

Preliminary Report  
Archaeological Excavations  
at the  
Newman Street Site  
Annapolis, Maryland

Report Prepared for  
Archaeology in Annapolis,  
Historic Annapolis, Inc.

by

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## 1984 NEWMAN STREET EXCAVATIONS: A PRELIMINARY REPORT

### Introduction

As part of the Archaeology in Annapolis project in 1984, exploratory excavations were conducted in the playground in a city park at the corner of Newman Street and Compromise Street. The site, the Newman Street site was used for the Archaeology in Public program. The excavations were part of the larger research strategy of Archaeology in Annapolis. This report summarizes the preliminary results of the 1984 field season.

### The Archaeology in Annapolis Project

Archaeology in Annapolis is jointly sponsored by the University of Maryland and Historic Annapolis, Inc. The project is directed by Dr. Mark P. Leone and Dr. R. J. Dent, of the University of Maryland, and Dr. Anne Yentsch, of the College of William and Mary. Other personnel include faculty from George Mason University and graduate students from Brown University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the State University of New York at Buffalo. So far the project has excavated ten sites including an ironmonger's shop (Sonderman 1984), a print shop, a tavern, and the home of two of Maryland's colonial governors.

Archaeology in Annapolis aims to recover evidence of all parts of the social and economic structure of Annapolis through its history and archaeology.

"one principle goal of the project is to recover and analyze the material culture from the 18th century, and to use it to understand the internal structure of the social classes that made up the city of Annapolis. These classes were diverse, but represent economic life on the East Coast of North America at the time leading up to and following the American Revolution. The archaeology is coordinated with Historic Annapolis, Inc.'s documentary research in an attempt to understand the economy of an urban center the basis of which was profit-making, and to add to this an understanding of the conceptual basis of early capitalism in a North American colony. (Leone 1984:1)

One major element of the Archaeology in Annapolis project is the Public Program called "Archaeology in Public". This program, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Maryland Humanities Council, is designed to show the public, through tours of working archaeological sites, how the "facts" on which history is based are derived and how they are interpreted. This program has worked on three other sites in Annapolis. The Newman Street site was planned as the public site for the 1984 season.

### The Newman Street Site

The Newman Street site is located at the northwest corner of Compromise and Newman Streets (Figure 1). The site belongs to the City of Annapolis and is now a public park.

The park is divided into three areas: a park area along Compromise Street, with benches, landscaping, and a horseshoe pit; a fenced, asphalt-covered basketball court in the middle; and a playground in the back part of the site (Figure 2). The site is bounded to the southeast by Newman Street, to the northeast by Compromise Street, to the northwest by the parking lot of the Green Street School, and to the southwest by an alley separating the property from the backyards of houses facing on Duke of Gloucester Street.

In the winter of 1984-85, Archaeology in Annapolis needed a site for its principal summer public program. The preceding two seasons of public interpretation at the Victualling Warehouse had been a success (Leone 1983; Leone and Potter 1984). However, by 1984 the Victualling Warehouse site was 80% excavated. The central location of the Victualling Warehouse site was partially offset by its small size and consequent problems of taking large groups of visitors through it. Because of this, the Archaeology in Annapolis project needed another site that would fit into the overall research design of the project and that was

located in a place that would lend itself to public presentation.

The documentary research compiled by Historic Annapolis, Inc. had identified the Newman Street site as an historically important location that merited archaeological investigation. The City of Annapolis agreed to allow Archaeology in Annapolis to use the playground on the Newman Street property for its research and interpretation program. The Newman Street site represents the first time that the Archaeology in Annapolis project has conducted excavations on city property.

The Newman Street site fits the needs of the Archaeology in Annapolis project. Research in Historic Annapolis, Inc.'s Preservation Data Bank files showed that the site had potential for producing important data on one of the oldest parts of the city. Located on the old waterfront of Annapolis only a half block from the Victualling Warehouse site, the site is also near the center of summer tourist crowds. Therefore it was decided to conduct a program of exploratory testing on the playground portion of the Newman Street site in the summer of 1984.

The research on Newman Street consisted of a background historic review, the design of an approach to the site, and a season of exploratory excavations on the site. This

report summarizes the preliminary results of this investigation.

### Sources

Dr. Jean Russo, Research Director for Historic Annapolis, Inc., conducted a summary investigation of the known history of use of the Newman Street site. She perused summaries of Annapolis history, notably Papenfuse (1971). She reviewed the title history of the property and summarized early references to the property in the Maryland Gazette. Insurance maps from the 19th and 20th centuries were assembled. Lists of occupants of the buildings on the site were compiled. Most of the information came from Historic Annapolis, Inc.'s Preservation Data Bank files, although some further references were checked at the Maryland Hall of Records.

### History of the Newman Street Site

The Newman Street site was part of Lot 31 in 1718 (Stoddert 1718). Dr. Charles Carroll bought the property in 1738 (Anne Arundel County 1738). Carroll died in 1755, and the property passed to his son, Charles Carroll, the Barrister. In 1767 Charles Carroll esquire (the Barrister) leased part of Lot 31 to William Logan, reserving rights to a spring of water on the property for the exclusive use of the Carroll's cattle. This lease refers to Logan as already occupying the land and having already begun construction of

a wharf. Logan agreed to surrender the wharf he was building to Carroll at the expiration of the lease. (Charles Carroll 1767)

Logan built a wharf and a warehouse on the property. They are described in a 1779 announcement that the property was for sale:

"The wharf at present occupied by the State of Maryland will be sold for 87 years to come it is made of stone the foundation 14 feet thick is 50 feet in front, 112 feet in back with a warehouse on it 20' x 23. Rooms on the upper story and has a chimney with two fireplaces...The front of the wharf has water sufficient for vessels of the largest burthen that come this way and which will be sold for L6000 continental currency." (Executive Papers #14, 8/12/1779)

At the time Logan was trying to sell the property, he had leased the wharf to the Maryland Navy "for the Conveniency of the Gallies and other vessels, and the Hands and Stores belonging to them..." (Logan 1780). The Maryland Navy all but destroyed Logan's property. Logan lists reports by witnesses who describe the damage:



"...about two hundred and twenty-five feet of the [curb] that was...the stone work of the wharf is entirely gone, that about one hundred tons of the stone from the wall of the wharf has been thrown into the water together with a great quantity of ballast, sand and other rubbage so as to prevent any vessels of any burthen coming to or laying within six or seven feet of said wharf, and that twenty seven panes of glass of the warehouse windows are broke, part of the plank that lined the inside of the warehouse below stairs is pulled down and destroyed, the... outside stair cases broke to pieces and other injury done to the said house..." (Logan 1780)

Logan petitioned the government of Maryland that the wharf be returned to the state it was in when he leased it. He was either never paid, or paid in inflated currency.

He never recovered from this financial loss. In 1788, after selling off a small piece of the property, Logan petitioned the Chancellor of Maryland for relief as an insolvent debtor. Charles Carroll reclaimed the property.

The property apparently lay unused for three years until 1791 when Carroll sold it to John Adam Boyer. Boyer was a tanner who had worked for Thomas Hyde in a tannery established by Hyde in 1756 (Riley 1887:119). Boyer ran a tannery on the site for seven years. In 1798 he sold it to John Hyde, the son of his former employer, Thomas Hyde (Anne Arundel County Wills 1819). Hyde continued using the property as a tannery. The wharf Logan built was still extant in 1798 and is mentioned in deed title.

In 1819 the property was willed by John Hyde to his wife Sarah, to pass to his son Daniel on her death (Anne Arundel County Wills 1819). John Hyde expressed in his will the wish that Daniel Hyde continue in the tannery business in partnership with Sarah. Daniel must have followed his father's wishes, as an advertisement in the Maryland Gazette of October 29, 1819 states that he has begin business at this father's place. A revealing statement in the advertisement notes that "Baltimore Cash price [is] given in exchange for hides and skins. County produce taken for leather." (Maryland Gazette, Oct. 29, 1819).

Daniel Hyde owned the property until shortly before 1878. In 1837 Compromise Street was legally made a street. The bylaw making Compromise Street a public street states that it runs

"with the east end of the brick warehouse of the Mssrs. Adam and John Miller - corner of Compromise and Main Street - as follows, to wit: S 20° 15' E 690 ft. to the waters edge, thence running and bounding on and with the water N 9° W 240 feet." (Maryland Gazette, Sept. 21, 1837).

This bylaw also required that "a good and substantial wooden bridge to be erected over the run near the house of Daniel T. Hyde, of at least 12 feet breadth." Maryland Gazette, Sept. 21, 1837).

The bylaw describes Compromise Street as running from Church (now Main) Street for 690 feet to the water's edge.

This implies the east side of Compromise Street had been filled in by 1837. Since the wharf had been mentioned in the title transfer from John Adam Boyer to John Hyde in 1798, the filling must have taken place between 1798 and 1837.

Although Daniel T. Hyde or his heirs owned the property until 1878, Hyde gave up the tanning business on this property sometime between 1819 and 1878. There were three buildings on the property in 1878. The westernmost building, which is in the part of the site where excavations were conducted this season,, may be the same as one labelled "shed" on the 1891 Sanborn map which is represented as a stable, or wagon house and stable, in the 1897 and 1903 Sanborn maps. In 1913 this building disappears from the Sanborn maps, and in 1921 is replaced by a large brick or masonry structure.

On the 1903 Sanborn map for the first time the Newman Street site is not labelled as part of the John B. Flood Coal and Lumber yard. At this time eight tenements appear along Newman Street and a new building, possibly a stable, appears along the west end of the property. In 1921 the large building along the northern edge of the western portion of the property appears on the map, as well as a large structure along the west end of the property that is labelled "auto". Finally, in 1944 the property was acquired

by the city and all buildings were leveled. Since then the property has been used in one way or another for a recreation area and playground.

### Research Design and Implementation

#### Goals

There were two goals for the 1984 excavations at Newman Street. The first was to see if any or all of the historic periods and activities identified by the Historic research were intact on the site. In particular it was hoped to find evidence of the early 19th century or the late eighteenth century. The excavation did not necessarily hope to find the actual wharf or tannery, but rather evidence of whether intact deposits from either or both periods were present on the site.

The second goal was to provide a site for Archaeology in Public. The Newman Street site excavations were to provide the subject matter for public archaeology tours explaining how history is reconstructed. Having squares open to show the public, as well as logistical problems of moving people through the site, were important secondary factors affecting decisions on how the site was dug.

#### Excavation Strategy:

The 1984 excavations were to be confined to the part of the Newman Street site covered by the playground (Figure

2). The location of excavation units was determined initially from the information from historic records of disturbance. The insurance maps show that a row of tenements had been built between 1897 and 1903 on what is now the southern half of the playground. When a concrete datum point for the site base line was put in this portion of the site, concrete, metal pipe, and heavy rubble were encountered. It was decided to avoid this area of heavy recent disturbance by confining excavations to the northern half of the playground. Serendipitously this allowed most of the playground equipment to be left in place outside the excavation area. Thus we were able to allow public use to go on with a minimum of disruption from our excavations.

Five pieces of playground equipment were within the area in which excavations were to be carried out (Figure 2). This equipment was temporarily removed by the city to keep from having an "attractive nuisance" within the fence surrounding the excavations. The removal of two swings in the shape of firemen ("Fireman I" and "Fireman II") left three-foot deep holes. The removal of a third piece of equipment, a series of bars ("M-Bar"), left a line of holes. The profiles of the holes left by the removal of this equipment were cut back to the nearest even foot within the grid of the site. This produced a long trench and two deep rectilinear holes where the M-Bar and the two Fireman swings

has stood. The fifth piece of equipment, a jungle gym, was only embedded six to eight inches in the site. The traces of its removal were filled in.

Three factors dictated the placement of regular excavation units. The first was historic information. One square tested an area the insurance maps showed as undisturbed, while another was placed in the old stable or shed. A second factor was the interpretation of the subsurface topography, both from surface indications and from the information from the M-Bar trench and the two deep fireman pits. A third factor was an attempt not to disturb the existing concrete and brick walkways and pavements of the park if it was possible to avoid them without compromising archaeological goals.

Figure 3 illustrates the location of all excavation units. Excavation units were squares 5' x 5'. The northern half of the site actually lies with its longest axis oriented NE-SW. It was decided to orient the grid parallel with Newman Street and to make grid north the northwest side. Squares were then numbered starting with the (grid) SE corner. In this way, if later excavations were proposed on the strip of land (grid) north of the site and (grid) west of the Green Street School parking lot, the grid numbers could be extended to include these squares.

Eight 5' x 5' squares were excavated to various depths during the season (Figure 3). The rationale for each square is discussed in Appendix I.

#### Excavation Methods

Excavation was by conventional shovels and trowels, using finer implements when necessary. Within each 5' x 5' unit, excavation was by natural layer, following observable differences in color, material, and texture. Each layer was designated by an upper case letter beginning with A for the highest layer. Where features were identified, layers within the feature were distinguished by lower case letters. These features are summarized in Table 3.

Initially each layer was screened through 1/4" mesh screen. Later, as it became clear that many of the layers dated from the last five decades of this century, more cursory examinations of some layers was allowed. Samples of artifacts were kept from all layers. At the completion of excavations, two adjacent profiles were drawn from each excavation unit (Figures 5-9). Profiles of the holes created by removal of playground equipment were drawn (Figures 10-12). Profiles and features were also photographed in black and white, and in color transparencies.

Excavation was done by students from The University of Maryland Field School (some of whom were also guides in the

public archaeology program), paid field assistants, and volunteers. Table 1 summarizes the personnel who worked on the Newman Street site. The average number of workers on the site each day was 7.5. The work was done under the direction of Joseph W. Hopkins, III, Ph.D. Barbara Little, a graduate student at SUNY, Buffalo, served as his assistant.

Because roughly half of the crew each day were responsible for giving tours, work proceeded at a somewhat slower pace. Even with this limitation, a credible amount of work was accomplished. Six hundred ninety six cubic feet of dirt were removed.

#### Recap of Excavation:

The 8 squares excavated were taken to depths of between .63 and 4.5 feet below surface. Only 2 units had possible sterile subsoil. Fireman trench II had a layer of sand and decomposed rock overlaying a sterile greenish clay that probably represents sterile subsoil. The bottom layer in Fireman trench I was a sandy clay, which may have been sterile. In all other squares cultural material was present in the lower layers.

In several squares excavations were carried to considerable depths. The limiting factor in excavation was the water table. In all the squares in which 19th century



levels had been reached, and in several squares which represented considerably later levels, excavation was stopped by the water table. Square 472 (Figure 8) was excavated to the top of layer J, at a depth of 4.5 feet below the surface. In square 472 the water table lay just below the boundary between layers I and J. After rain, the water table rose and terminated excavation in these layers. In square 321 (Figure 5) layer M (2.2 feet below the surface) was damp when excavation began and had to be abandoned when the water table rose after heavy rains. Only on the last days of excavation was further excavation possible. The lowest levels (about 2.1 feet below the surface) reached in square 502 (Figure 9) were also quite damp, and it was clear that further excavation would produce standing water. From the day it was excavated and drawn, Fireman 1 (Figure 10) had a few inches of water standing in the bottom, at about 2.6 feet below surface. Water returned each time it was bailed out, and the trench was used as a rough measure of the level of the water table on any given day. Water stood at about 2.1 feet below the surface in square 371 (Figure 7), above layer J, which represents at best early 20th century clinker dumping, after the heavy rains of August 12th. These rains raised the water table over the whole site six to eight inches and effectively prevented further excavation in squares 472 and 371, postponed excavation of layer M in square 321, and threatened to end deeper exploration of square 502.

### Artifact Analysis:

The artifacts recovered from the Newman Street excavations are now being washed, labelled, and classified. This report is based largely on excavation records without the information from the as yet uncompleted artifact analysis.

Much of the material recovered from the excavation was from 20th century deposits. Only a few layers contained no 20th century material. The material from the few layers with only 18th or 19th century material was washed and classified first. The information from this partial analysis provided the basis for the reconstructed map of the site in the 19th century (Figure 13). Table 2 presents a description of these layers and the artifacts they contained.

### A Reconstruction of the Evolution of the Newman Street Land Surface in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century

#### Evidence

The following reconstruction is based on two sets of evidence. The first is the examination and analysis of surface features on the site and adjacent land, combined with some oral historical information. The second is a contour map based on measurements from roughly contemporaneous layers identified in the excavation (Figure 13). The Green Street School property to the north

of the Newman Street site is higher. There is a perceptible drop of about one foot along the boundary between the school property and the site (Figure 4). The school property is bounded on the west by the lower end of the Ridout property garden, which has been substantially unchanged since the 18th century. The back of the Ridout garden meets the school property more or less at level. On the other hand, the west end of the Newman Street playground is bounded by a large concrete wall, a railroad tie retaining wall, and a lower retaining wall. The alley behind these walls is substantially higher than the west edge of the Newman Street playground. Here cutting or filling is implied.

The northern edge of the Newman Street property is bounded by a long masonry wall for much of its length. The top two courses of this wall have been rebuilt. The wall is now the boundary and retaining wall for the lower two-thirds of the park. The wall is cut by a set of concrete steps which descend from the Green Street school yard to the level of the basketball court (Figures 15, 16). These concrete steps descend below the level of the macadam at the base of the basketball court and have been sealed by the macadam (Figure 16). The steps appear to have been added to the retaining wall at a time when earth was banked up against this wall. The steps were poured over this bank of earth,

resulting in an uneven underside surface. The dirt has since been removed under the steps (Figure 16).

The other basis for reconstruction of the Newman Street site is a contour map based on elevations obtained from roughly contemporaneous layers in the excavated pits (Figure 13). Table 2 summarizes the layers and associated artifacts on which the map is based.

While much of the site was covered with a thick layer of late nineteenth and twentieth century trash, in several parts of the site earlier levels were identified. In the two "Fireman" trenches and in squares 321, 472, and 502, layers were identified that represented either sterile subsoil or early to middle nineteenth century levels without later admixture. In Fireman trench I, a deep lense of culture-bearing clay had a nineteenth century medicine bottle just above what may have been sterile subsoil. In the Fireman trench II, a layer of decomposed rock and a layer of clay probably represented sterile subsoil under late nineteenth or twentieth century refuse. In squares 321 and 472, a possible old land surface with decomposed twigs yielded early to middle nineteenth century pottery. In square 502, a series of relatively thick, homogeneous layers yielded mixed pottery of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but no evidence of twentieth century material. These squares provided the information for drawing a contour

map of the site as it was around the middle of the nineteenth century (Figure 13).

#### History of the Land Surface of the Newman Street Site

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the Newman Street site had a stream flowing through it. The bylaw creating Compromise Street provides that a bridge be built over this stream (Maryland Gazette, Sept. 21, 1837). The channel of this stream shows up on the reconstructed map.

Square 502, which lay just outside of the Newman Street property line, revealed an anomalously high layer, or really layers, that, from the artifacts they contain, were from the early to middle nineteenth century. These levels may well have been fill. They contain a mixture of artifacts ranging from creamware through pearlware to whiteware. The layers are quite thick (as much as 18" in places) and relatively homogenous throughout each layer. The excavated nineteenth century layers in square 502 totalled 3 feet. The presence of 19th century layers just beneath the surface in square 502, only ten feet from the deeply buried 19th century layers in Fireman trench I, suggests that at some time in the middle nineteenth century a retaining wall must have been built along the northern edge of the Newman Street property, and the school property was filled.

The northern part of the site was apparently used for trash late in the nineteenth century and early twentieth century. In particular a thick layer of clinker covers most of the upper (western) portion of the site. It is most noticeable in the Fireman Trench I where it forms a thick layer .8 feet thick. In places it is interleaved with thin layers of orange sand.

Some intentional fill was done in the twentieth century. In square 472 (Figure 8), beneath the concrete floor associated with the terra cotta block wall, was a massive layer (layer F) which filled the old stream channel and brought that part of the site up towards the present contour. In this layer was a screw top glass jar, placing it firmly in this century.

In 1944 the property became city property. All the buildings on the site were removed. In the trench where the "M-Bar" was removed, we found remains of concrete post supports. Mr. Walter Quaintance, who attended the Green Street school in the 1950's, identified these as the supports for the swing set that was there before the present playground equipment.

At least one major dumping of clinker happened after the first playground construction. A post-mold from one of the earlier concrete swing post supports goes through a

clinker layer that must have been laid down after the swing construction (Figure 12).

Perhaps when the property became a playground, steps were added to the wall that bounds the property to the north. Sometime later dirt was cut away from the foot of the steps and perhaps at the same time the area where the basketball court is now was filled in and paved. This filling covered the bottom one or two of the steps (Figure 16). The 1980 park reconstruction plan represents the basketball court blacktop as existing at that time.

Finally, the playground was reconstructed in 1980. The plan instructs that:

"Essentially existing grades are to be preserved except where excessive depressions or rises occur. In these areas grades are to be levelled to provide a smooth transition with immediate surrounding grade." (Ewald 1980).

In square 354, a clear sequence of filling with topsoil, a layer of bark mulch, and a layer of sod from this reconstruction could be seen in the profiles (Figure 6). In other squares, barkchips used for landscaping formed the first layer.

Summary:

The nineteenth and twentieth century history of the Newman Street site is mostly of filling, rather than of cutting. There are indications that some cutting into the hillside may have happened in the twentieth century in association with the concrete garage structure. The presence of the heavy late clinker layers with late trash in "Fireman I", and in square 354 indicate that this cutting was into late nineteenth and early twentieth century fill.

The presence of deep layers of fill over the early stream channel suggest that eighteenth century layers may still be undisturbed below excavations we made. Unfortunately our excavations were stopped by water table in an unusually wet summer.

The rapid filling over the old stream channel raises the question as to when the stream was removed from the site. The stream was present in 1837 when the bylaw creating Compromise Street was passed. The middle nineteenth century fill in the property just north of the Newman Street site suggests that at this time the stream's course was at least shifted to the Newman Street property. The difference in level between the Green Street school property to the north and Newman Street at this time implies a retaining wall along the property line to keep the fill in the property to the north from washing down onto the Newman Street site. The stream may have been diverted at this time



(which would date the fill to after 1837) or it may have been diverted later when the twentieth century fill was put in under the concrete floor in square 472. There is no indication of a stream in the 1878 and later insurance maps, which may or may not indicate that the stream had been relocated by then.

#### Implications of Further Research

The excavations revealed a history of filling from at least 1837 to the present. This suggests that eighteenth century layers may be present and relatively undisturbed below the lowest nineteenth century layers excavated. However, no eighteenth century layers were found in the 1984 season.

If eighteenth century layers are present in this portion of the Newman Street site, they are covered by from two to six feet of nineteenth and twentieth century deposits. Equally important from the viewpoint of planning excavation, they are probably under the water table. This is an advantage from the point of view of possible preservation, but it means considerable logistical problems, since pumps will have to be used in any excavation. The use of pumps would present problems of noise if the site is to be used next year as a public site. Without evidence of an

important eighteenth or early nineteenth century feature extending into the part of the site that was the subject of excavations in 1984, therefore, excavation in this part would imply digging through and recording several feet of later fill, and dealing with problems of water. There is no certainty of a return that would justify the expense of dealing with these problems. At the same time, these conditions combine to preserve any untouched eighteenth century layers that may be there.

There are three areas within the Newman Street property, and one outside of it, that might be the subject of further investigation. These are: the portion of the playground left by the excavations of this year (the southern half of the playground), the area beneath the basketball court, the area in front of the park along Compromise Street, and outside the Newman Street property, the strip of land to the north of the Newman Street property. Each will be discussed below.

The southern half of the playground might have the eighteenth century closer to the surface. The reconstruction of the northern half of the playground showed the ground surface (and the water table) rising to the south. The disadvantage of this area is that it is more likely to have been disturbed. Square 321 had a sewer pipe through the middle of the earliest layer excavated, even

though it represented an area with minimum disturbance since 1878. Fireman Trench 2, the other excavation unit closest to the southern end of the site, had apparent sterile subsoil only, overlain by twentieth century deposits.

The area under the basketball court might very well have undisturbed deposits under it. The steps at the northwestern corner of the basketball area suggest that the older land surface lies in a continuous line with the old land surface uncovered at the bottom of square 472. At any rate, the recent history of the basketball court has been one of filling, since the bottom two steps are covered by the fill and macadam surface of the basketball court. Excavating under the basketball court would involve destroying the playing surface of the court. The same water table problems would probably also plague excavations on at least the upper end of the basketball court.

The area in the front part of the site along Compromise Street could be excavated with less attendant damage to existing park features. This would have been the area right along the waterfront, with possible higher chances of finding wharf and wharf-related structures. There were houses along this part of the site, but they were there at least from 1878, which may have resulted in less destruction than rebuilding several times. In addition, the earlier levels of the site should have been lowest in this part of

the site, since this would have dropped to the water's edge. For the same reason, water table might be a problem here as well.

The area belonging to the Green Street school adjacent to the north of the Newman Street property can be considered. Part of the property (the westernmost part) is a grassy strip and the other part is a parking lot, part of which is fenced off and is not used. The excavations indicated that the southern portion of this property at least was filled in the middle of the eighteenth century. The property belonged to Daniel Hyde in the nineteenth century, and may have also had earlier eighteenth century structures like those from the Newman Street property. Jean Russo reports that the adjacent property had wharves and warehouses (Russo 1984).

All the above mentioned properties would lend themselves to use as a public site. All are relatively close to the town's waterfront center. The same techniques learned during the 1984 season could be applied for attracting the public to the site. The Green Street school property would involve getting permission from a different administrative unit but this is not an insurmountable obstacle. It is reasonable to avoid destroying existing features unnecessarily, so it appears that the two most likely spots would be the front of the Newman Street site,

along Compromise Street, and the Green Street school site. The northern half of the Newman Street playground is more likely to be disturbed and would involve removing the rest of the playground equipment. The basketball court would demand removal of the asphalt basketball court floor, as well as several feet of fill.

The front of Newman Street is likely to have important features since it is right on the old waterfront. A comparison with adjacent land surfaces and the excavations done so far suggest that it has not been cut away, but rather is more likely to have been filled. The Green Street school property also looks as if it should have archaeological potential. The southern end of the property was filled in the middle of the nineteenth century, according to excavations in square 502. The northern end of this property is relatively undisturbed as a land surface, judging by the large tree (Figure 14) on the northwest part of the property, and the concordance of the western end of the property with the adjacent Ridout Garden, which has been substantially undisturbed since the eighteenth century.

The 1984 Newman Street site excavations suggest that the site has a potential to yield undisturbed eighteenth century and early nineteenth century layers and features. Excavations in the northern half of the playground suggest

that such layers, if present, lie under several feet of later material and are likely to be under the water table.

The Newman Street site demonstrated its utility as a public site. It demanded new techniques for leading the public to the site. Further excavations on or near the Newman Street property could use the techniques developed in the 1984 season. Future public programs could draw on the fact that the property is now known as an archaeological site.

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- Papenfuse, Edward  
1971 Southern Urban Society after the Revolution:  
Annapolis, Maryland 1782-86. Part III, Appendix F,  
Vol. III, Final Report. Report prepared under NEH  
grant #H69-0-178 for Historic Annapolis, Inc.
- Ridgely, David  
1841 Annals of Annapolis, comprising sundry  
notices....Baltimore, Cushing and Brother.

TABLE I

Personnel Working on the Newman Street Site

<u>Days Worked</u>	<u>Volunteer Days</u>	<u>Regular Crew Days</u>
31	51	182
Average per day	1.6	5.9



TABLE 2

Artifact Descriptions from Selected Layers, AP39

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Artifacts</u>
<u>Square 321</u>	
Layer I	1 piece black lead glazed red paste earthenware, 3 pieces unglazed red paste earthenware, 1 piece undecorated pearlware, 1 piece undecorated white paste earthenware, 1 piece brownish coarse stoneware
Layer L	1 medicinal bottle, retooled lip
<u>Square 472</u>	
Layer I	4 pieces undecorated white paste earthenware, 1 piece orange to buff paste undecorated, unglazed coarse earthenware
Layer J	1 piece undecorated white paste earthenware
<u>Square 502</u>	
Layer E	1 piece tempered red paste earthenware with tinted green lead glaze, 10 pieces undecorated creamware, 1 piece slip decorated creamware, 1 piece very hard and refined Rockingham type, 5 pieces of undecorated pearlware (2 of these pieces have grey-blue puddling, but due to body thickness and color not being cobalt blue, were classified as white ware, not pearlware), 1 transfer printed white paste earthenware, 1 piece gray paste stoneware.
Layer H	1 black lead glazed red paste earthenware, 1 undecorated creamware, 1 sherd white paste earthenware with greenish gray lead glaze, 1 undecorated white paste earthenware, 1 white undecorated ironstone.
Layer J	1 red paste earthenware, 1 undecorated pearlware, 1 teal blue transfer print white paste earthenware

TABLE 3

AP39, FeaturesFeature #

- 1 Vitrified china plate, maker's mark says "1928." This plate and associated refuse probably represent post-1944 debris from when the tenements along Newman Street were torn down. Square 321.
- 2 Circular area of concrete floor and clinker represents 20th century trash disposal on site. Square 348.
- 3 Concrete floor and associated terra cotta block wall. This floor was laid over layer of clinker, possibly for drainage. The terra cotta blocks were used in the 20s and 30s of this century. A screw top bottle came from the layer beneath this floor and associated clinker layer, putting the floor firmly in the 20th century. Square 472 (same as feature 12 in square 451).
- 4 Concrete block, rectangular stone, and concrete pavement. Associated artifacts, including some beneath it, were 20th century, including spark plugs. Probably driveway leading to garage that first appears on 1921 Sanborn map. Square 321.
- 5 Brick feature in clinker levels. This feature was at first thought to be a wall. Excavation revealed no pattern. There were no complete bricks. The bricks represented two colors (yellow and red), two shapes (hexagonal and rectangular), and at least two sizes. It appears to represent a discarded pile of broken bricks, late 19th or 20th century in date. Square 371.
- 6 Mottled soil with concentration of bricks and some asphalt roofing tile. Probably part of filling under concrete floor (feature 3). Square 472.

Table 3 - AP39, Features - Cont'd

- 7            Rectangular soil stain, outlined by yellow sand. This stain is part of 20th century disturbance and construction on the site. Square 321.
  
- 8            This feature consisted of several parallel roots that ran along the base of Layer G and the top of Layer H. Under these were remains of a wooden construction, largely rotted away, probably a floor. The roots must have grown while the floor was still intact, which accounts for their parallel level above the floor. Probably 20th century, although Layer I beneath this feature had 19th century ceramics.
  
- 9            Dark area of soil, probably part of disturbance from when sewer pipe cutting through this square was put in (20th century, probably associated with the garage that appears on the 1921 Sanborn map). Square 321.
  
- 10           Patch of mottled loam cutting into clinker layer, with two possible post holes. Twentieth century disturbance of late clinker trash deposit. Square 371.
  
- 11           Brick and mortar feature, badly disturbed by construction of sewer pipe. Square 321.
  
- 12           Concrete floor, same as feature 3 in adjacent square 472. Square 451.
  
- 13           Rock feature in SE corner of square, may represent disturbed remains of retaining wall.
  
- 14           Layer of steel or iron plates, heavily oxidized. Fireman Trench I.

## APPENDIX I

### Squares Excavated in the 1984 Season

#### Square 321:

Square 321 lay under a large concrete culvert being used for playground equipment. This was removed by a front end loader. The square was opened because according to the Insurance maps it has not been occupied by any buildings from 1878 to the present. It was also located near the middle of the Newman Street site as a whole.

#### Squares 348, 349 and 371:

Square 348 was opened because it lay in an open area between square 354 and square 321. Later the adjacent squares 349 and 371 were opened when a brick feature was uncovered in the "M-Bar" trench.

#### Square 354:

Square 354 was the first square opened on the site. It was in an area that was not occupied by sidewalk, pavement, or playground equipment, and in an area on which no buildings appear on the Sanborn maps until the 1921 map.

## Appendix I - Cont'd

### Squares 451 and 472:

Squares 451 and 472 were opened because they were in the area of the site that was occupied by a building from 1891 until 1903. On the 1921 Sanborn map this building was replaced by a much larger masonry, brick, or stone structure. It was hoped that while other squares might produce evidence of pre-1891 usage of the site, these squares might document the continuing use of the site from 1891 to World War II.

### Square 502:

Square 502 actually lay outside the park property on land belonging to the Green Street school. The large concrete wall on the west side of the site cut into the slope of the hill behind the site (Figure 4). The adjacent land to the north of the site rose perceptibly. This square was to test the uncut portion.

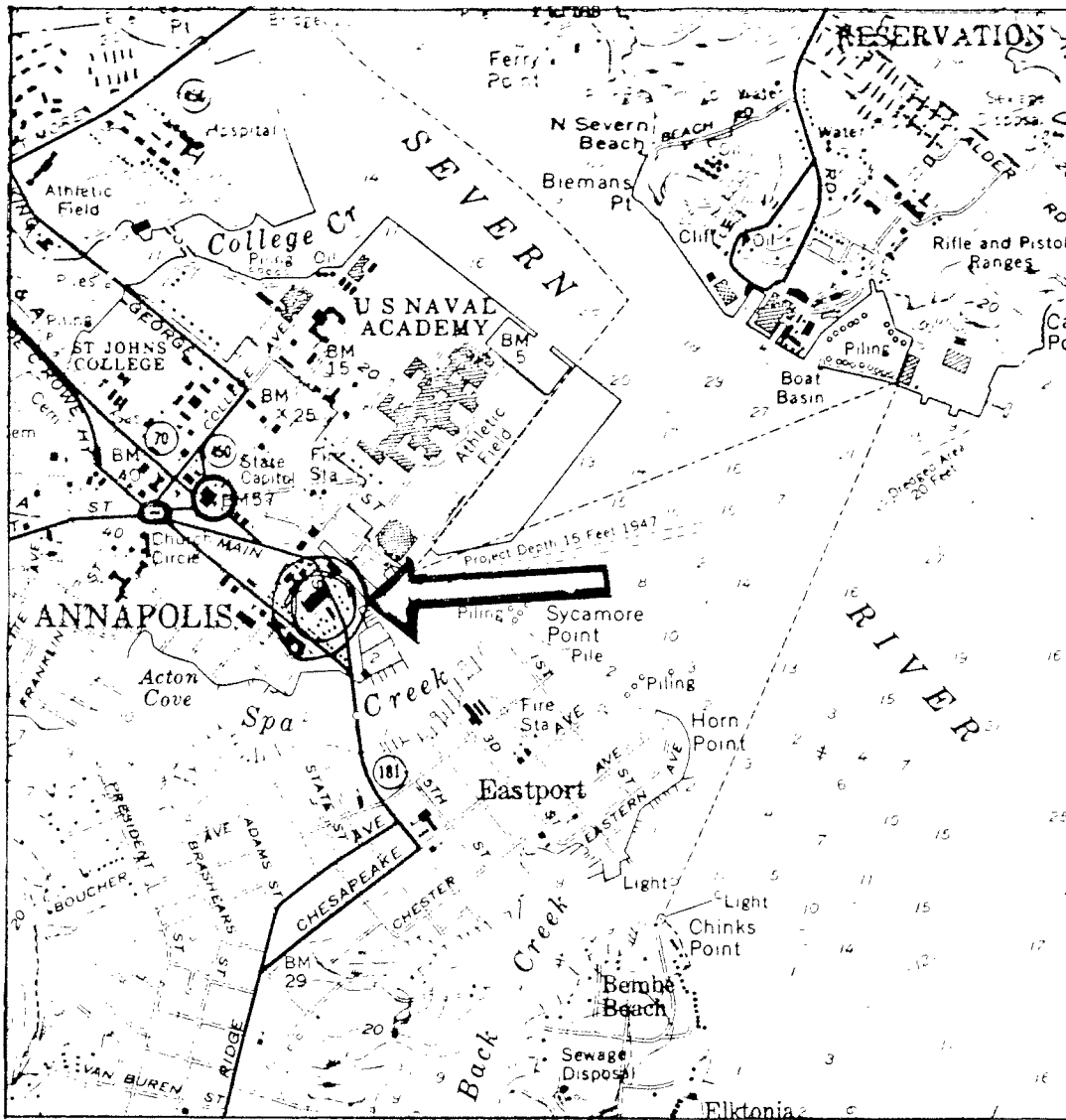


FIGURE 1  
 LOCATION OF NEWMAN STREET SITE

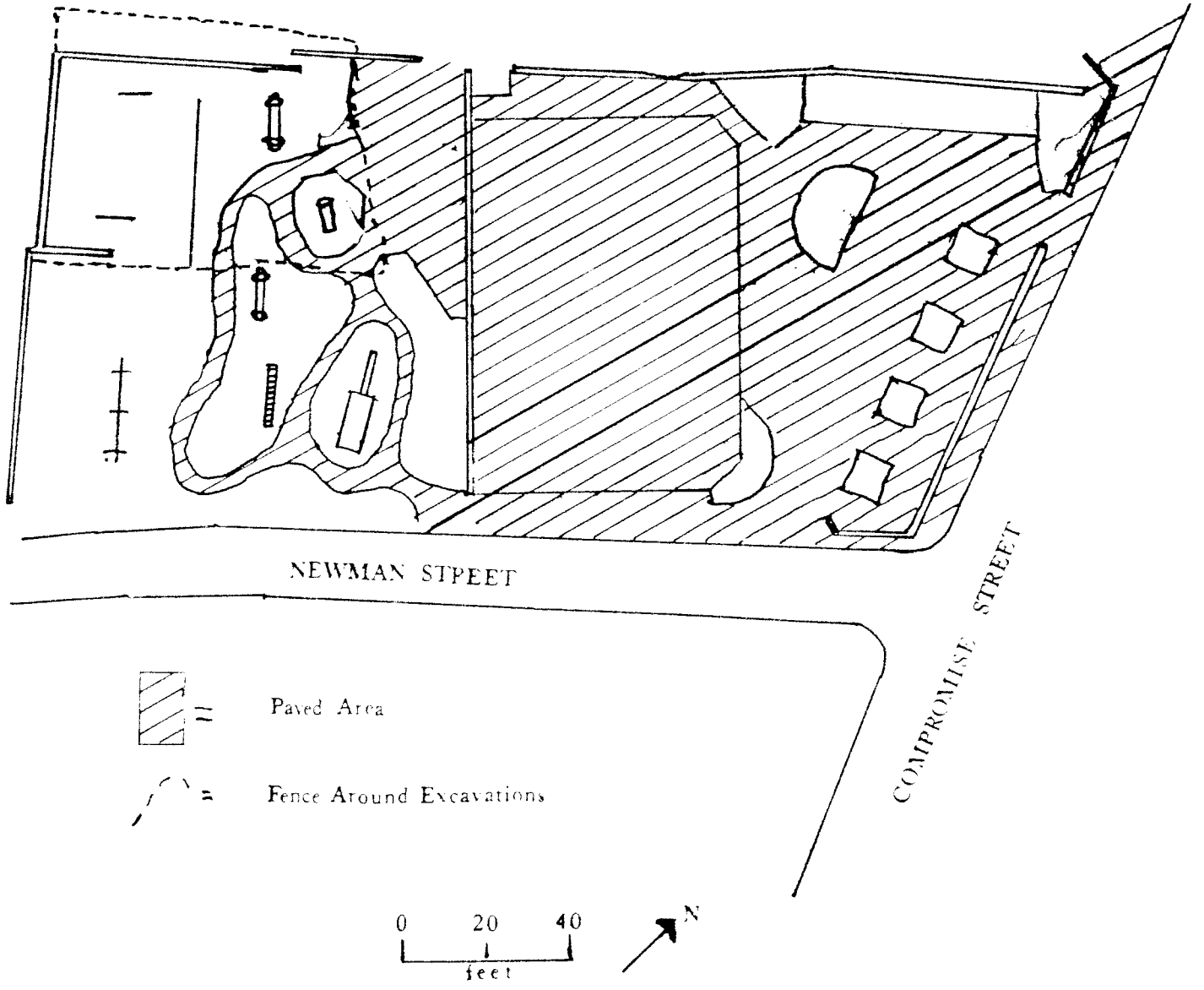


FIGURE 2

THE NEWMAN STREET PARK

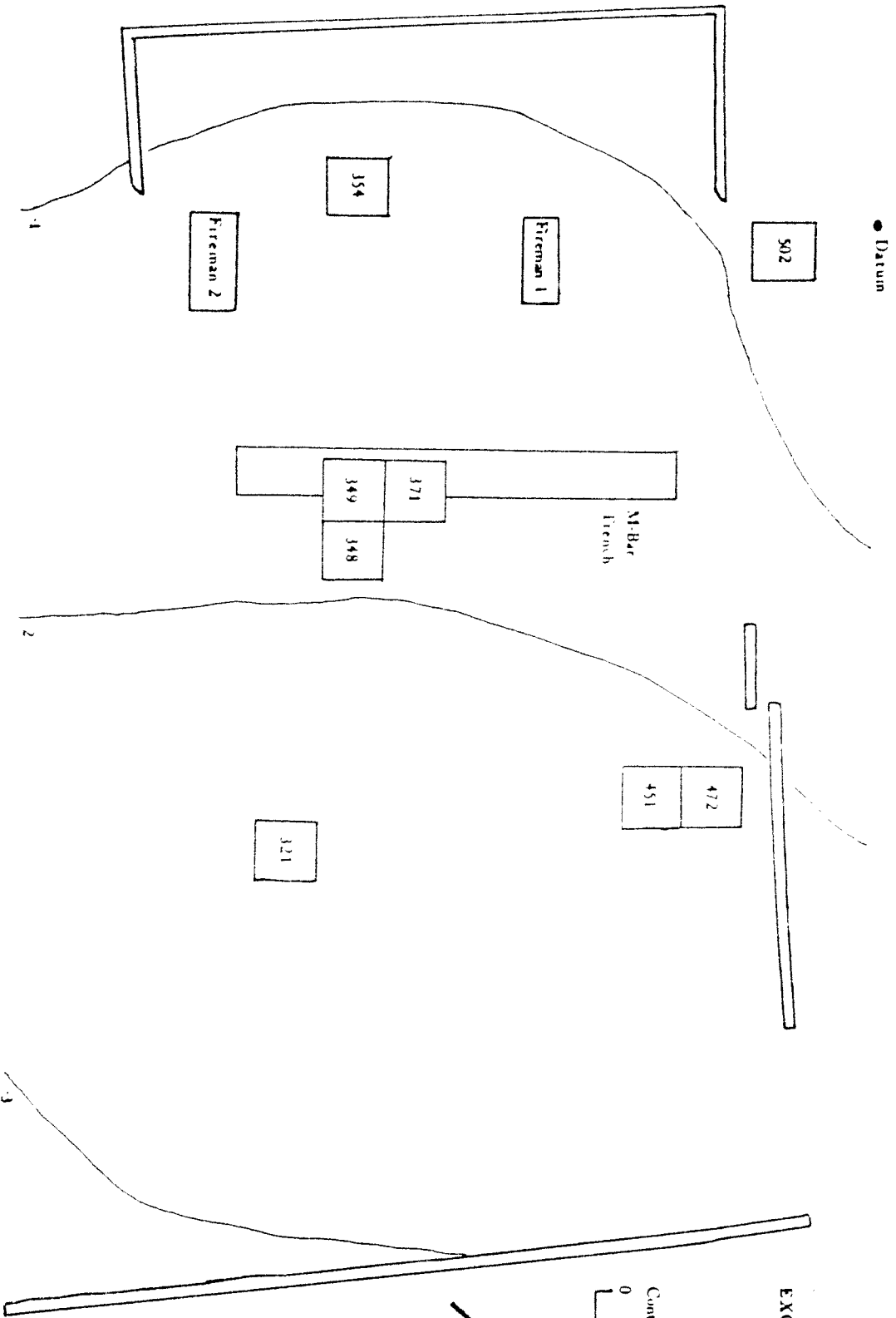


FIGURE 3  
EXCAVATION UNITS



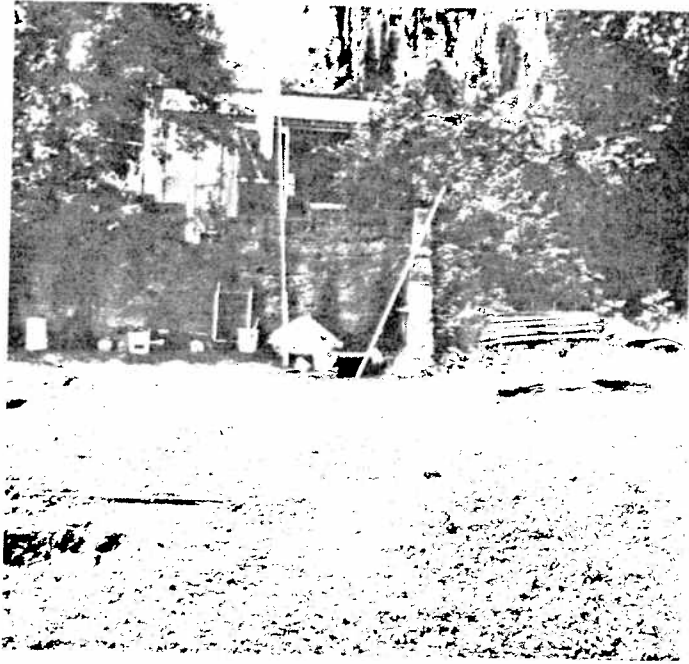


Figure 4

Newman Street site, view West.  
Note difference in level between  
Green Street School property to  
the north (right) and the Newman  
Street property to the south (left).

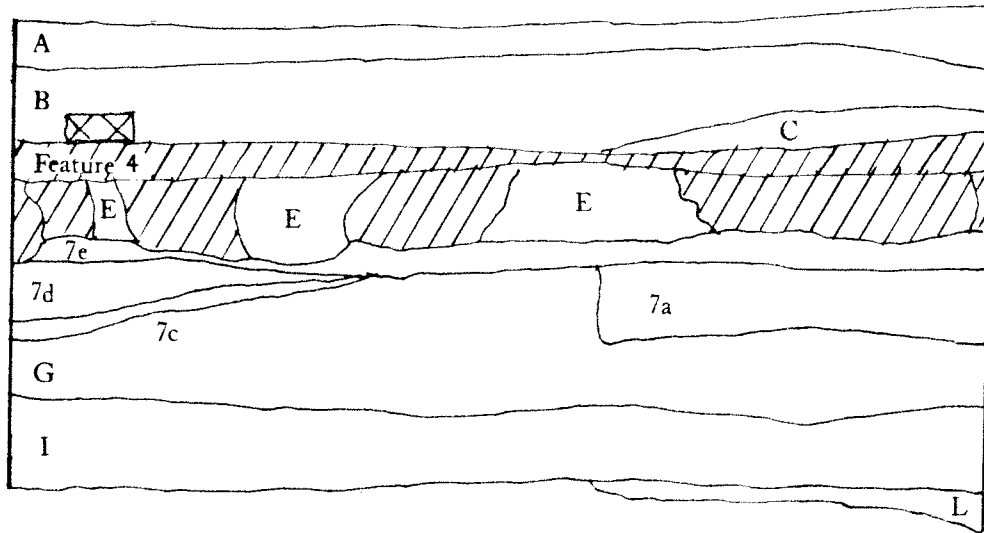


Figure 5

AP 39, Square 321, S. Wall



=brick



=concrete



- Layer A - yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR6/6
- Layer B - black, very sandy loam, 10YR2/1
- Layer C - dark yellowish brown sand with bright yellow mottling, 10YR3/6
- Layer E - dark brown sandy loam, 10YR3/3, with concrete and rubble
- Layer 7a - very dark grayish brown sandy loam, 10YR3/2, with yellow mottling
- Layer 7c - dark yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR3/6, with coal ash & asphalt roof tiles
- Layer 7d - coal ash and asphalt roof tiles
- Layer 7e - dark yellowish brown clay, 10YR3/6
- Layer G - dark gray sandy loam, 10YR4/1
- Layer I - dark yellowish brown slightly sandy clay, 10YR4/6
- Layer L - dark brown sandy loam (very wet) with orange and green clay, 10YR3/3

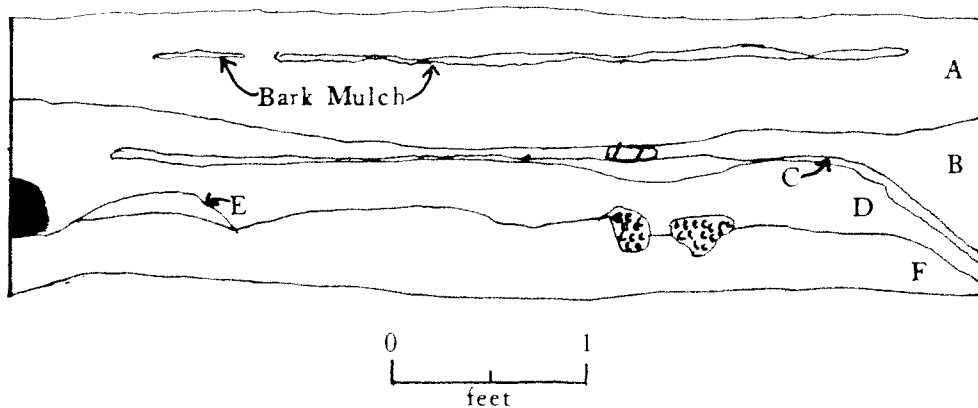


Figure 6

AP 39, Square 354, East Wall

⊗ =clinker   ⊕ =concrete   ● =rock

Layer A - dark yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR4/4 with lense of bark mulch (10YR2/1, black). (This is 1980 park reconstruction.)

Layer B - black rubble and clinker layer, 10YR2/1

Layer C - dark yellowish brown sandy clay, 10YR3/6

Layer D - black clinker, 7.5YR2/0 mixed with yellow brown sandy loam 10YR4/4

Layer E - dark yellowish brown sand with pebbles, 10YR3/6

Layer F - very dark brown hard clay with coal fragments, 10YR3/2

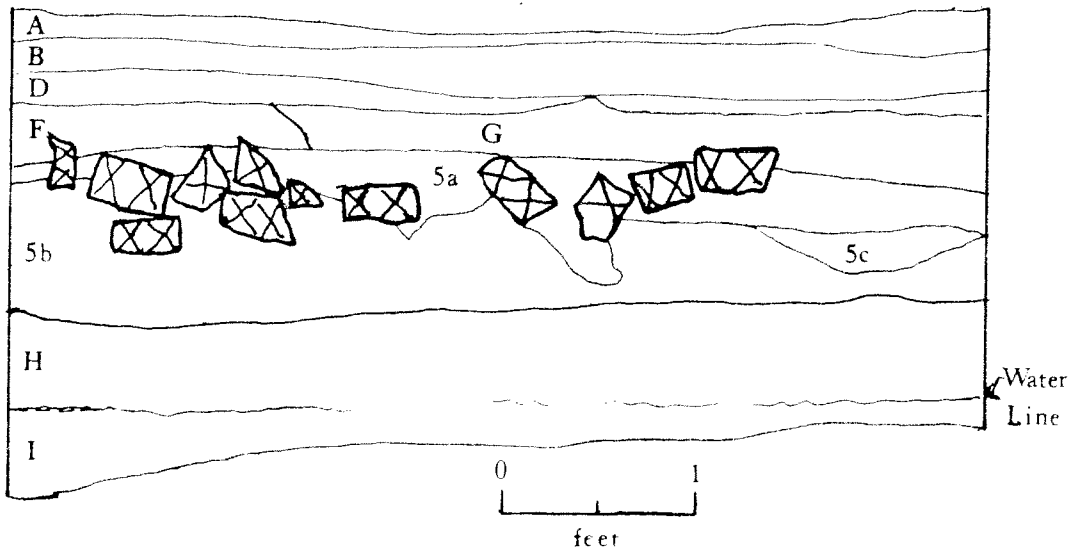



Figure 7

AP 39, Square 371, East Wall

 =brick

- Layer A - very dark grayish brown sandy loam, 10YR3/2
- Layer B - coal ash, sand, and clinker, 10YR2/1
- Layer D - dark yellowish brown clay loam, 10YR4/6
- Layer F - dark brown loam, 10YR3/3
- Layer G - black sandy loam, 10YR2/1
- Layer 5a - gray ash, 2.5YR5/0
- Layer 5b - dark olive gray loam, 5YR3/2 mottled with very dark grayish brown loam, 2.5YR3/2
- Layer 5c - dark gray ash, 7.5YR4/4 mottled with black coal, 7.5YR2/0
- Layer H - dark olive gray sandy clay, 5YR3/2 mottled with very dark grayish brown sandy clay, 2.5YR3/2, with coal, brick rubble
- Layer I - dark greenish gray clay, 5YR4/1

Figure 8

AP 39, Squares 451 and 472, East Wall

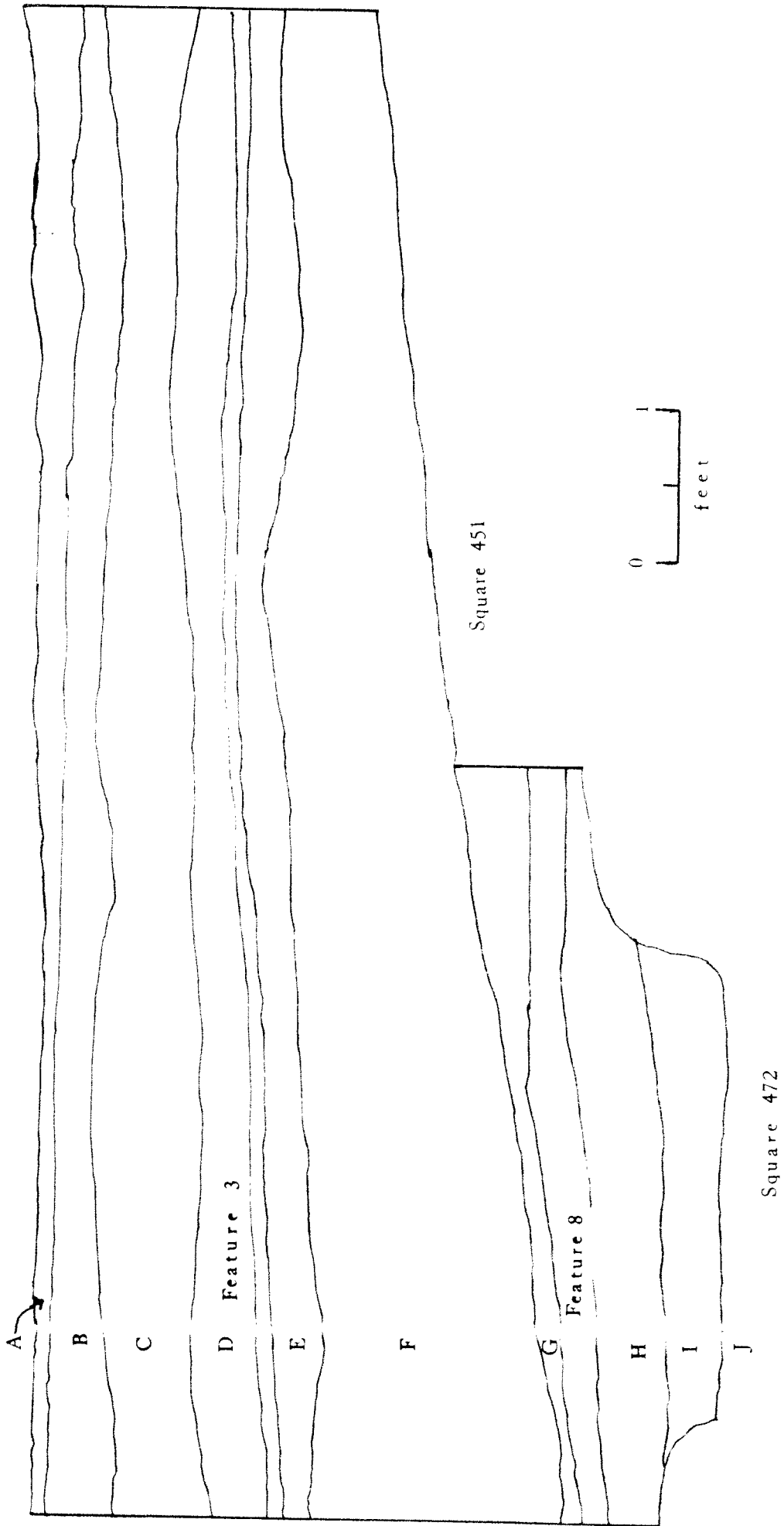


Figure 8

AP 39, Squares 451 and 472, East Wall

Key:

- Layer A - brown slightly sandy loam and bark mulch, 10YR/2
- Layer B - dark yellowish brown slightly sandy loam
- Layer C - dark yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR4/4
- Layer D - very dark grayish brown sandy loam
- Feature 3 - concrete floor
- Layer E - dark grayish brown sandy soil mixed heavily with clinker and coal
- Layer F - dark yellowish brown sandy clay, 10YR4/4
- Layer G - strong brown sandy loam, 7.5YR4/6
- Figure 8 - dark brown loam, 10YR3/3, with roots over possible floor board
- Layer H - dark yellowish brown clay, 10YR3/4
- Layer I - dark yellowish brown clay, 10YR3/4
- Layer J - dark humus with heavy organic content, unexcavated

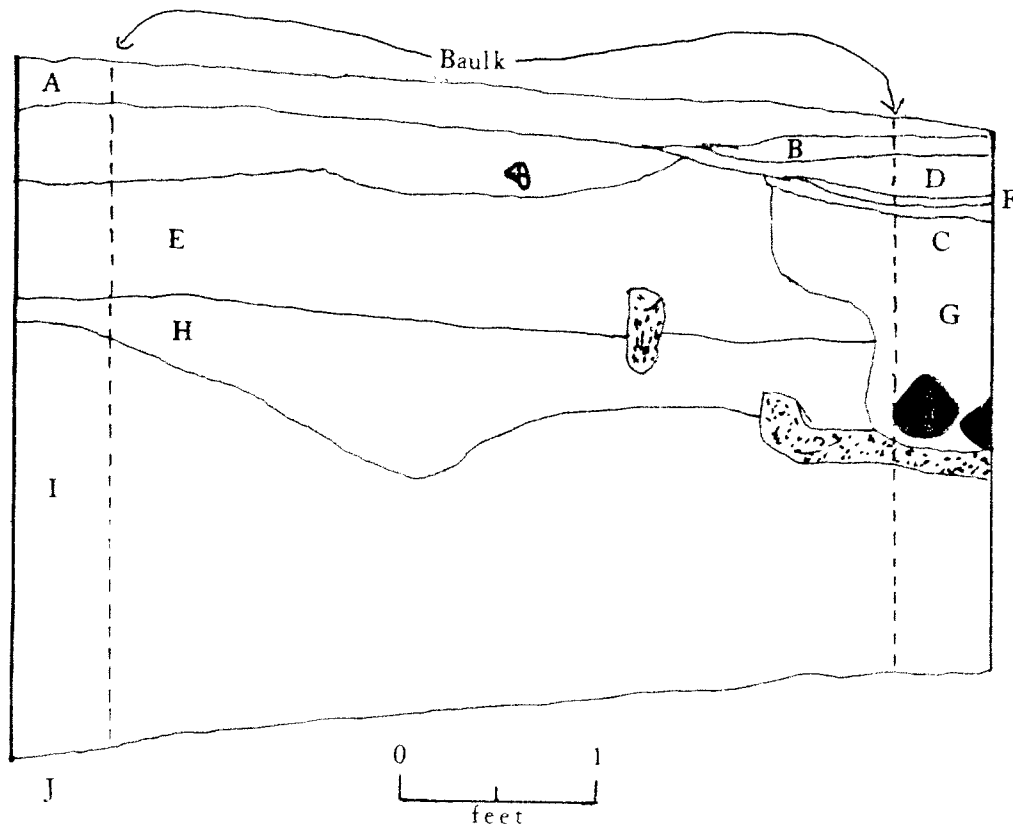





Figure 9

AP 39, Square 502, East Wall

 =brick
  =stone
  =root

- Layer A - brown sandy loam topsoil, 10YR5/3
- Layer B - strong brown clayed loam, 7.5YR4/6
- Layer C - dark yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR3/4
- Layer D - dark yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR4/4 mixed with dark grayish brown sandy loam, 10YR3/2
- Layer E - very sandy dark yellowish brown loam with pebbles, 10YR4/6
- Layer F - ash and coal, 10YR2/1, black
- Layer G - dark brown clayey loam, 10YR3/3
- Layer H - dark yellowish brown sandy loam with pebbles, 10YR4/6
- Layer I - dark brown clayey loam with some sand, 7.5YR4/4
- Layer J - olive brown clay, 2.5YR4/4

Figure 10  
AP 39, Fireman Trench I, South Wall

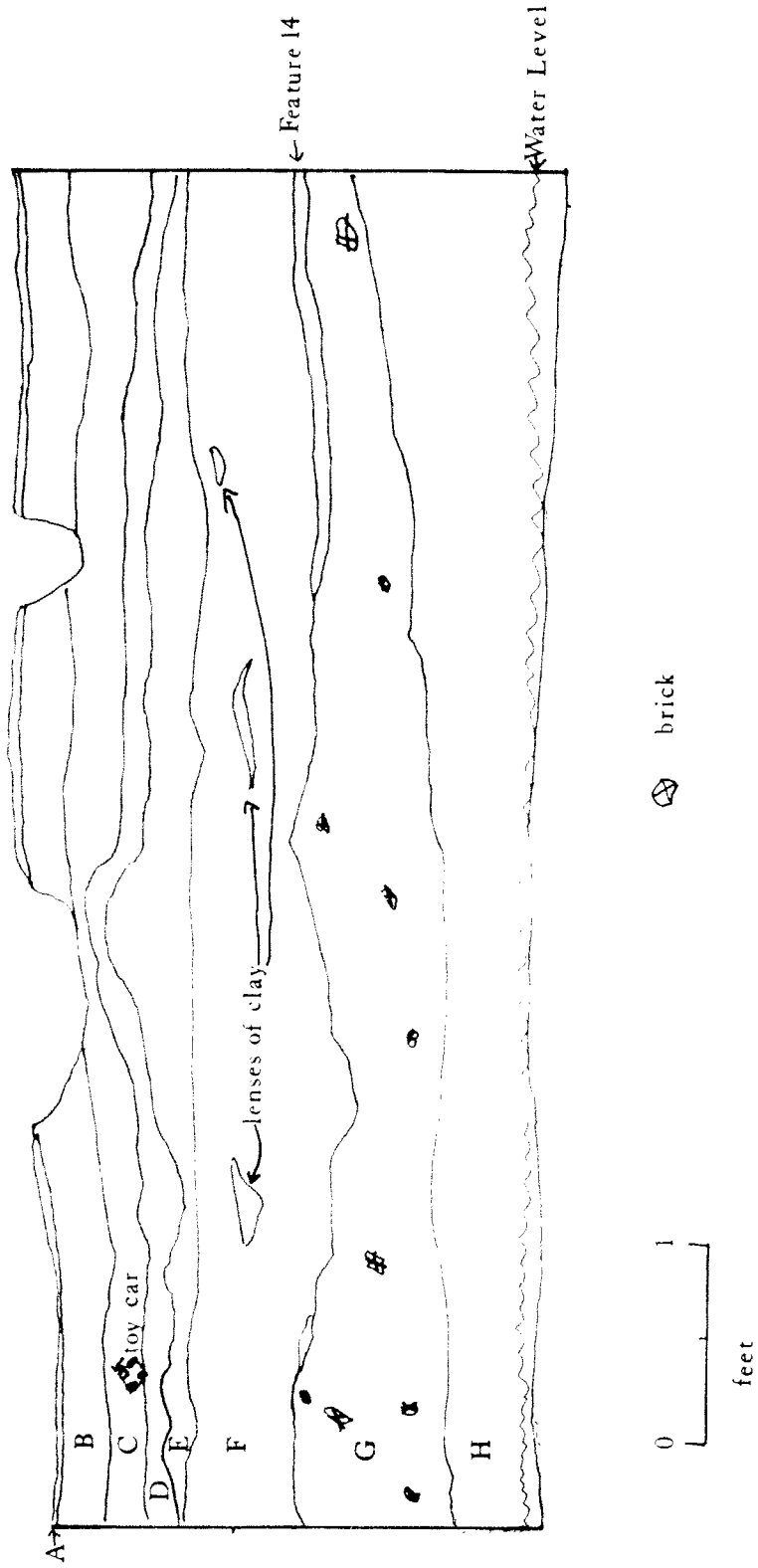




Figure 10

AP39, Firemen Trench I, South Wall

Key:

Layer A - Sod

Layer B - very dark grayish brown topsoil, 10YR3/2

Layer C - very dark brown loam, 10YR2/2

Layer D - dark yellowish brown sand, 10YR4/6

Layer E - dark brown sandy loam, 10YR3/3

Layer F - very dark gray coal clinker and ash, 10YR3/1

Feature 14 - layer of iron or steel plates

Layer G - yellowish brown clay, 10YR5/4

Layer H - dark yellowish brown clay, 10YR4/4

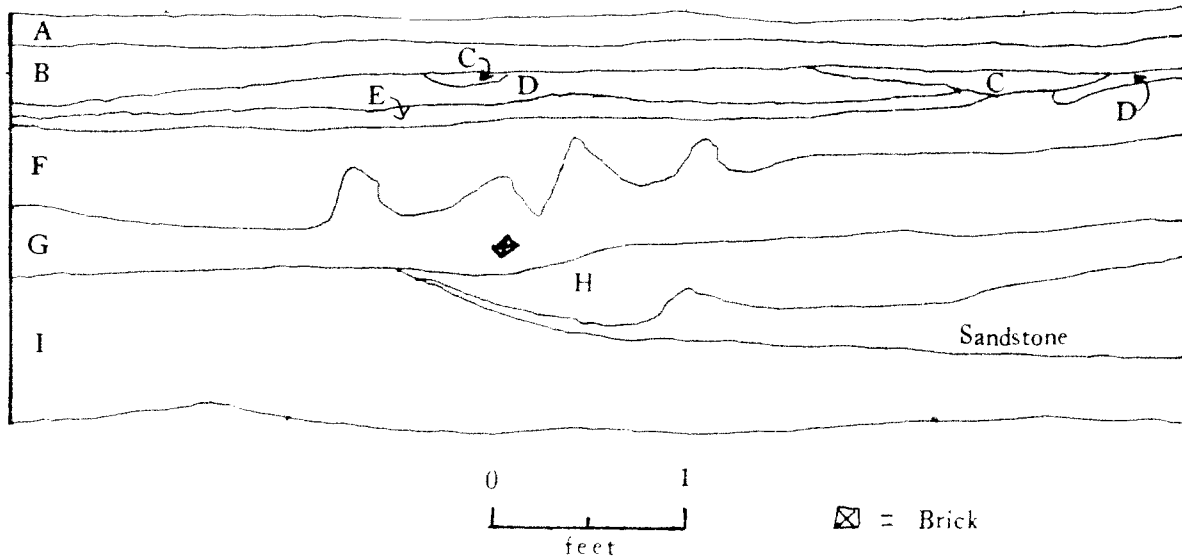


Figure 11

AP 39, Fireman II Trench, South Wall

- Layer A - black bark mulch, 10YR2/1
- Layer B - very dark gray sandy loam, 10YR3/2
- Layer C - dark yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR3/4
- Layer D - black clinker and charcoal in ashy matrix, 10YR2/1
- Layer E - dark yellowish brown sandy clay, 10YR3/6
- Layer F - very dark yellowish brown ashy matrix with clinker and charcoal, 10YR3/2
- Layer G - very mottled clay, olive brown (2.5YR3/2 and 4/4), and yellowish brown (10YR5/6)
- Layer H - layers of decomposed sandstone, light olive brown (2.5YR5/4), and strong brown (7.5YR4/4)
- Layer I - olive sterile clay, 7YR5/4

Figure 12  
M-Bar trench, 25' to 35', showing posthole.

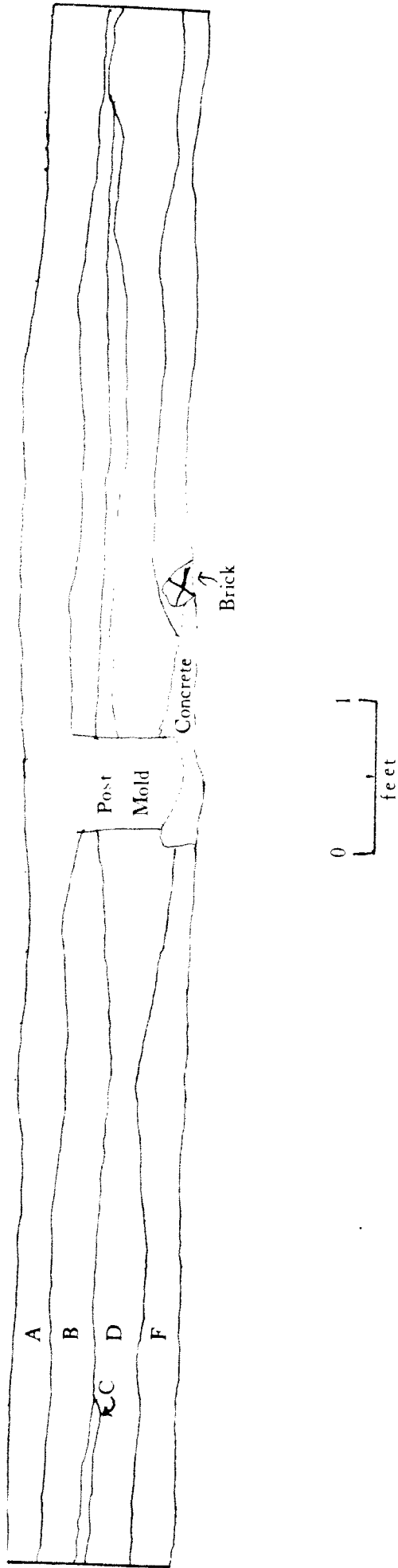


Figure 12

AP39, M-Bar Trench, East Wall

Key:

Layer A - very dark grayish brown sandy loam

Layer B - black sandy loam with heavy coal ash and clinker,  
10YR2/1

Layer C - yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR5/6

Layer D - dark yellowish brown clay, 10YR4/6

Layer E - dark brown (10YR4/3) clay mottled with olive gray  
clay (5Y4/2)

Layer F - very dark gray sandy loam

FIGURE 13  
RECONSTRUCTED  
MID 19th CENTURY  
CONTOURS

Contour Interval: 1 foot  
0 5 10  
feet

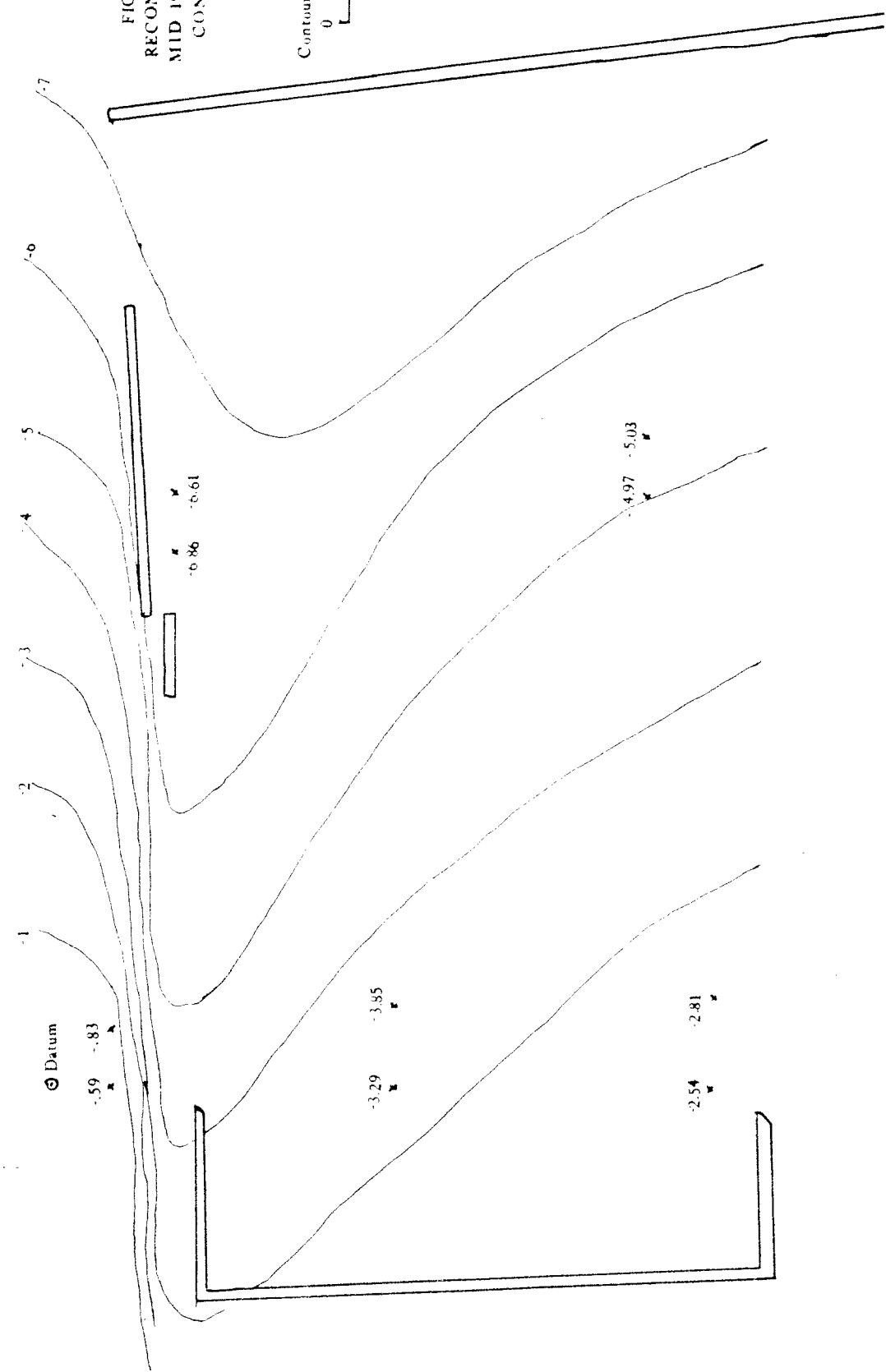




Figure 14

Tree, Green Street School property,  
north of the Newman Street site.  
The size and age of this tree suggests  
it stands on an original land surface.



Figure 15

Retaining wall, north side of Newman Street park.

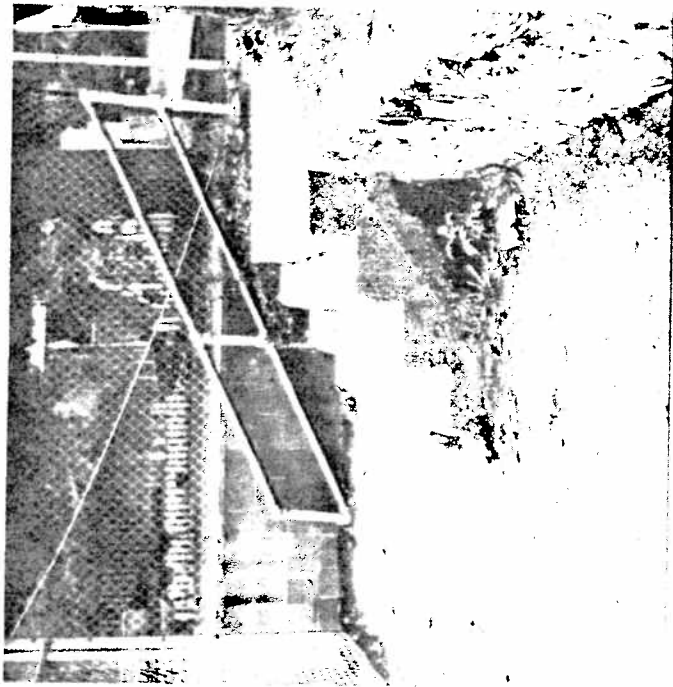
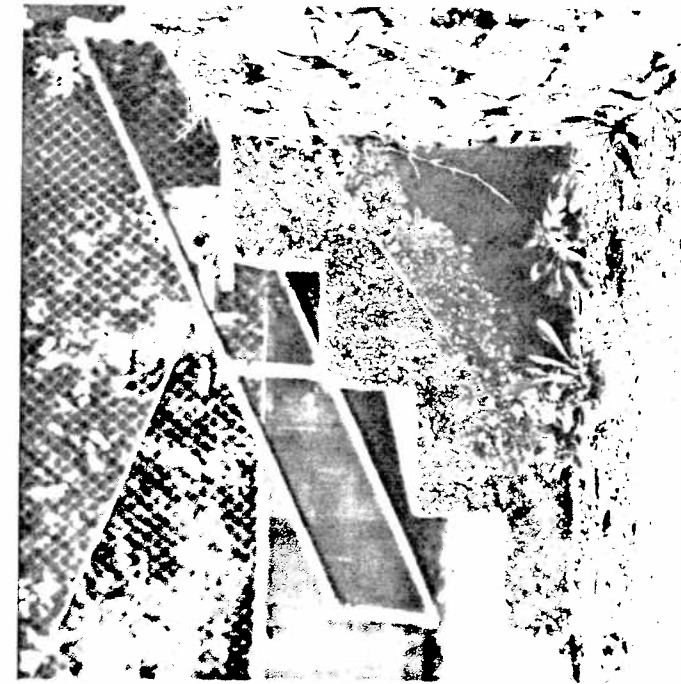


Figure 16

Steps by basketball court, Newman Street site.  
Note that court surface has covered bottom one  
or two steps, as indicated by the sunken  
balustrade. Detail shows rough bottom of steps.



## 1984 NEWMAN STREET EXCAVATIONS: A PRELIMINARY REPORT

### Introduction

As part of the Archaeology in Annapolis project in 1984, exploratory excavations were conducted in the playground in the park at the corner of Newman Street and Compromise Street. The excavations were part of the larger research strategy of the Archaeology in Annapolis project. The Newman Street site was used for the public archaeology program. This report summarizes the preliminary results of the 1984 field season.

### The Archaeology in Annapolis Project

The Archaeology in Annapolis program is jointly sponsored by the University of Maryland and Historic Annapolis, Inc. Personnel also include faculty from the College of William and Mary and George Mason University, and graduate students from Brown University, the University of California at Berkeley, and SUNY, Buffalo. So far, the project has excavated ten sites including an ironmonger's house, a print shop, a tavern and the homes of two of Maryland's colonial governors.

The Archaeology in Annapolis project is designed to recover a more complete picture of all aspects of Annapolis history accessible through archaeology. Dr. Anne Yentsch sketches this approach:

Our initial excavations were selected to provide for carefully controlled comparisons of several variables: location within the town; association with known individuals of established social rank; occupational sequences by families that spanned at least one generation (c. 20 years); variation in occupation. Because we wanted to establish the range by differentiation in the material culture of the city as it was affected by social rank, we chose archaeological sites that we expected might highlight such differences.  
(Yentsch 1983)

One major element of the Archaeology in Annapolis project is the Public Program. This program, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Maryland Humanities Council, is designed to show the public how the "facts" on which history is based are derived and how they are interpreted. This program has worked on three other sites in Annapolis. The Newman Street site was planned as the public archaeology site for the 1984 season.

#### The Newman Street Site

The Newman Street site is located at the northwest corner of Compromise and Newman Streets (Figure 1). The site belongs to the City of Annapolis and is now occupied by a public park.

The park is divided into three areas: a park area along Compromise Street, with benches, landscaping, and a horseshoe pit; a fenced, asphalt-covered basketball court in the middle; and a playground in the back part of the site (Figure 2). The site is bounded to the southeast by Newman Street, to the northeast by Compromise Street, to the northwest by the parking lot of the Green Street School, and to the southwest by an alley separating the property from the backyards of houses facing on Duke of Gloucester Street.

In the winter of 1983-84, the Archaeology in Annapolis project needed a site for its public archaeology program. The preceding two seasons at the Victualling Warehouse had been a success (Leone and Potter, 1984; Leone, 1983). However, the Victualling Warehouse site was 80% excavated. The central location of the Victualling Warehouse site was partially offset by its small size and consequent problems of

taking large groups of public through it. Because of this, the Archaeology in Annapolis project was searching for another site that would fit into the overall research design of the project and that was located in a place that would lend itself to public presentation.

The City of Annapolis agreed to allow the Archaeology in Annapolis project to use the playground on the Newman Street property for the public archaeology site. The Newman Street site represents the first time that the Archaeology in Annapolis project has conducted excavations on public property.

The Newman Street site fits the needs of the Archaeology in Annapolis project. Located on the old waterfront of Annapolis only a half block from the Victualling Warehouse site, the site lends itself to attracting public attention. Background historical research confirmed the initial impression that the site had potential for important information about one of the oldest parts of the city. Therefore it was decided to conduct a program of exploratory archaeology on the playground portion of the Newman Street site in the summer of 1984.

The research on Newman Street consisted of a background historic review, the design of an approach to the site, and a season of exploratory excavations on the site. This report summarizes the preliminary results of this investigation.

#### Historical Background of the Newman Street Site

Dr. Jean Russo, Research Director for Historic Annapolis, Inc., conducted a summary investigation of the history of use of the Newman Street site. She perused known summaries of Annapolis history, notably Papenfuse (1971). She reviewed the title history of the property and

summarized early references to the property in the Maryland Gazette. Insurance maps from the 19th and 20th centuries were assembled. Recent lists of occupants of the buildings on the site were compiled.

In the 1718 Stoddert survey, Lot 31, of which Newman Street was a part, belonged to Charles Carroll (of Annapolis). In 1767, Charles Carroll of Annapolis leased the property to William Logan with the condition that he build a wharf and warehouse on the property. Until William Logan took over the property in 1767, there is no evidence that the property was used for anything. Dr. Russo suggests that the fact that the lease stipulated that a wharf and warehouse be built meant that the property was vacant. She notes that the adjacent areas contained wharves and warehouses at the time (Russo, 1984).

Logan did build a wharf and a warehouse on the property. They are described in a 1779 announcement that the property was for sale:

"The wharf at present occupied by the State of Maryland will be sold for 87 years to come it is made of stone the foundation 14 feet thick is 50 feet in front, 112 feet in back with a ware house on it 20' x 23. Rooms on the upper story and has a chimney with two fireplaces... The front of the wharf has water sufficient for vessels of the largest burthen that come this way and which will be sold for £6000 continental currency." (Executive Papers # 14, 8/12/1779)

At the time Logan was trying to sell the property, he had leased the wharf to the Maryland Navy "for the Conveniency of the Gallies and other vessels, and the Hands and Stores belonging to them...." (Logan 1780). The Maryland Navy all but destroyed Logan's property. Logan lists reports by witnesses who report the damage:

"...about two hundred and twenty-five feet of the [curb] that was....the stone work of the wharf is entirely gone, that about one hundred tons of the

stone from the wall of the wharf has been thrown into the water together with a great quantity of ballast, sand and other rubbish so as to prevent any vessels of any burthen coming to or laying within six or seven feet of the said wharf, and that twenty seven panes of glass of the warehouse windows are broke, part of the plank that lined the inside of the warehouse below stairs is pulled down and destroyed, the.....outside stair cases broke to pieces and other injury done to the said house...." (Logan 1780)

Logan petitioned the government of Maryland that the wharf be returned to the state it was in when he leased it. He was either never paid, or paid in inflated currency.

He never recovered from this financial loss. In 1788, after selling off a small piece of the property, Logan petitioned the Chancellor of Maryland for relief as an insolvent debtor. Charles Carroll of Carrollton (son of Charles Carroll of Annapolis) reclaimed the property.

The property apparently lay unused for three years until 1791 when Charles Carroll sold it to John Adam Boyer. Boyer was a tanner who had worked for Thomas Hyde in a tannery established by Hyde in 1856 (Riley 1887:119). Boyer ran a tannery on the site for seven years. In 1798 he sold it to John Hyde, the son of his former employer, Thomas Hyde. Hyde continued using the property as a tannery. The wharf Logan built was still extant in 1798 and is mentioned in the deed title.

In 1819 the property was willed by John Hyde to his wife Sarah, to pass to his son Daniel on her death. John Hyde expressed in his will the wish that Daniel Hyde continue in the tannery business in partnership with Sarah. Daniel must have followed his father's wishes, as an advertisement in the Maryland Gazette of October 29, 1819 states that he has begun business at his father's place. A revealing statement in

dirt were removed. The season enabled a convincing picture of the evolution of that portion of the Newman Street site to be reconstructed.

Recap of Excavation:

The 8 squares excavated were taken to depths of between .63 and 4.5 feet below surface. Only 2 units had possible sterile subsoil. Fireman trench 2 had a layer of sand and decomposed rock overlaying a sterile greenish clay that probably represents sterile subsoil. The bottom layer in Fireman trench 1 was a sandy clay, which may have been sterile. In all other squares cultural material was present in the lowest layers.

In several squares excavations were carried to considerable depths. The limiting factor in excavation was the water table. In all the squares in which early levels had been reached, and in several squares which represented considerable later levels, excavation was stopped by the water table. Square 472 was excavated to a depth of 4.5 feet. In square 472 the water table lay just below the boundary between layers I and J. After rain, the water table rose and terminated excavation in these layers. In square 321, layer M was damp when excavation began and had to be abandoned when the water table rose after heavy rains. Only on the last days of excavation was further excavation possible. The lowest levels reached in square 502 were also quite damp, and it was clear that further excavation would produce standing water. From the day it was excavated and drawn, Fireman trench 1 had a few inches of water standing in the bottom. Water returned each time it was bailed out, and the trench was used as a rough measure of the level of the

water table on any given day. Water stood in square 371, above layer J, which represents at best early 20th century clinker dumping, after the heavy rains of August 12th. These rains raised the water table over the whole site six to eight inches and effectively prevented further excavation in squares 472 and 371, postponed excavation of layer M in square 321, and threatened to end deeper exploration of square 502.

#### Artifact Analysis:

Most of the artifacts recovered from the Newman Street excavations are now being washed, labelled, and classified. This report is based largely on excavation records without the information from the as yet uncompleted artifact analysis.

Much of the material recovered from the excavation was from 20th century deposits. Only a few layers did not yield evidence of 20th century material. Because so few layers had 18th or 19th century material, this material was washed and classified separately. The information from this analysis provided the basis for the reconstructed map of the site in the 19th century (Figure 13). Table 2 presents a description of these layers and the artifacts they contained.

#### A Reconstruction of the Evolution of the Newman Street Land Surface in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century

#### Evidence:

The following reconstruction is based on two sets of evidence. The first is the examination and analysis of surface features on the site and adjacent land, combined with some oral historical information. The second is a reconstructed contour map based on measurements from

roughly contemporaneous layers identified in the excavation (Figure 13).

Looking to the west at the Newman Street site, the property to the north of the site is higher than the Newman Street site. There is a perceptible drop of about one foot along the eastern end of the northern boundary of the site (Figure 18). The land surface to the north may be older. There is a large tree standing on this surface some 200 feet to the north (Figure 14). The school property to the north is bounded on the west by the lower end of the Ridout property garden which has been substantially unchanged since the 18th century. The back of this garden meets this surface more or less at level. On the other hand, the west end of the Newman Street playground is bounded by a large concrete wall, a railroad tie retaining wall, and a lower retaining wall. The alley behind these walls is substantially higher than the west edge of the Newman Street playground.

The northern edge of the Newman Street property is bounded by a long masonry wall for much of its length. The top two courses of this wall have been reconstructed. The wall is now the boundary and retaining wall for the lower two-thirds of the park. A set of concrete steps descends from the Green Street school yard to the level of the basketball court (Figures 15, 16). These concrete steps descend below the level of the macadam at the base of the basketball court and have been sealed by the macadam (Figure 16). The steps appear to have been added to the retaining wall at a time when earth was banked up against this wall. The steps were poured over this bank of earth, resulting in an uneven underside surface. The dirt has since been removed under the steps (Figure 16).

The other basis for reconstruction of the Newman Street site is a



contour map based on elevations obtained from roughly contemporaneous layers in the excavated pits (Figure 13). Table 2 summarizes the layers and associated artifacts on which the map is based.

While much of the site was covered with a thick layer of late nineteenth and twentieth century trash, in several parts of the site earlier levels were identified. In the two "Fireman" trenches and in squares 321, 472, and 502, layers were identified that represented either sterile subsoil or early to middle nineteenth century levels without later admixture. In Fireman trench 1, a deep lense of culture-bearing clay had a nineteenth century medicine bottle just above what may have been sterile subsoil. In the Fireman trench 2, a layer of decomposed rock and a layer of clay probably represented sterile subsoil under late nineteenth or twentieth century refuse. In squares 321 and 472, a possible old land surface with decomposed twigs yielded early to middle nineteenth century pottery. In square 502, a series of relatively thick, homogeneous layers yielded mixed pottery of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but no evidence of twentieth century material. These squares provided the information for drawing a contour map of the site as it must have been around the middle of the nineteenth century (Figure 13).

#### A Reconstruction of the History of the Land Surface of the Newman Street Site

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the Newman Street site had a stream flowing through it. The bylaw making Compromise Street a public street provides that a bridge be built over this stream (Maryland Gazette, Sept. 21, 1837). The channel of this stream shows up on the

reconstructed map (Figure 13).

Square 502, which lay just outside of the Newman Street property line, revealed an anomalously high layer, or really layers, that, from the artifacts they contain, were from the early to middle nineteenth century. These levels may well have been fill. They contain a mixture of artifacts ranging from creamware through pearlware to whiteware. The layers are quite thick (as much as 18" in places) and relatively homogenous throughout each layer. The excavated nineteenth century layers in square 502 totalled 3 feet. The total depth of nineteenth century layers was not determined, as excavation was terminated when the water table was encountered. This suggests that at some time in the middle nineteenth century a retaining wall must have been built along the northern edge of the Newman Street property, and the adjacent property filled.

The northern part of the site was apparently used for trash late in the nineteenth century and early twentieth century. In particular a thick layer of clinker covers most of the upper (western) portion of the site. It is most noticeable in the Fireman Trench I where it forms a thick layer .8 feet thick. In places it is interleaved with thin layers of orange sand.

Some intentional fill was done in the twentieth century. In square 472, beneath the concrete floor associated with the terra cotta block wall, was a massive layer (layer F) which filled the old stream channel and brought that part of the site up towards the present contour. In this layer was a screw top glass jar, placing it firmly in this century.

In 1944 the property became city property. All the buildings on the site were removed. In the trench where the "M-Bar" was removed, we found remains of concrete post supports. Mr. Walter Quaintance, who attended the Green Street school in the 1950s, identified these as the supports for

the swing set that was there before the present playground equipment.

At least one major dumping of clinker happened since that playground construction. One post coming from one of these concrete post supports left a post mold in the profile of the "M-Bar" trench (Figure 15). This post mold goes through the clinker layer that was laid down after the swing construction, meaning that this clinker layer must date to after the playground construction. Perhaps when the property became a playground, steps were added to the wall that bounds the property to the north. Sometime later dirt was cut away from the foot of the steps and perhaps at the same time the area where the basketball court is now was filled in and paved. This filling covered the bottom one or two of the steps (Figure 21). The 1980 park reconstruction plan represents the basketball court blacktop as existing at that time.

Finally, the playground was reconstructed in 1980. The plan instructs that: "Essentially existing grades are to be preserved except where excessive depressions or rises occur. In these areas grades are to be levelled to provide a smooth transition with immediate surrounding grade." (Ewald 1980). In square 354, a clear sequence of filling with topsoil, a layer of bark mulch, and a layer of sod could be seen in the profiles (Figure 6). In other squares, barkchips used for landscaping formed the first layer.

#### Summary:

The nineteenth and twentieth century history of the Newman Street site is mostly of filling, rather than of cutting. There are indications that some cutting into the hillside may have happened in the twentieth century in association with the concrete garage structure. The presence of the

heavy late clinker layers with late trash in "Fireman I", and in square 354 indicate that this cutting was into late nineteenth and early twentieth century fill.

The presence of deep layers of fill over the early stream channel suggest that eighteenth century layers may still be undisturbed below excavations we made. Unfortunately our excavations were stopped by water table in an unusually wet summer.

The rapid filling over of the old stream channel raises the question as to when the stream was removed from the site. The stream was present in 1837 when the bylaw creating Compromise Street was passed. The middle the nineteenth century fill in the property just north of Newman Street site suggests that at this time the stream's course was at least shifted to the Newman Street property. The difference in level between the Green Street school property to the north and Newman Street at this time implies a retaining wall along the property line to keep the fill in the property to the north from washing down onto the Newman Street site. The stream may have been diverted at this time (which would date the fill to after 1837) or it may have been diverted later when the twentieth century fill was put in under the concrete floor in square 472. There is no indication of a stream in the 1851 and later insurance maps of the John B. Flood Lumber Yard, which may or may not indicate that the stream had been re-located by 1851.

#### Implications for Further Research

The excavations revealed a history of filling from at least 1837 to the present. This suggests that eighteenth century layers may be present and relatively undisturbed below the lowest nineteenth century layers

excavated. However, no eighteenth century layers were found in the 1984 season.

If eighteenth century layers are present in this portion of the Newman Street site, they are covered by from two to six feet of nineteenth and twentieth century deposits. Equally important from the viewpoint of planning excavation, they are probably under the water table. This is an advantage from the point of view of possible preservation, but it means considerable logistical problems, since pumps will have to be used in any excavation. The use of pumps would present problems of noise if the site is to be used next year as a public archaeology site. Without evidence of an important eighteenth or early nineteenth century feature extending into the part of the site that was the subject of excavations in 1984, therefore, digging in this part would imply digging through and recording several feet of later fill, and dealing with problems of water. There is no certainty of a return that would justify the expense of dealing with these problems. At the same time, these conditions combine to preserve any untouched eighteenth century layers that may be there.

There are three areas within the Newman Street property, and one outside of it, that might be the subject of further investigation. These are: the portion of the playground left by the excavations of this year (the southern half of the playground), the area beneath the basketball court, the area in the front of the park along Compromise Street, and, outside the Newman Street property, the strip of land to the north of the Newman Street property. Each will be discussed below.

The southern half of the playground might have the eighteenth century closer to the surface. The reconstruction of the northern half of the playground showed the ground surface (and the water table) rising to the

south. The disadvantage of this area is that it is more likely to have been disturbed. Square 321 had a sewer pipe through the middle of the earliest layer excavated, even though it represented an area with minimum disturbance since 1851. Fireman trench 2, the other excavation unit closest to the southern end of the site, had apparent sterile subsoil only, overlaid by twentieth century deposits.

The area under the basketball court might very well have undisturbed deposits under it. The steps at the northwestern corner of the basketball area suggest that the older land surface lies in a continuous line with the old land surface uncovered at the bottom of square 472. At any rate, the recent history of the basketball court has been one of filling, since the bottom two steps are covered by the fill and macadam surface of the basketball court. Excavating under the basketball court would involve destroying the playing surface of the court. The same water table problems would probably also plague excavations on at least the upper end of the basketball court.

The area in the front part of the site along Compromise Street could be excavated with less attendant damage to existing park features. This would have been the area right along the waterfront, with possible higher chances of finding wharf and wharf-related structures. There were houses along this part of the site, but they were there from 1851, which may have resulted in less destruction than rebuilding several times. In addition, the earlier levels of the site should have been lowest in this part of the site, since this would have dropped to the water's edge. For the same reason, water table might be a problem here as well.

The area belonging to the Green Street school adjacent to the north of the Newman Street property can be considered. Part of the property

(the westernmost part) is a grassy strip and the other part is a parking lot, part of which is fenced off and is not used. The excavations indicated that the southern portion of this property at least was filled in the middle of the eighteenth century. The property belonged to Daniel Hyde in the nineteenth century, and may have also had earlier eighteenth century structures like those from the Newman Street property. Jean Russo reports that the adjacent property had wharves and warehouses (Russo, 1984).

All the above mentioned properties would lend themselves to use as a public archaeology site. All are relatively close to the town's waterfront center. The same techniques learned during the 1984 season could be applied for attracting the public to the site. The Green Street school property would involve getting permission from a different administrative unit but this is not an insurmountable obstacle. It is reasonable to avoid destroying existing features unnecessarily, so it appears that the two most likely spots would be the front of the Newman Street site, along Compromise Street, and the Green Street school site. The northern half of the Newman Street playground is more likely to be disturbed and would involve removing the rest of the playground equipment. The basketball court would demand removal of the asphalt basketball court floor, as well as several feet of fill.

The front of Newman Street is likely to have important features since it is right on the old waterfront. A comparison with adjacent land surfaces and the excavations done so far suggest that it has not been cut away, but rather is more likely to have been filled. The Green Street school property also looks as if it should have an archaeological potential. The southern end of the property appears to have been filled in the middle of the nineteenth century, according to excavations in square 502.

The northern end of this property is relatively undisturbed as a land surface, judging by the large tree (Figure 14) on the northwest part of the property, and the concordance of the western end of the property with the adjacent Ridout Garden, which has been substantially undisturbed since the eighteenth century.

The Newman Street site has demonstrated that it has a potential to yield undisturbed eighteenth century and early nineteenth century layers and features. Excavations in the northern half of the playground suggest that such layers, if present, lie under several feet of later material and are likely to be under the water table. The Newman Street site demonstrated its utility as a public archaeology site. It demanded new techniques for leading the public to the site. Further excavations on or near the Newman Street property could use the techniques developed in the 1984 season. Future excavations could draw on the fact that the property is now known as an archaeological site.

# # #



## APPENDIX I

Squares Excavated in the 1984 SeasonSquare 321:

Square 321 lay under a large concrete culvert that was part of the playground equipment. This was removed by a front end loader. The square was opened because according to the Sanborn maps it has not been occupied by any buildings from 1851 to the present. It was also located near the middle of the Newman Street site as a whole.

Squares 348, 349 and 371:

Square 348 was opened because it lay in an open area between square 354 and square 321. Later the adjacent squares 349 and 371 were opened when a brick feature was uncovered in the "M-Bar" trench.

Square 354:

Square 354 was the first square opened on the site. It was in an area that was not occupied by sidewalk, pavement, or playground equipment, and in an area on which no buildings appear on the Sanborn maps until the 1921 map.

Squares 451 and 472:

Squares 451 and 472 were opened because they were in the one area of the site that was occupied by a building from 1851 until 1903. On the 1921 Sanborn map this building was replaced by a much larger masonry, brick, or stone structure. It was hoped that while other squares might produce evidence of pre-1851 usage of the site, these squares might document the continuing use of the site from 1851 to World War II.

## APPENDIX I (Cont.)

Square 502:

Square 502 actually lay outside the park property on land belonging to the Green Street school. The large concrete wall on the west side of the site cut into the slope of the hill behind the site (Figure 4). The adjacent land to the north of the site rose perceptibly. This square was to test the uncut portion.

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TABLE I  
Personnel Working on the Newman Street Site

<u>Days Worked</u>	<u>Volunteer Days</u>	<u>Regular Crew Days</u>
31	51	182
Average per day	1.6	5.9

TABLE 2

Artifact Descriptions from Selected Layers, AP39

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Artifacts</u>
<u>Square 321</u>	
Layer I	1 piece black lead glazed red paste earthenware, 3 pieces unglazed red paste earthenware, 1 piece undecorated creamware, 1 piece undecorated pearlware, 1 piece undecorated white paste earthenware, 1 piece brownish coarse stoneware
Layer L	1 medicinal bottle, retooled lip
<u>Square 472</u>	
Layer I	4 pieces undecorated white paste earthenware, 1 piece orange to buff paste undecorated, unglazed coarse earthenware
Layer J	1 piece undecorated white paste earthenware
<u>Square 502</u>	
Layer E	1 piece tempered red paste earthenware with tinted green lead glaze, 10 pieces undecorated creamware, 1 piece slip decorated creamware, 1 piece very hard and refined Rockingham type, 5 pieces of undecorated pearlware (2 of these pieces have grey-blue puddling, but due to body thickness and color not being cobalt blue, were classified as white ware, not pearlware), 1 transfer printed white paste earthenware, 1 piece gray paste stoneware.
Layer H	1 black lead glazed red paste earthenware, 1 undecorated creamware, 1 shered white paste earthenware with greenish gray lead glaze, 1 undecorated white paste earthenware, 1 white undecorated ironstone
Layer J	1 red paste earthenware, 1 undecorated pearlware, 1 teal blue transfer print white paste earthenware

TABLE 3

AP39, FeaturesFeature #

- 1 Vitrified china plate, maker's mark says "1928." This plate and associated refuse probably represent post-1944 debris from when the tenements along Newman Street were torn down. Square 321.
- 2 Circular area of concrete and clinker represents 20th century trash disposal on site. Square 348.
- 3 Concrete floor and associated terra cotta block wall. This floor was laid over layer of clinker, possibly for drainage. The terra cotta blocks were used in the 20s and 30s of this century. A screw top bottle came from the layer beneath this floor and associated clinker layer, putting the floor firmly in the 20th century. Square 472 (also feature 12 in square 451).
- 4 Concrete block, rectangular stone, and concrete pavement. Associated artifacts, including some beneath it, were 20th century, including spark plugs. Probably driveway leading to garage that first appears on 1821 Sanborn map. Square 321.
- 5 Brick feature in clinker levels. This feature was at first thought to be a wall. Excavation revealed no patten. There were no complete bricks. The bricks represented two colors (yellow and red), two shapes (hexagonal and rectangular), and at least two sizes. It appears to represent a discarded pile of broken bricks, late 19th or 20th century in date. Square 371.
- 6 Mottled soil with concentration of bricks and some asphalt roofing tile. Probably part of filling under concrete floor (feature 3). Square 472.
- 7 Rectangular soil stain, outlined by yellow sand. This stain is part of 20th century disturbance or construction on the site. Square 321.
- 8 This feature consisted of several parallel roots that ran along the base of Layer G and the top of Layer H. Under these were remains of a wooden construction, largely rotted away, probably a floor. The roots must have grown while the floor was still intact, which accounts for their parallel level above the floor. Probably 20th century, although Layer I beneath this feature had 19th century ceramics.

Table 3 - AP39, Features - Cont'd

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 9  | Dark area of soil, probably part of disturbance from when sewer pipe cutting through this square was put in (20th century, probably associated with the garage that appears on the 1921 Sanborn map). Square 321. |
| 10 | Patch of mottled loam cutting into clinker layer, with two possible post holes. Twentieth century disturbance of late clinker trash deposit. Square 371.  |
| 11 | Brick and mortar feature, badly disturbed by construction of sewer pipe. Square 321.  |
| 12 | Concrete floor, same as feature 3 in adjacent square 472. Square 451.   |
| 13 | Rock feature in SE corner of square, may represent disturbed remains of retaining wall.   |
| 14 | Layer of steel or iron plates, heavily oxidized. Fireman Trench I.  |



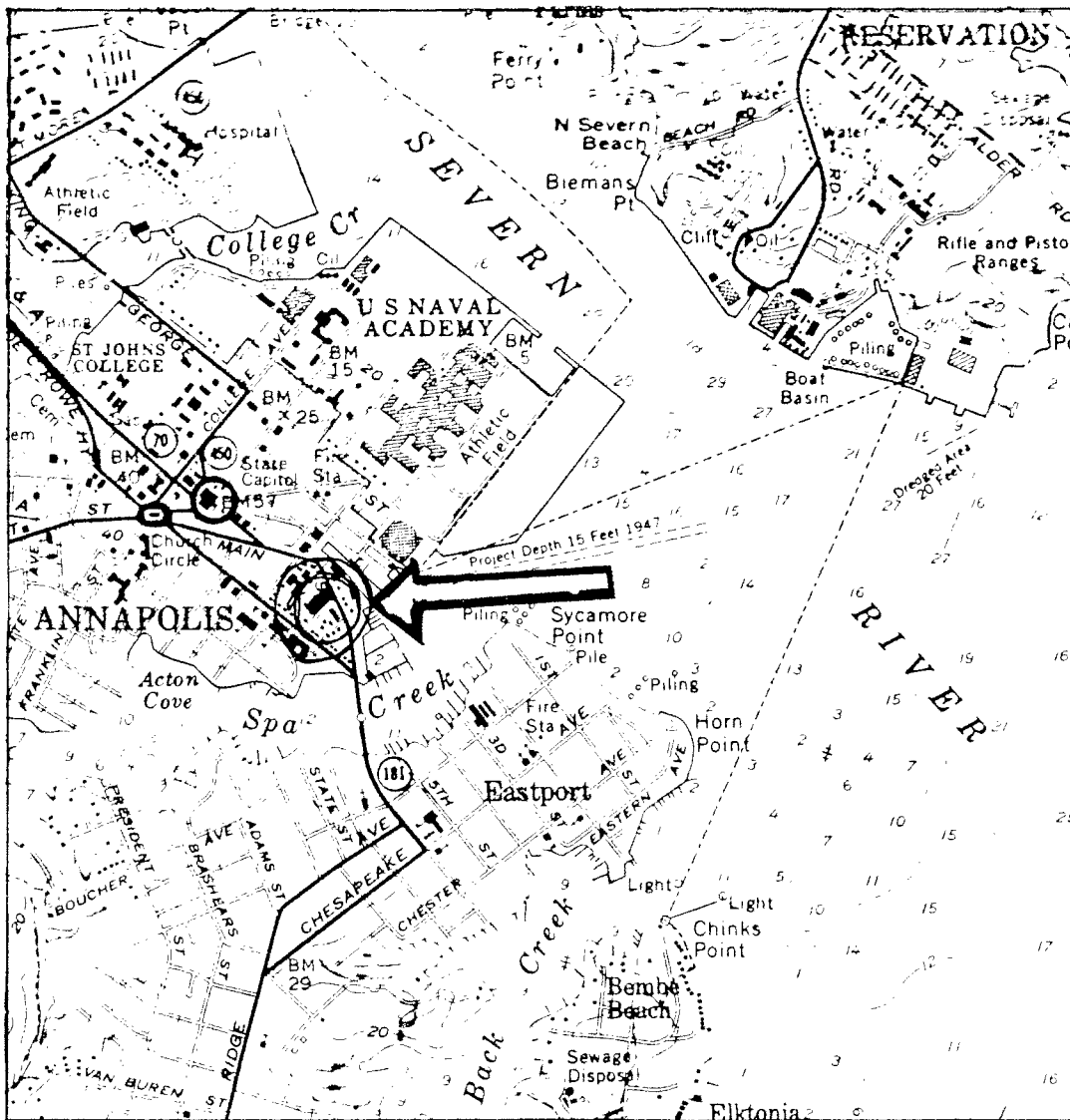


FIGURE 1  
 LOCATION OF NEWMAN STREET SITE

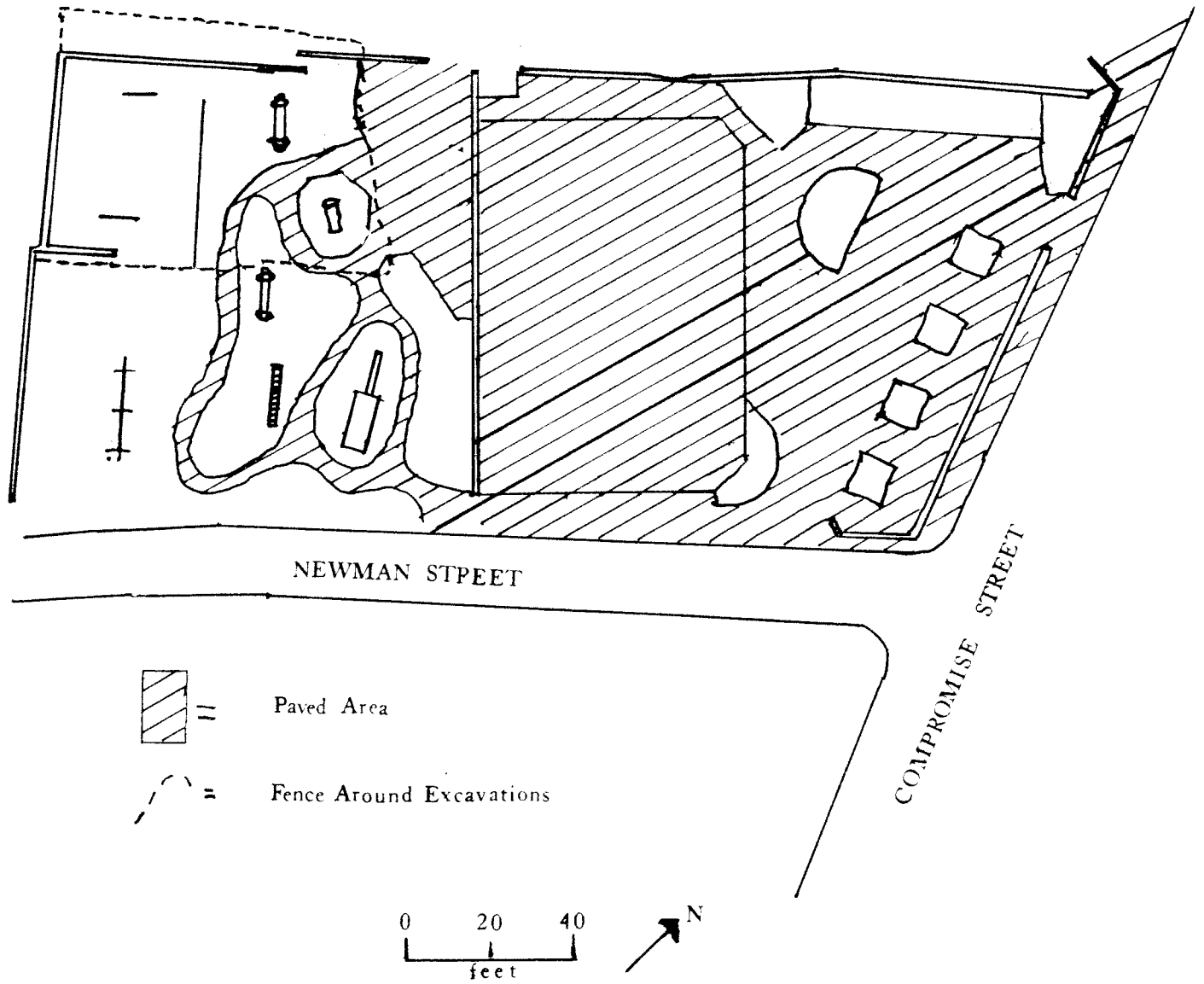
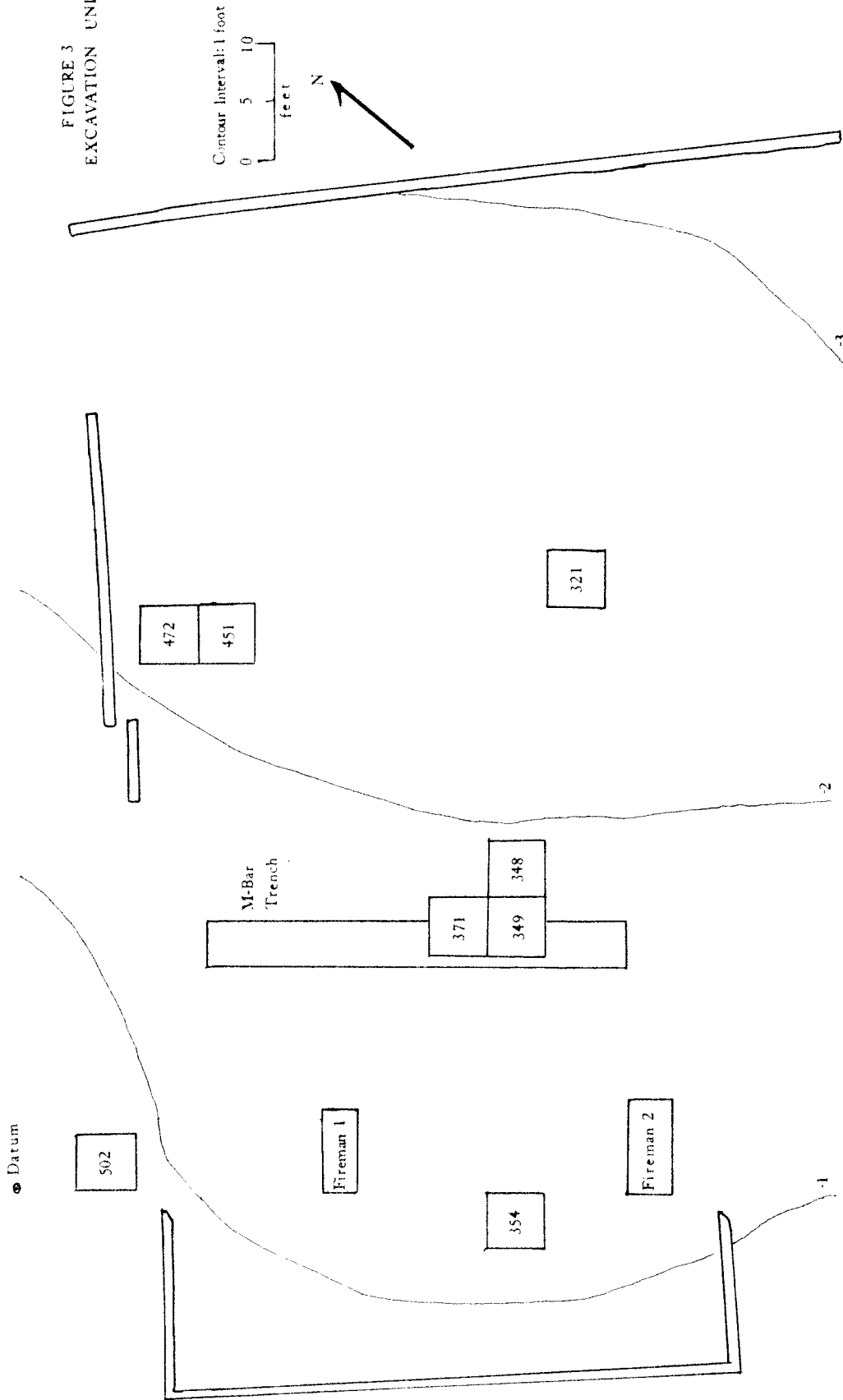


FIGURE 2

THE NEWMAN STREET PARK

FIGURE 3  
EXCAVATION UNITS



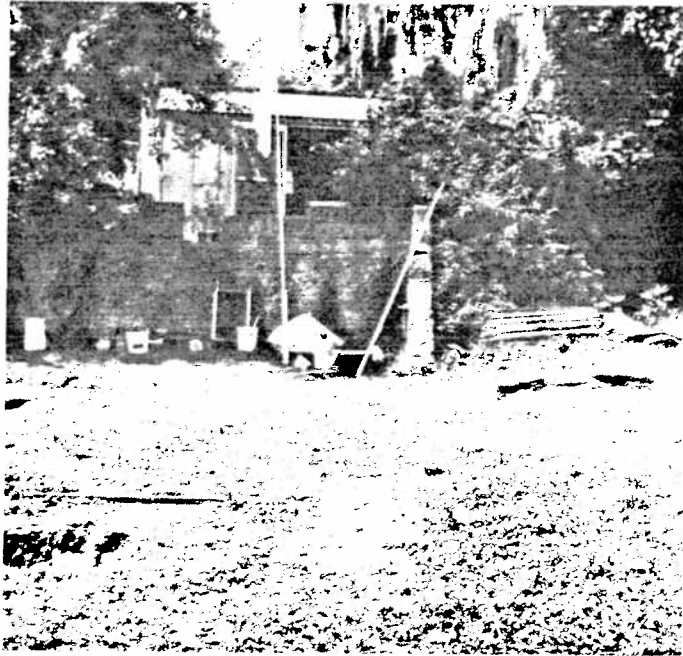


Figure 4

Newman Street site, view West.  
Note difference in level between  
Green Street School property to  
the north (right) and the Newman  
Street property to the south (left).

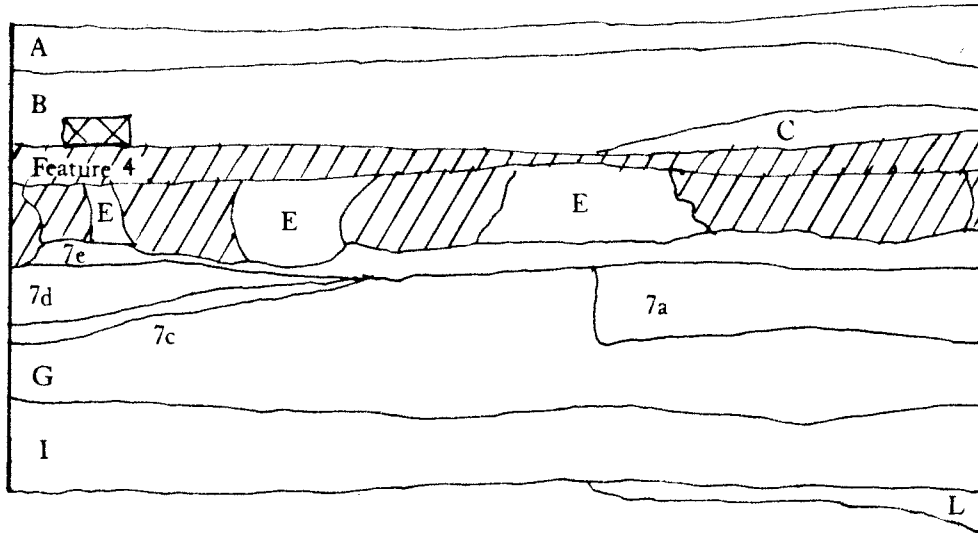
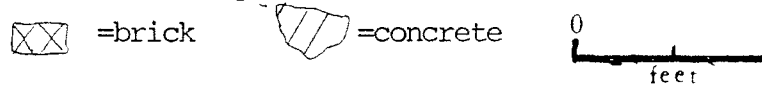


Figure 5

AP 39, Square 321, S. Wall



- Layer A - yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR6/6
- Layer B - black, very sandy loam, 10YR2/1
- Layer C - dark yellowish brown sand with bright yellow mottling, 10YR3/6
- Layer E - dark brown sandy loam, 10YR3/3, with concrete and rubble
- Layer 7a - very dark grayish brown sandy loam, 10YR3/2, with yellow mottling
- Layer 7c - dark yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR3/6, with coal ash & asphalt roof tiles
- Layer 7d - coal ash and asphalt roof tiles
- Layer 7e - dark yellowish brown clay, 10YR3/6
- Layer G - dark gray sandy loam, 10YR4/1
- Layer I - dark yellowish brown slightly sandy clay, 10YR4/6
- Layer L - dark brown sandy loam (very wet) with orange and green clay, 10YR3/3

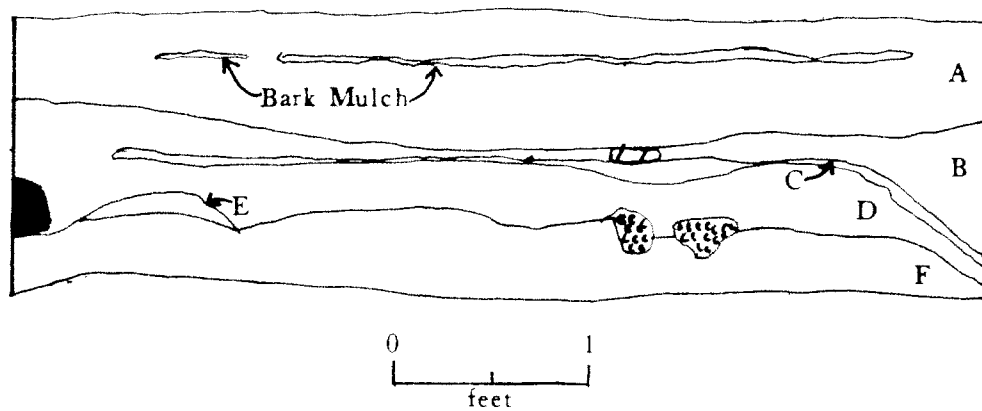





Figure 6

AP 39, Square 354, East Wall

 =clinker
  =concrete
  =rock

Layer A - dark yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR4/4 with lense of bark mulch (10YR2/1, black). (This is 1980 park reconstruction.)

Layer B - black rubble and clinker layer, 10YR2/1

Layer C - dark yellowish brown sandy clay, 10YR3/6

Layer D - black clinker, 7.5YR2/0 mixed with yellow brown sandy loam 10YR4/4

Layer E - dark yellowish brown sand with pebbles, 10YR3/6

Layer F - very dark brown hard clay with coal fragments, 10YR3/2

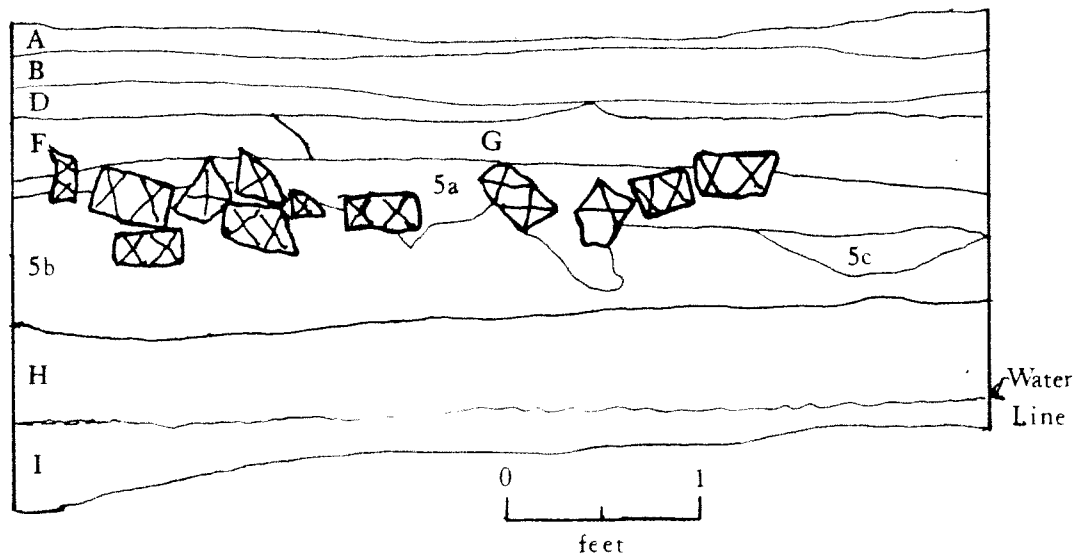


Figure 7

AP 39, Square 371, East Wall

☒=brick

Layer A - very dark grayish brown sandy loam, 10YR3/2

Layer B - coal ash, sand, and clinker, 10YR2/1

Layer D - dark yellowish brown clay loam, 10YR4/6

Layer F - dark brown loam, 10YR3/3

Layer G - black sandy loam, 10YR2/1

Layer 5a - gray ash, 2.5YR5/0

Layer 5b - dark olive gray loam, 5YR3/2 mottled with very dark grayish brown loam, 2.5YR3/2

Layer 5c - dark gray ash, 7.5YR4/4 mottled with black coal, 7.5YR2/0

Layer H - dark olive gray sandy clay, 5YR3/2 mottled with very dark grayish brown sandy clay, 2.5YR3/2, with coal, brick rubble

Layer I - dark greenish gray clay, 5YR4/1

Figure 8

AP 39, Squares 451 and 472, East Wall

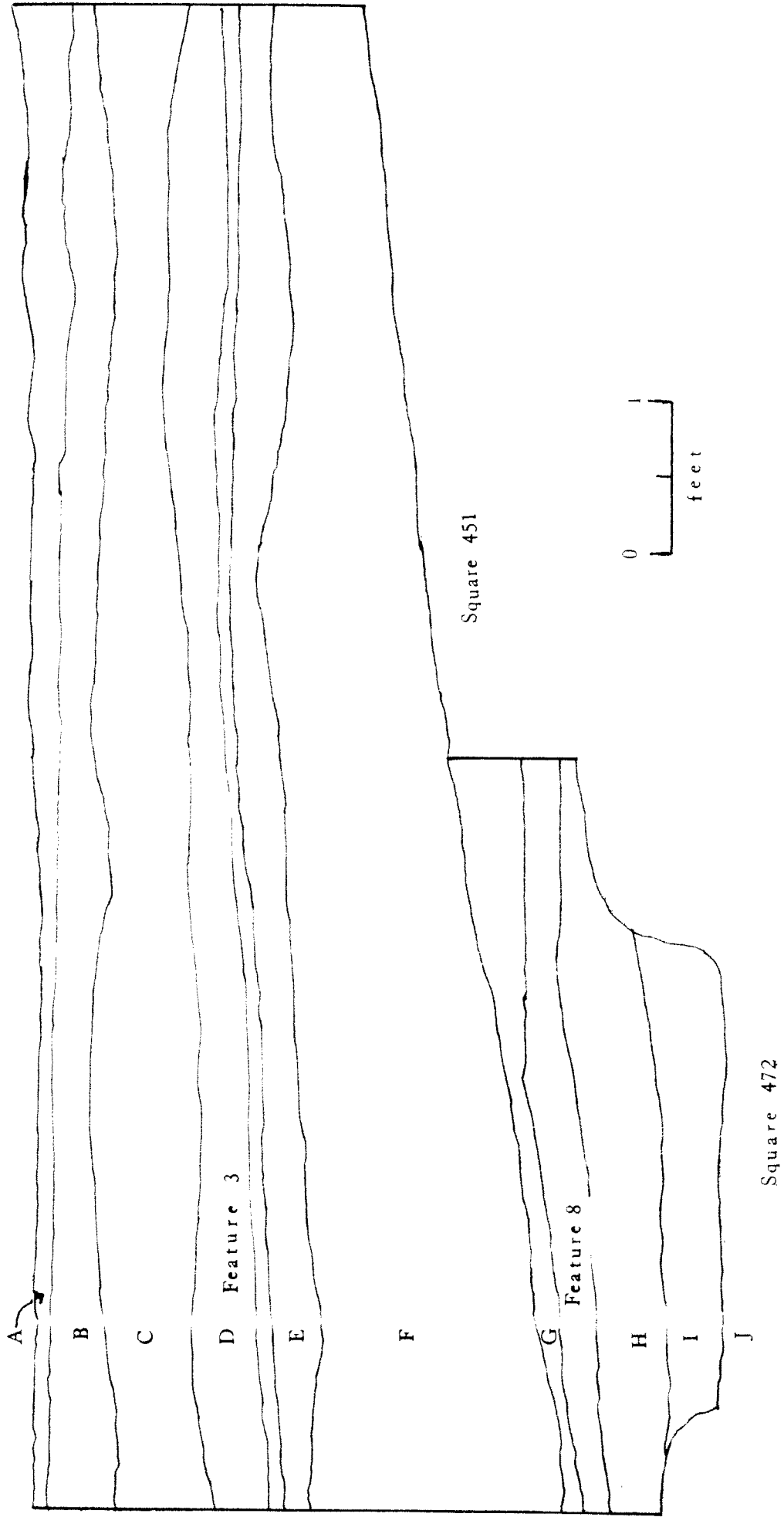




Figure 8

AP 39, Squares 451 and 472, East Wall

Key:

- Layer A - brown slightly sandy loam and bark mulch, 10YR2/2
- Layer B - dark yellowish brown slightly sandy loam
- Layer C - dark yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR4/4
- Layer D - very dark grayish brown sandy loam
- Feature 3 - concrete floor
- Layer E - dark grayish brown sandy soil mixed heavily with clinker and coal
- Layer F - dark yellowish brown sandy clay, 10YR4/4
- Layer G - strong brown sandy loam, 7.5YR4/6
- Feature 8 - dark brown loam, 10YR3/3, with roots over possible board floor
- Layer H - dark yellowish brown clay, 10YR3/4
- Layer I - dark yellowish brown clay, 10YR3/4
- Layer J - dark humus with heavy organic content, unexcavated

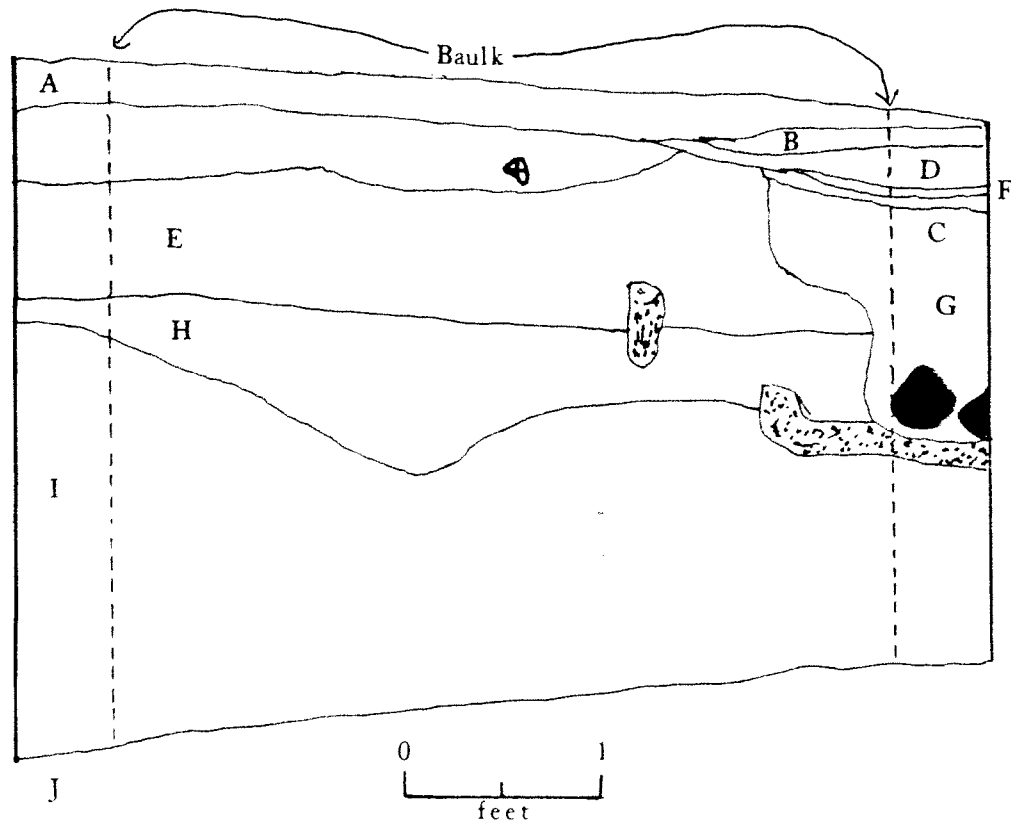





Figure 9

AP 39, Square 502, East Wall

 =brick 
  =stone 
  =root

Layer A - brown sandy loam topsoil, 10YR5/3

Layer B - strong brown clayed loam, 7.5YR4/6

Layer C - dark yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR3/4

Layer D - dark yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR4/4 mixed with dark grayish brown sandy loam, 10YR3/2

Layer E - very sandy dark yellowish brown loam with pebbles, 10YR4/6

Layer F - ash and coal, 10YR2/1, black

Layer G - dark brown clayey loam, 10YR3/3

Layer H - dark yellowish brown sandy loam with pebbles, 10YR4/6

Layer I - dark brown clayey loam with some sand, 7.5YR4/4

Layer J - olive brown clay, 2.5YR4/4

Figure 10  
AP 39, Fireman Trench I, South Wall

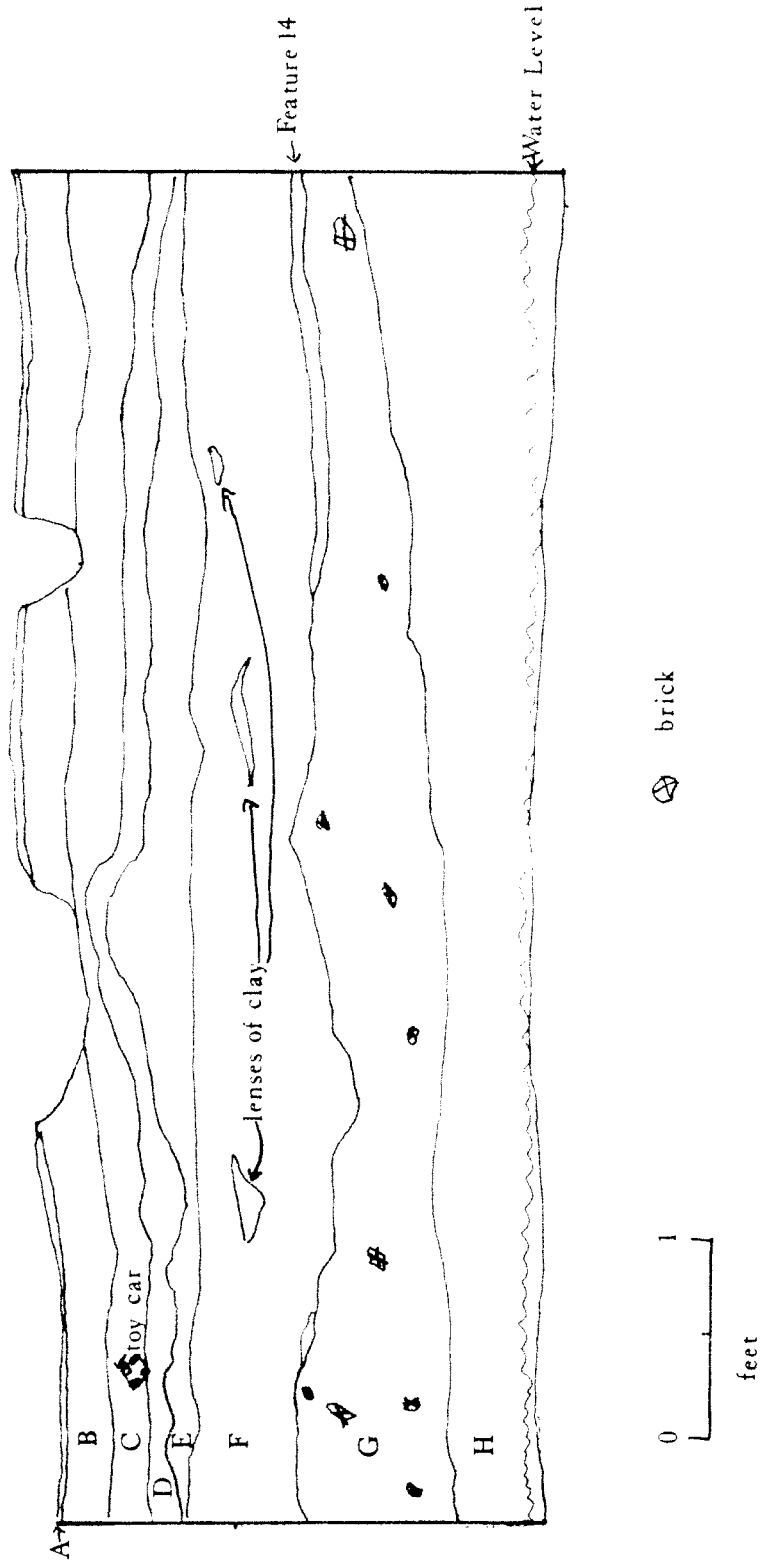


Figure 10: Key

- Layer A - sod
- Layer B - very dark grayish brown topsoil, 10YR3/2
- Layer C - very dark brown loam, 10YR2/2
- Layer D - dark yellowish brown sand, 10YR4/6
- Layer E - dark brown sandy loam, 10YR3/3
- Layer F - very dark gray coal clinker and ash, 10YR3/1
- Feature 14 - layer of iron or steel plates
- Layer G - yellowish brown clay, 10YR5/4
- Layer H - dark yellowish brown clay, 10YR4/4

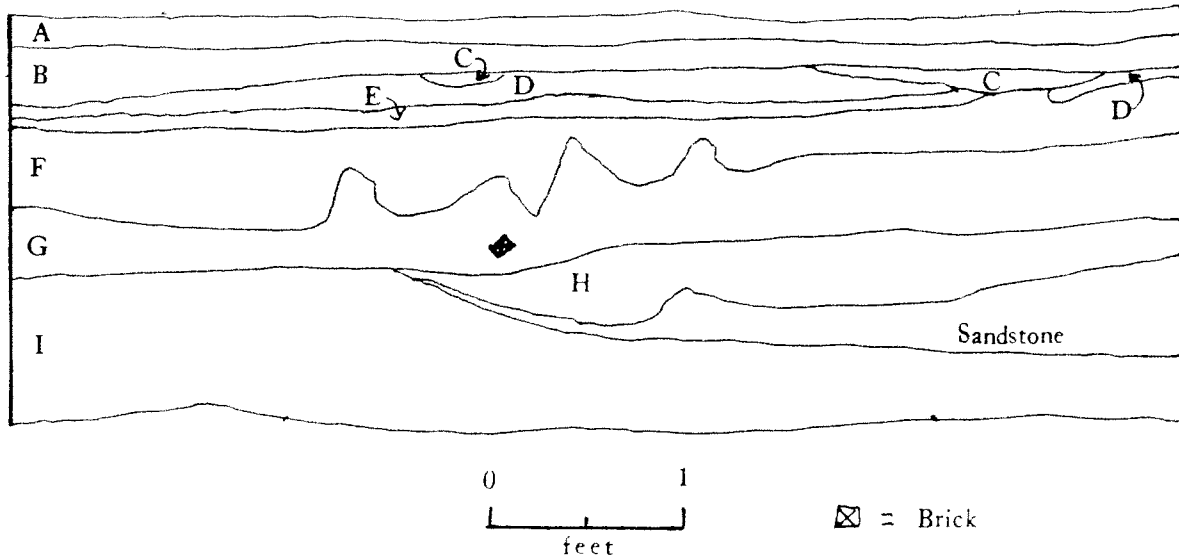


Figure 11  
 AP 39, Fireman II Trench, South Wall

- Layer A - black bark mulch, 10YR2/1
- Layer B - very dark gray sandy loam, 10YR3/2
- Layer C - dark yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR3/4
- Layer D - black clinker and charcoal in ashy matrix, 10YR2/1
- Layer E - dark yellowish brown sandy clay, 10YR3/6
- Layer F - very dark yellowish brown ashy matrix with clinker and charcoal, 10YR3/2
- Layer G - very mottled clay, olive brown (2.5YR3/2 and 4/4), and yellowish brown (10YR5/6)
- Layer H - layers of decomposed sandstone, light olive brown (2.5YR5/4), and strong brown (7.5YR4/4)
- Layer I - olive sterile clay, 7YR5/4

Figure 12  
M-Bar trench, 25' to 35', showing posthole.

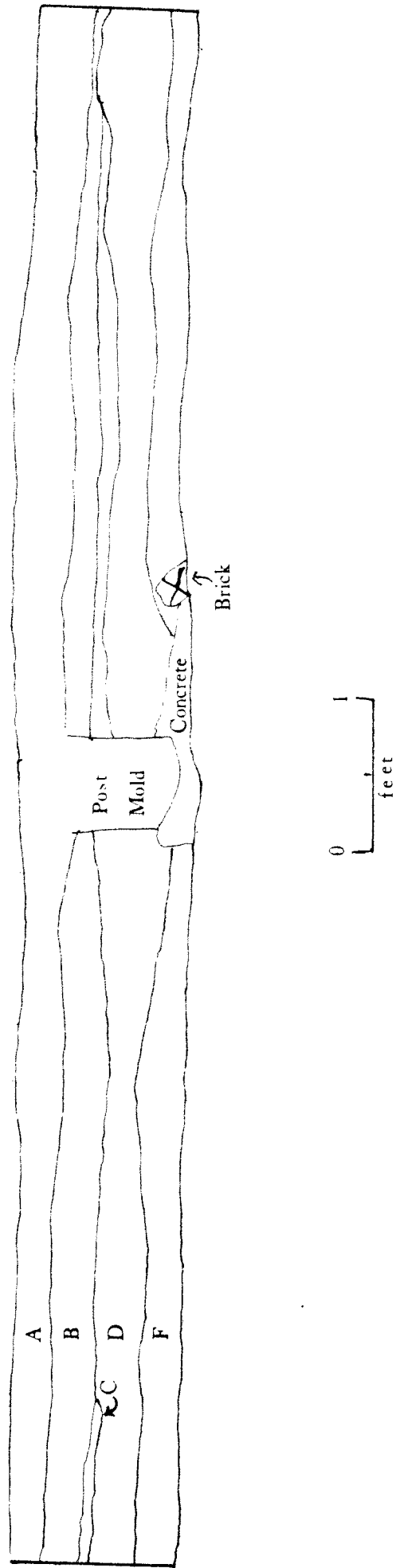


Figure 12: Key

Layer A - very dark grayish brown sandy loam

Layer B - black sandy loam with heavy coal ash and clinker, 10YR2/1

Layer C - yellowish brown sandy loam, 10YR5/6

Layer D - dark yellowish brown clay, 10YR4/6

Layer E - dark brown (10YR4/3) clay mottled with olive gray clay (5Y4/2)

Layer F - very dark gray sandy loam

FIGURE 13  
RECONSTRUCTED  
MID 19th CENTURY  
CONTOURS

Contour Interval: 1 foot  
0 5 10  
feet

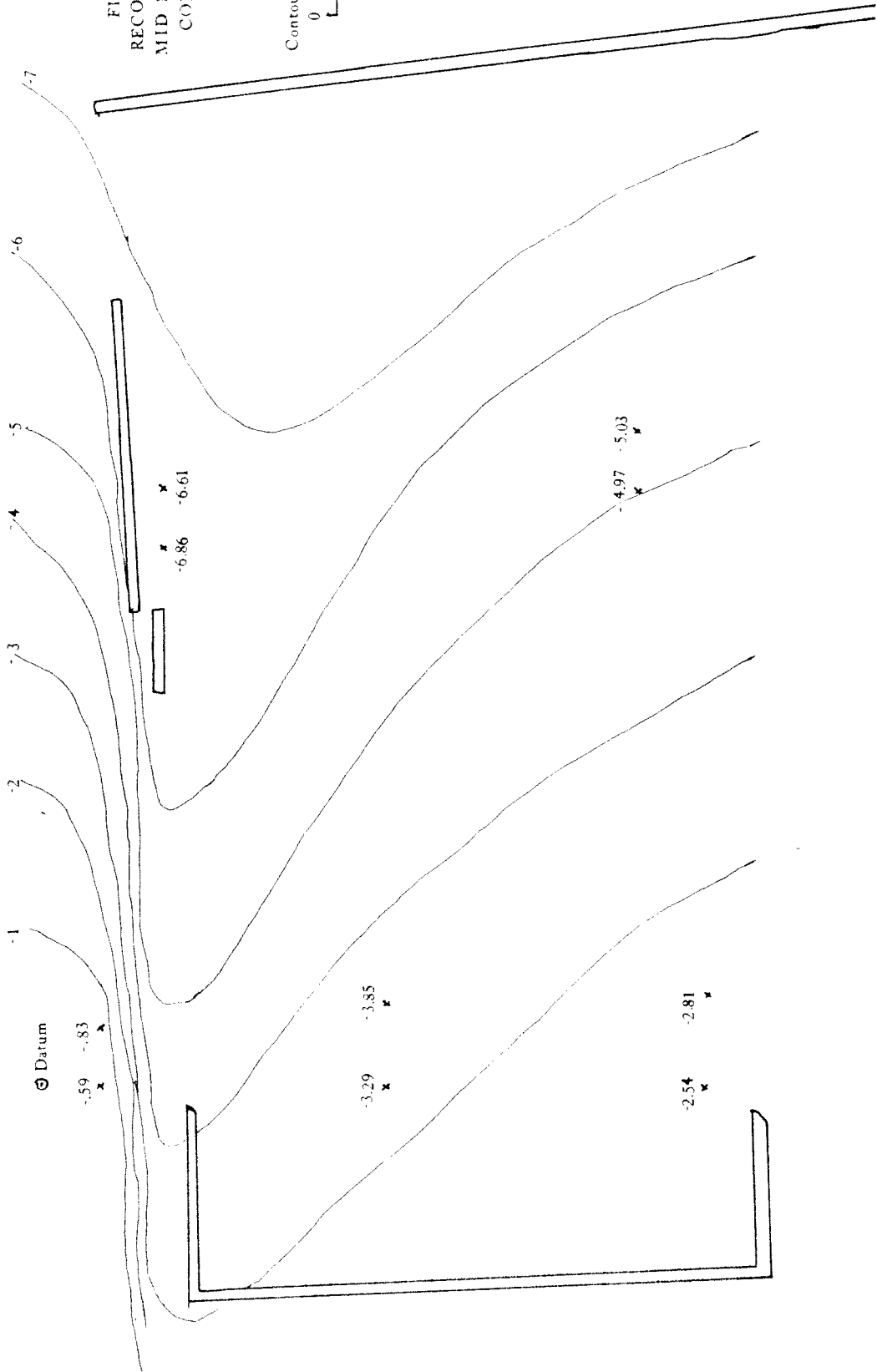






Figure 14

Tree, Green Street School property,  
north of the Newman Street site.  
The size and age of this tree suggests  
it stands on an original land surface.



Figure 15

Retaining wall, north side of Newman Street park.

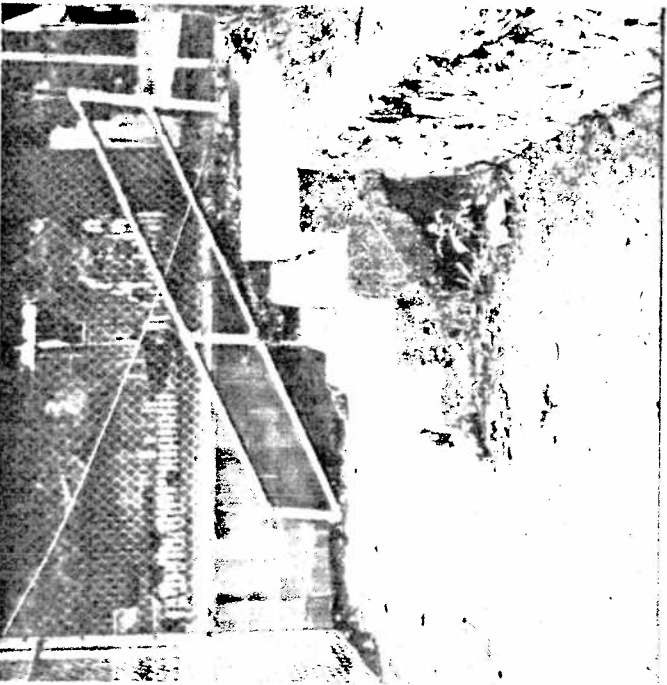
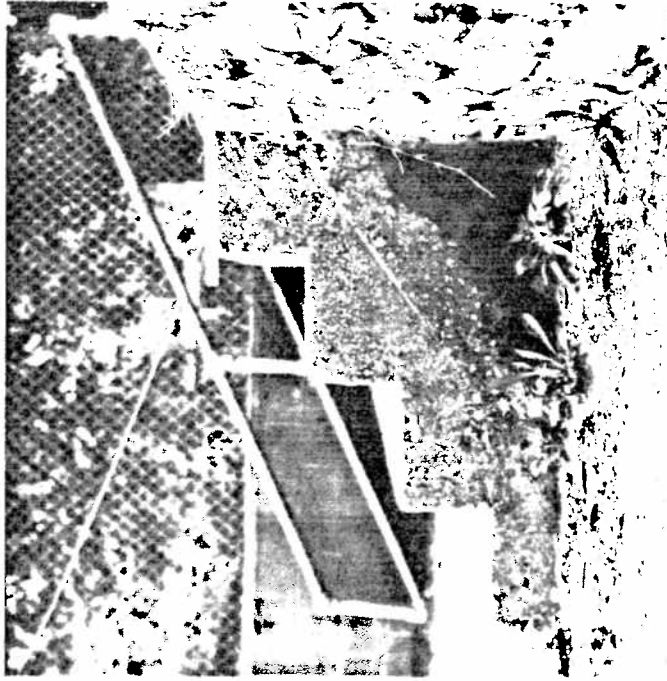


Figure 16

Steps by basketball court, Newman Street site.  
Note that court surface has covered bottom one  
or two steps, as indicated by the sunken  
balustrade. Detail shows rough bottom of steps.