sherds collected while the rubble was being cleaned and taken out were kept separate and analyzed as a unit.

The results of the ceramic analysis were not surprising as the vast majority of the material fell well within the temporal brackets established for the courthouse and Martinville by the historic record (see pages 5 and 8). The Lighter Yellow Creamware was, by far, the most popular type for all areas of the site, especially the section west of the courthouse (Table 4). It was somewhat curious that almost all the decorated varieties were Pearlware and none of the Creamware was decorated. Initially, it was felt that the decorated Creamware was just not being recognized. However, re-checks and re-analyses by different individuals with past experience in historic ceramics substantiated the initial findings. There simply were no decorated Creamware sherds.

The earliest date and also the one closest to the historic median date was derived from the sample collected during the cleaning and removal of the rubble (Table 3). This 1799.6 date was due primarily to a complete

absence of Whiteware. Although not present in large quantities in any of the samples, its 1860 median date produces a large sherd count-median date product which no doubt skewed the dates for the other samples, making them somewhat later than they should be.

There was little difference (2.2 years) between the dates established for the plow zone ceramics in the courthouse area and the sherds from the undisturbed fill of the features and postholes beneath, again indicating the utility of plow zone material in reflecting the character of associated undisturbed deposits (Tables 1 and 2). The presence of Whiteware, Mocha, some Pearlware types, Delft, Salt-Glaze, and "Clouded" Ware suggests the courthouse area was utilized earlier and later than the known historic range, but the overwhelming majority of the ceramics compared well with the historic median date (Tables 1, 2, and 3).

The area west of the courthouse dated much earlier than the historic median date which itself was somewhat arbitrary because this section of the site was occupied until the middle part of this century. This early mean ceramic date reflected the high percentage of Lighter Yellow Creamware recovered here (Table 4). In general, this was also the most homogeneous sample which no doubt resulted from the small size of the sampling unit as over 95% of the sherds came from the last 20' of Trench 12.

In all the sections, the most popular "jug" ware type was the plain, buff colored variety with a lead glazed interior, which ranged from a dark tan to a dark brown, almost black color. Functionally, these sherds

Table 1. Datable Ceramics from Courthouse
Area, Plow Zone

Type	Type Median Date (x_i)	Sherd Count (f_i)	Product ($x_i \cdot f_i$)	Percent Total
PEARLWARE				
Plain	1805 A.D.	2,692	4,859,060	28.9
Willow Transfer-Printed	1818	158	287,244	1.7
Blue Shell Edged	1805	278	501,790	3.0
Green Shell Edged	1805	321	579,405	3.4
"Annular Wares"	1805	165	297,825	1.8
Underglaze Blue Hand Painted	1800	571	1,027,800	6.1
Underglaze Polychrome	1805	295	532,475	3.2
Transfer-Printed	1818	15	27,270	.2
REFINED EARTHENWARE				
Whiteware	1860	101	187,860	1.1
Mocha	1843	14	25,802	.2
"Clouded" Ware	1755	26	45,630	.3
WHITE STONEWARE				
Moulded White Salt-Glaze	1753	28	49,084	.3
"Scratch Blue" White Salt-Glaze	1760	33	58,080	.4
TIN-ENAMELLED EARTHENWARE				
Mimosa Pattern Delft	1725	31	53,475	.3
CREAMWARE				
Lighter Yellow	1798	4,579	8,233,042	49.1
OTHER				
"Black Basalts" Stoneware	1785	13	23,205	.1
TOTAL		9,320	16,789,047	100.0

HISTORIC DATES 1776-1811 A.D.
HISTORIC MEDIAN DATE 1794 A.D.
MEAN CERAMIC DATE 1801.4 A.D.

Table 2. Datable Ceramics from Courthouse
Area, Features and Postholes

Type	Type Median Date (x_i)	Sherd Count (f_i)	Product ($x_i \cdot f_i$)	Percent Total
PEARLWARE				
Plain	1805 A.D.	116	209,380	23.0
Willow Transfer-Printed	1818	20	36,360	4.0
Blue Shell Edged	1805	3	5,415	.6
Green Shell Edged	1805	5	9,025	1.0
"Annular Wares"	1805	15	27,075	3.0
Underglaze Blue Hand Painted	1800	30	54,000	6.0
Underglaze Polychrome Transfer Printed	1805 1818	17	30,685	3.4
REFINED EARTHENWARE				
Whiteware	1860	25	46,500	5.0
Mocha	1843			
"Clouded" Ware	1755			
WHITE STONEWARE				
Moulded White Salt-Glaze	1753	2	3,506	.4
"Scratch Blue" White Salt-Glaze	1760	1	1,760	.2
TIN-ENAMELLED EARTHENWARE				
Mimosa Pattern Delft	1725	2	3,450	.4
CREAMWARE				
Lighter Yellow	1798	268	481,864	53.2
OTHER				
"Black Basalts" Stoneware	1785			
TOTAL		504	909,020	100.0

HISTORIC DATES 1776-1811 A.D.

HISTORIC MEDIAN DATE 1794 A.D.

MEAN CERAMIC DATE 1803.6 A.D.

Table 3. Datable Ceramics Associated with
the Rubble, Feature 12

Type	Type Median Date (x_i)	Sherd Count (f_i)	Product ($x_i \cdot f_i$)	Percent Total
PEARLWARE				
Plain	1805 A.D.	22	29,710	21.8
Willow Transfer-Printed	1818	4	7,272	4.0
Blue Shell Edged	1805	1	1,805	1.0
"Annular Wares"	1805	4	7,220	4.0
Underglazed Blue Hand Painted	1800	11	19,800	10.9
Underglazed Polychrome	1805	5	9,025	5.0
WHITE STONEWARE				
Molded White Salt-Glaze	1753	2	3,506	2.0
"Scratch Blue" White Salt-Glaze	1760	2	3,520	2.0
CREAMWARE				
Lighter Yellow	1798	50	89,900	49.5
TOTAL		101	181,758	100.0

HISTORIC DATES 1776-1811 A.D.

HISTORIC MEDIAN DATE 1794 A.D.

MEAN CERAMIC DATE 1799.6 A.D.

Table 4. Datable Ceramics West of the Courthouse Area

Type	Type Median Date (x_i)	Sherd Count (f_i)	Product ($x_i \cdot f_i$)	Percent Total
PEARLWARE				
Plain	1805 A.D.	134	241,870	12.3
Willow Transfer-Printed	1818	16	29,088	1.5
Blue Shell Edged	1805	6	10,830	.5
Green Shell Edged	1805	7	12,635	.6
"Annular Wares"	1805	13	23,465	1.2
Underglaze Blue Hand Painted	1800	35	63,000	3.2
Underglaze Polychrome	1805	9	16,245	.8
Transfer Printed	1818	1	1,818	.1
REFINED EARTHENWARE				
Whiteware	1860	56	104,160	5.1
Mocha	1843			
"Clouded" Ware	1755			
WHITE STONEWARE				
Moulded White Salt-Glaze	1753	3	5,259	.3
"Scratch Blue" White Salt-Glaze	1760			
TIN-ENAMELLED EARTHENWARE				
Mimosa Pattern Delft				
CREAMWARE				
Lighter Yellow	1798	812	1,459,976	74.4
OTHER				
"Black Basalts" Stoneware				
TOTAL		1,092	1,968,346	100.0

HISTORIC DATES 1776-1850 (?) A.D.
HISTORIC MEDIAN DATE 1813.5 (?) A.D.
MEAN CERAMIC DATE 1802.5 A.D.

Table 5. "Jug" Wares

Type	Courthouse Area Plow Zone		Courthouse Area Features & Postholes		Outside Courthouse Area		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Brown Salt-Glazed	126	10.2	3	6.8	6	2.1	135	8.6
Lead-Glazed	178	14.4	4	9.1	21	7.2	203	12.9
Tin-Glazed	5	.4	1	2.3	4	1.4	10	.6
Grey Salt-Glazed	57	4.6	3	6.8	5	1.7	65	4.1
Lead-Glazed	2	.2	1	2.3			3	.2
Mottled Brown Salt-Glazed	171	13.8	13	29.5	6	2.1	190	12.1
Buff with Lead-Glazed Interior	571	46.0	15	34.1	216	74.2	802	50.9
Polychrome Lead-Glazed	111	9.0	1	2.3	33	11.3	145	9.2
Green Lead Glazed	9	.7					9	.6
"Westerwald"	10	.8	3	6.8			13	.8
TOTAL	1240	78.7	44	2.8	291	18.5	1575	100.0

appear to represent the remains of multi-purpose crocks and jugs. Although this type occurred with the greatest frequency throughout the site, the area west of the courthouse contained, by far, the greatest percentage (Table 5). Distinct activity areas are suggested, but additional excavations and the isolation of structures and features are necessary before conclusive assessments can be presented.

Finally, it should be reiterated that the ceramic analysis is not presented as direct evidence dating the utilization of the courthouse or any specific feature. The postholes and features were filled after the building was torn down, which explains why the terminus post quem for a few of the ceramic types was somewhat later than the 1811 terminal date for the courthouse. In addition, the ceramics recovered from the plow zone only date so many cubic feet of plow zone, although the plow zone material certainly maintains much of the horizontal integrity of the original undisturbed deposits. In addition, a lot of dishes were presumably not being broken in the course of the court conducting its business. As a consequence, the sherds recovered from the courthouse area date domestic activities which, although not taking place in the courthouse, were integrated culturally and temporally with the highly specialized activities being conducted there. Therefore, there is an indirect relationship between the ceramics and the courthouse itself.

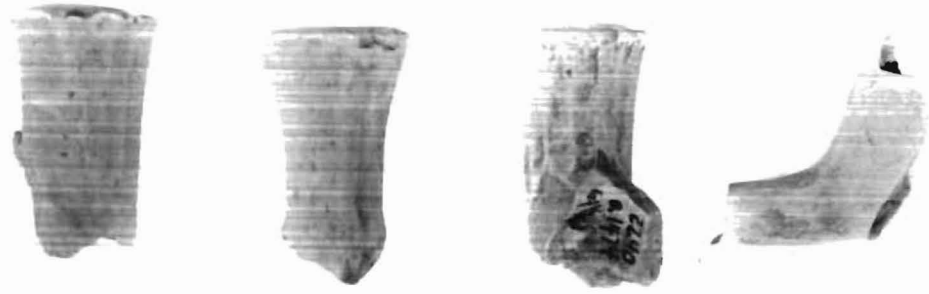
Pipes

The pipes, like the ceramics, were separated into two general classes according to where they were made. The largest group contained 17 plain imported kaolin bowl fragments and 133 kaolin stem segments.

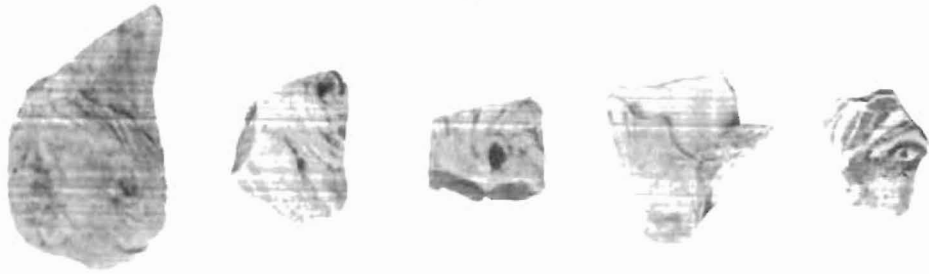
The bowl fragments were extremely small with only one being relatively complete. It was heeless, and the angle between the stem and bowl was approximately 110 degrees (Plate III, Row A, far right). As expected, the bore diameters of the stems averaged 4/64".

The second category was comprised of 65 bowls and bowl fragments which were made at Bethabara and Salem. These locally produced pipes were distinctive in a number of ways, but most noticeable were bowl thickness and surface finish. The most prevalent variety, represented by 43 pieces, was unglazed, buff colored, and decorated with parallel flutes running perpendicular to the stem. The bowls were extremely thick averaging 6 mm. at the top (Plate III, Row A, first three from the left). A dark green lead glaze was applied to five fluted bowls (Plate III, Row C, second from the left). Glazed and unglazed fluted pipes were made in Bethabara and Salem by Gottfried Aust and Rudolph Christ between 1755 and 1802 (South 1965).

Most interesting of the locally produced pipes were 17 anthropomorphic bowl fragments. All but one were also buff colored and unglazed, but the bowls were thinner, averaging 4 mm. (Plate III, Row B). The other anthropomorphic specimen was similar, but a green lead glaze had been applied to the surface (Plate III, Row C, first on the left). In some cases, it was possible to determine whether Aust or Christ had made the pipes. Those with well defined, naturalistic ears were produced by Aust between 1755 and 1771 while Christ began making bowls with highly stylized, almost unrecognizable ears in 1786 and continued until 1802 (South 1965:54). Well defined ears were present on five of the fragments, and two exhibited stylized ears. However, because the ear portion of the



A



B



C

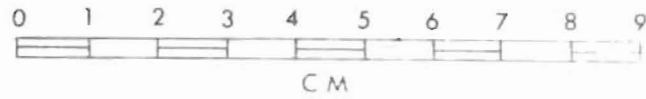


Plate III

Fluted, Kaolin, and Anthropomorphic Pipes

face was missing on the remaining anthropomorphic bowls, it was impossible to determine the relative popularity of the Aust and Christ pipes.

In addition to the Colonial pipes, two fragments of aboriginal bowls were recovered (Plate III, Row C, last two on the right). Both were tanish-orange in color and had a compact, fine sand tempered paste similar to the aboriginal pottery. The plain undecorated cone-shaped bowls, in conjunction with the paste characteristics, suggests a Catawba affiliation.

Dining and Cutting Utensils

All the cutting utensils, forks, and spoons found were badly eroded and incomplete, allowing only general description. On the basis of blade morphology, two functionally distinct varieties of knives were recognizable, table knives and butcher knives. The table knives were represented by 11 blade and handle fragments with blade widths which averaged 3/4". Rounded or flat tangs were used indicating one or two-piece handles of bone or wood although none were preserved. Blunt, rounded, up-turned blade tips were common, and one specimen displayed an arched back just above the shoulder (Plate IV, Row A). Little more can be said except all these attributes were typical of table knives in use during the middle and late eighteenth century (Hume 1974:242).

Butcher knives were represented by one-blade piece, which was heavily backed and wedge shaped in cross section. The blade width did not vary appreciably from the table knives, but the back of the blade was nearly three times as thick, 3 mm. as opposed to 1 mm. The identification of this fragment as a butcher knife blade was based on its

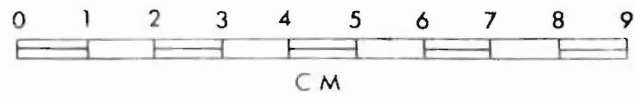
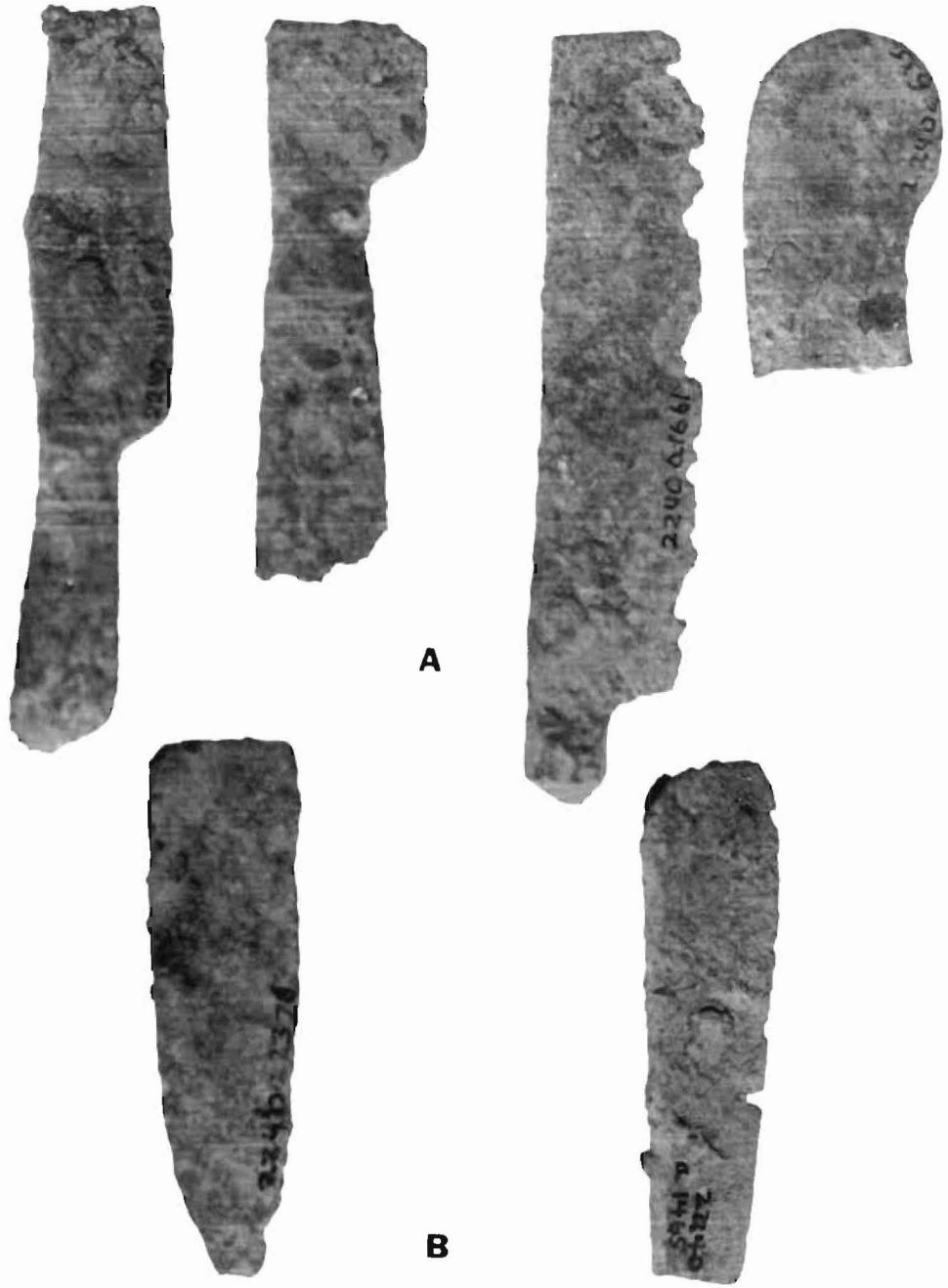
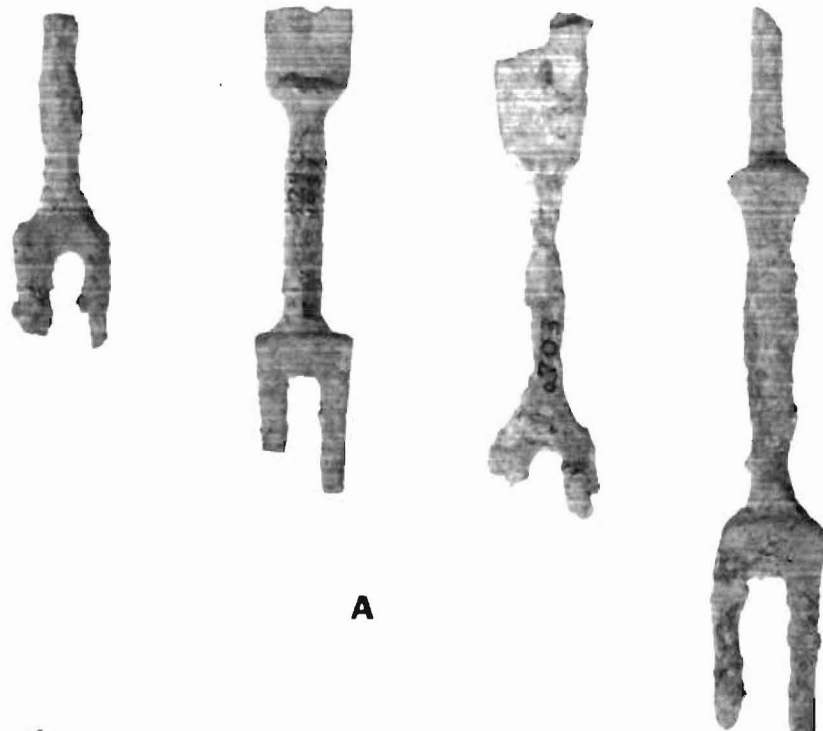


Plate IV
Cutting Tools

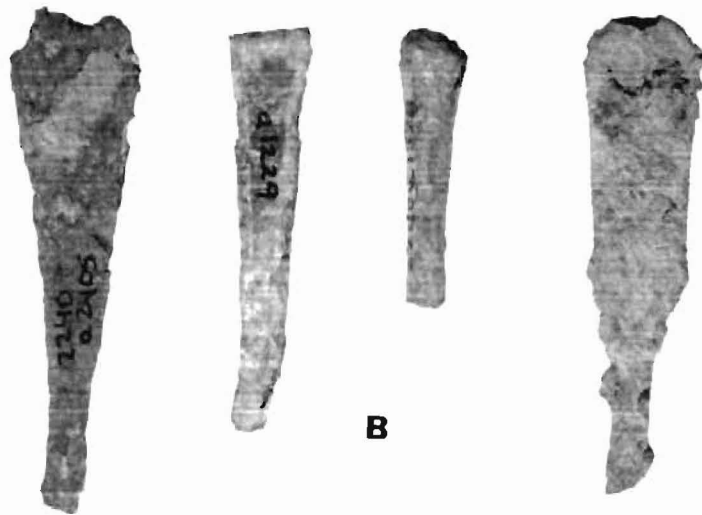
robustness as evidenced by the back thickness (Plate IV, Row B, far left). The blade of a straight razor was recovered which was also heavily back, but the sides were concave below the back making it considerably thinner than either the butcher knife or the table knife blades (Plate IV, Row B, far right).

Fork parts occurred with about the same frequency as knife fragments as nine examples were recognized. All were made of iron and had two tines, but some variation was present in the tine shapes. Rounded tines were most popular with seven representatives, while flat tines were observed twice. As with the knives, no handles were preserved, but flat and rounded tangs indicated both one and two piece types were used (Plate V, Row A).

Spoons were evidenced by six handles and a single small bowl fragment. Four of the handles were flat, spatula shaped, and made from pewter (Plate V, Row B, first two on the left). One of the remaining handles was also made of pewter but was thick and tapered in cross section (Plate V, Row B, third from the left). The remaining handle was flat and spatula shaped but made from iron instead of pewter (Plate V, Row B, last on the right). Although incomplete, the spoon bowl appeared to have been egg shaped and was a little smaller than a contemporary teaspoon. Like the majority of the handles, it, too, was manufactured from pewter. All these utensils fit well within the middle to late eighteenth century mold and conform with the range of material expected from the site.



A



B

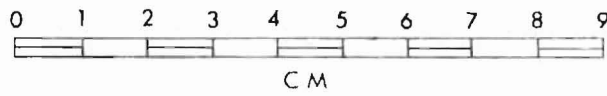


Plate V
Forks and Spoons

Buttons

Buttons were found quite frequently and exhibited considerable variety. There were two late nineteenth early twentieth century examples which were quite distinctive. One was made from brass, had a plain face, and a soldered eye while the words, "NINE GOLD TAC", were stamped on the back (Plate VI, Row D, fourth from the left). The other late button had an iron face and a lead backing, and its face was stamped with the design of a cap with the words, "RED KAPP", underneath (Plate VI, Row D, far right).

The majority of the buttons were not quite so elaborate and fell generally within the expected time frame. The most popular type, represented by 10 specimens, was made from white brass or copper and consisted of a flat coin shaped disc with a brass wire eye fastened to the back by a single drop of solder (Plate VI, Row C). These attributes conform with those used to define South's Type Nine buttons, which were found in a 1726-76 context at Brunswick Town (South 1964:118).

Seven buttons were molded from white brass or white metal and had flat plain polished faces (Plate VI, Row B). Except for the metal composition, these differed from the above type only in that the eye was attached to the back by a more massive boss. White brass was also used in the manufacture of three specimens with concave backs and soldered "U"-shaped eyes (Plate VI, Row D, first three from the left). These latter buttons were very similar to South's Type Ten which also dates between 1726 and 1776 (Ibid.). In addition to metal, bone was used to make four buttons (Plate VI, Row A, last four on the right). They were all flat and had single drilled eyes. These buttons were probably locally made and may have been covered with fabric. They were



A



B



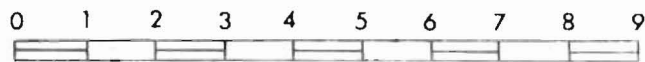
C



D



E



CM

Plate VI
Buttons and Cuff Links

identical to South's Type Fifteen dated between 1726 and 1865 (South 1964:119). The final two button types were each represented by only one example. The more unique of the two was made of dark green faceted glass which was set in a round white metal backing. A wire eye was fastened through the backing and soldered on the inside (Plate VI, Row A, first on the left). Buttons of this type have been classified as sleeve links and date from 1726 to 1776 (South 1964:125). The other button had a four-holed brass back and an embossed brass front (Plate VI, Row A, second from the left). It was identical to South's Type Three except that the back was brass and not wood or bone (South 1964:115). In addition to the buttons, four cuff links were identified, but all were recent types manufactured during the late nineteenth or early twentieth century (Plate VI, Row E).

Buckles

Both harness and shoe buckles, as well as one possible belt buckle, were represented. Seven of the eight harness buckles were square, made of iron and had single tangs. One specimen was ovoid in outline and was probably double tanged (Plate VII, Row C). The corroded condition and generalized nature of the buckle prohibited detailed description, and it was not possible to establish temporal limits.

A total of nine shoe buckle parts were found, and all but one were brass frames with various geometric motifs in relief around the periphery (Plate VII, Row A, far left and far right). The exceptional shoe buckle fragment (Plate VII, Row A, center) was part of an ogee sided back piece similar to types found at Colonial Williamsburg (see Abbitt 1973: fig. 18.7, 19.9). The possible belt buckle had a brass frame and an iron tang, but no date could be ascertained (Plate VII, Row B).



A



B



C



Plate VII
Shoe, Belt, and Harness Buckles

Horseshoes, Spurs, and Bits

Twelve halves and one complete horseshoe were collected during the course of the excavation. At first glance, the horseshoe halves resembled ox shoes, but closer examination revealed that they were branches of badly worn shoes which had broken at the tip of the U-shaped toe. All were handmade and of the keyhole variety (Plate VIII, Row B and C). Three holes per branch were most common although one specimen contained four holes. All calkins were extremely worn and fullering was frequently indeterminate, but when it could be observed, a U or V-shaped cross section indicating hand-wrought shoes was present. Horseshoes with these characteristics were widely used throughout the eighteenth century (Chappell 1973:103). The one complete shoe was also handmade, but the branches were thicker and more U shaped resembling those commonly used during the nineteenth century.

Other horse furniture included two iron spurs and a section of an iron bridle bit. One of the spurs had been silver plated and had a curved shank, which had probably held a vertically mounted rowel (Plate IX, B). The other spur had a simple straight, pointed shank without a rowel (Plate IX, A). The section of the bridle bit was too fragmentary to allow detailed description (Plate IX, C).

Gunflints and Gun Spalls

Both local as well as French and British lithic materials were used to make the gunflints, and two distinct chipping techniques were employed in the manufacturing process. The French and British flints were produced by the blade technique which was introduced to

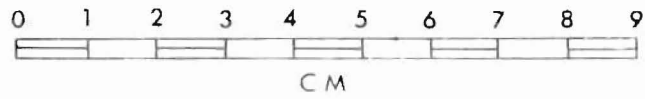
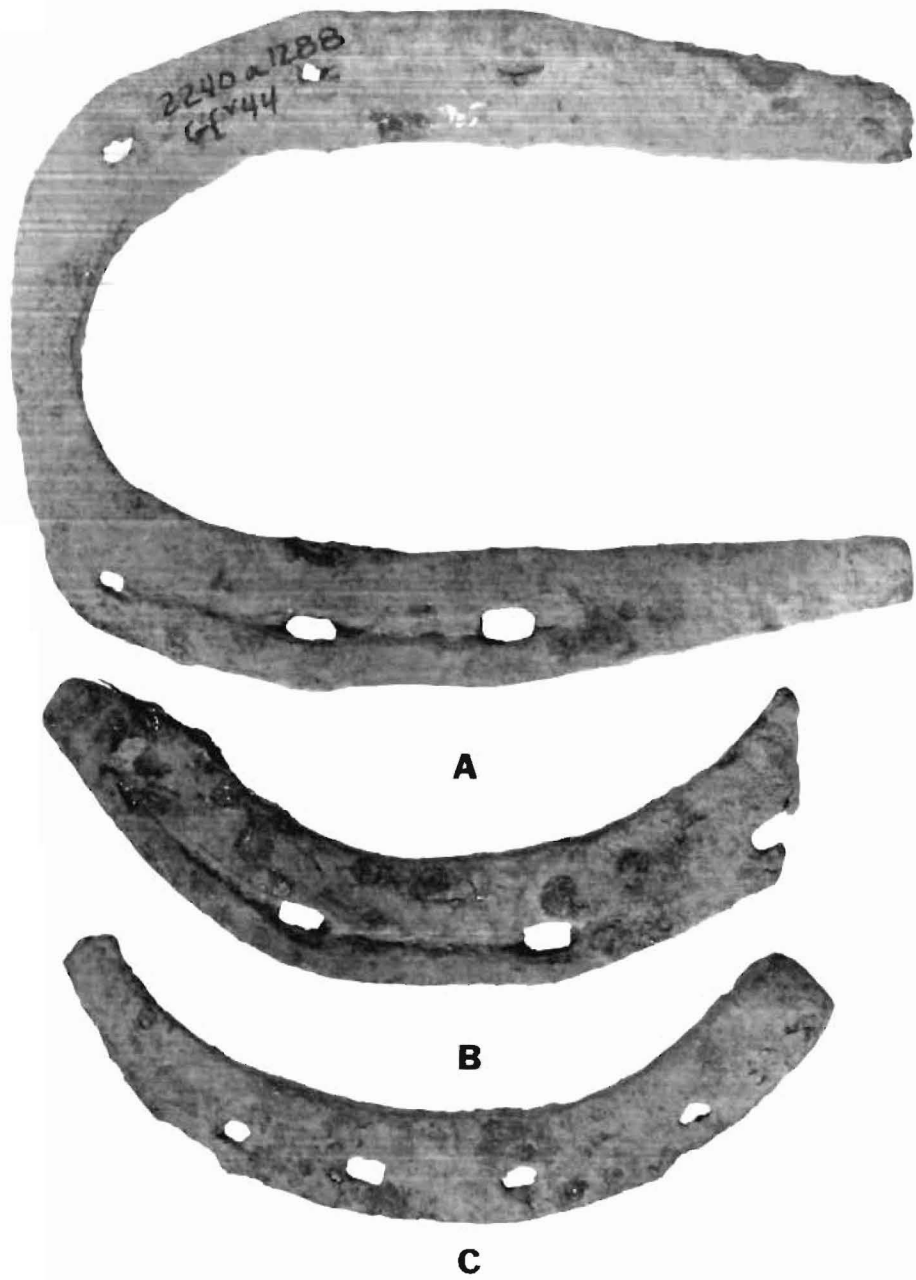
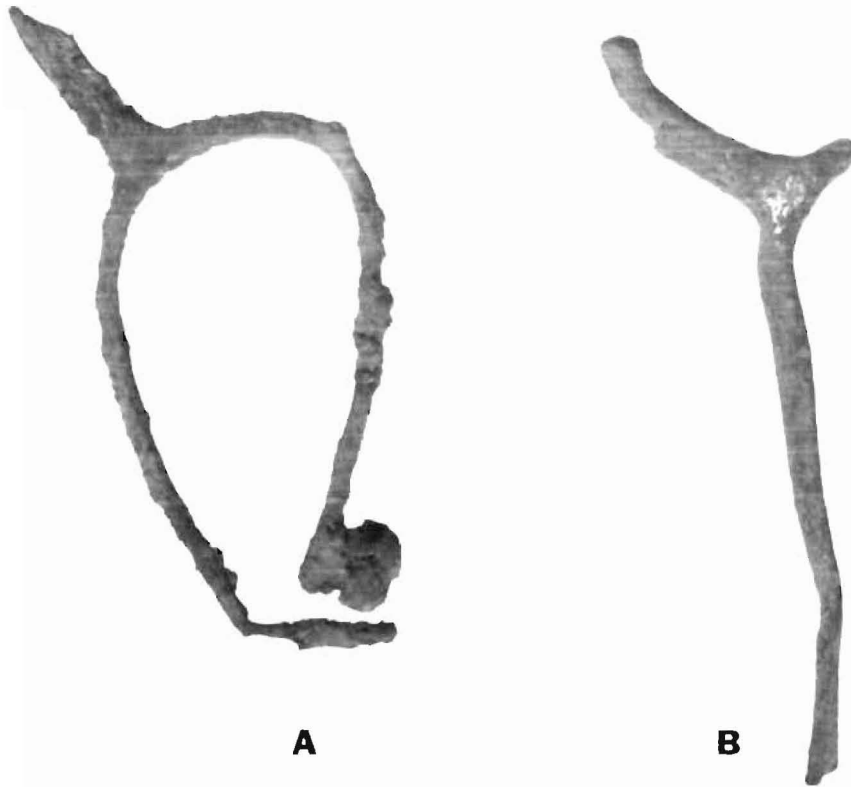
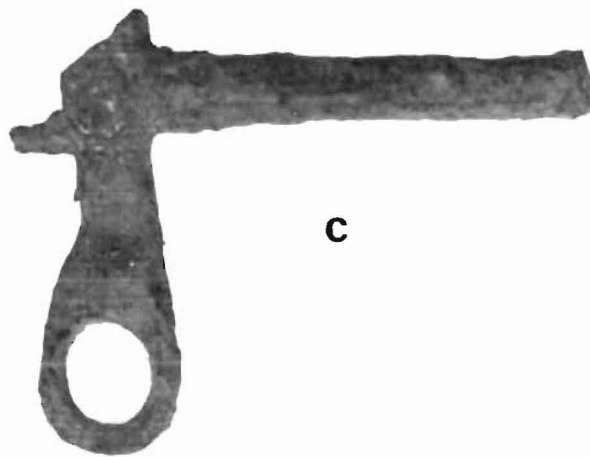


Plate VIII
Horseshoes



A

B



C

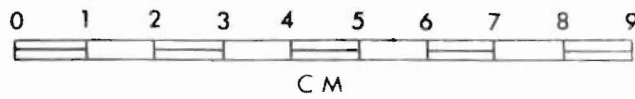


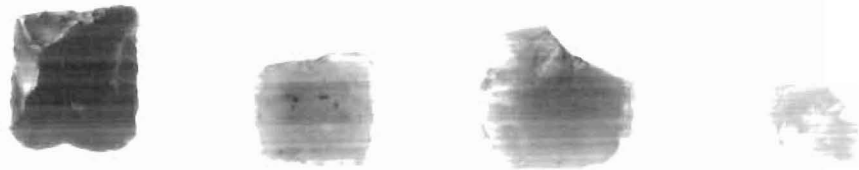
Plate IX
Spurs and Bridle Bit

England from France between 1770 and 1800 (White 1975:71). The British specimens were made from a fine grained lustrous black flint (Plate X, Row A, first on the left) while the French types were produced from taffy or honey-colored flints (Plate X, Row A, last three from the left). A total of seven blade produced flints were recovered, and five of these appeared to be of French origin.

Gun spalls were more common than the blade flints as 13 were found. Eight were manufactured from British and French flints (Plate X, Row C, second and third from the left), and four were chipped from a fine grained grey-black chert that was very similar to material found in the Tennessee area (Plate X, Row B). The type of material used to make the remaining spall could not be ascertained because of distortions produced by exposure to considerable heat (Plate X, Row C, far right). All of the gunflints and spalls, with one exception, were used in rifles or muskets. The exception was a small, blade type British flint which might possibly have been used in a pistol (Plate X, Row C, first on the left).

Coins

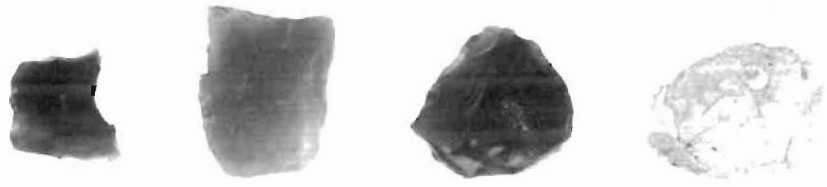
Two locally minted and two Spanish coins were recovered. One of the Spanish specimens consisted of a wedge-shaped quarter of a silver milled dollar valued at eight reales. This coin type is commonly referred to as a "piece of eight". A mint mark "M" was also present which denotes a Mexican origin (Plate XI, Row A, far right). These "pieces of eight" were in common use throughout the Colonies during the latter half of the eighteenth century (Yeoman 1971:2).



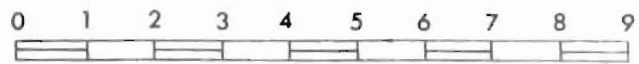
A



B



C



CM

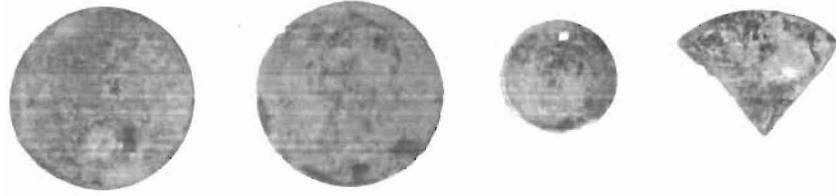
Plate X
Gunflints and Gun Spalls

The other Spanish coin was also silver and had the royal Spanish coat of arms stamped on one side while the right facing bust of Carlos III was impressed on the other. A Mexican mint mark was also present; these coins were minted between 1759 and 1788 (Lorente 1965:139). It should also be noted that a small hole had been punched through the top of the coin evidently to allow it to be strung and worn as a pendant (Plate XI, Row A, third from the left).

Both of the local coins were made of copper and in poor condition. All that was distinguishable on one was a left facing bust, which appeared similar to those found on the George Washington cent (Plate XI, Row A, second from the left). These coins were minted in the United States after 1795 (Yeoman 1971:55). The other coin was more distinct, and a left facing bust framed by the words, "AUCTORI CONNEC", was distinguishable on one side. On the reverse side, the words "INDE ET LIB" were barely legible (Plate XI, Row A, first on the left). This type of coin was minted in Connecticut around 1788 (Yeoman 1971:30).

Miscellaneous

Although literally hundreds of bits and pieces of metal artifacts were recovered, the overwhelming majority were too fragmentary or corroded to permit even the most general classification and description. The few exceptions which could be identified but did not occur with sufficient frequency to warrant individual treatment in separate sections of the report included an iron Jews Harp (Plate XI, Row B, first on the left), part of a brass side plate from a firearm (Plate XI, Row B, second from the left), and silver plated and plain escutcheon plates



A



B



C

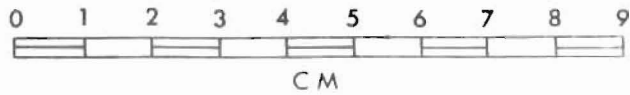


Plate XI
Coins and Miscellaneous Artifacts

(Plate XI, Row C, second and third from the left). A brass thimble fragment was also recovered (Plate XI, Row C, first on the left) as well as a silver handle (spoon ?) which had part of the manufacturer's stamp "W" on the underside (Plate XI, Row B, far right).

SUMMARY

The artifactual remains from Guilford, though not spectacular, were certainly consistent with what could be expected from a late eighteenth century frontier village. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the material was the considerable Moravian influence. Although it was most obvious in the ceramic medium (the pottery and pipes), probably many of the other items were also the results of Moravian skills. The brick, nails, horseshoes, glass, and harness could have been produced in Salem and its proximity to Martinville would have made their procurement there convenient.

The most significant result of the archaeological investigation at Guilford was the discovery of structural remains in the vicinity of the courthouse site. Prior to the initiation of the excavations, historical research in the background of the courthouse building led to two primary conclusions. First, and perhaps most significant, was that the recorded historical information that had managed to survive the ravages of time was sketchy at best, and in some instances, seemingly contradictory. Was the building supported by wooden piers or was it set on brick underpinnings? If the foundation supports were brick, were they mortared or unpointed? What happened to the old building after the court was moved to Greensboro? In short, what kinds of archaeological evidence could be expected to have been preserved that would be recognizable as remains of the courthouse?

In attempting to answer these questions, the second major conclusion was reached. Careful scrutiny of the documentary record clarified many of the contradictions by revealing a structure that constantly needed repair

even before it was completed. Wooden foundation supports were used in the initial construction phases and were later replaced, or at least reinforced with brick piers, which were presumably mortared at some point during the building's twilight years. However, the building could never be described as impressive or even sound. After the new courthouse was built in Greensboro, the old building, nothing more than a shell by this time, was torn down and its planks, windows, and brick were probably salvaged by the surrounding residents to be re-used in other constructions.

The archaeological picture reflected the dilapidated, insubstantial, and unstable character of a building of "indifferent workmanship" whose historical importance far surpassed its architectural adroitness. Lines of large postholes were all that was left of the foundation, while only a cluster of mostly broken brick was all that remained of the old chimney. Certainly the citizens of Guilford would have built a more worthy structure had they the clairvoyance to peep into the future and realize the impact of the events of 1781 on the history of the United States.

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