THE 1992 FIELD SEASON,
PORT AU CHOIX NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK:
REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Prepared for:
Archaeology, Atlantic Region
Parks Canada
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Prepared by:
M.A.P. Renouf
Archaeology Unit
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, Newfoundland

1 December 1993
Cover illustration: Deea Linehan holding whale rib in a post-hole of house (Feature 55) at Phillip's Garden
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Excavation primates at Phillip's Garden
INTRODUCTION

The Port au Choix Archaeology Project had its first three-year set of field seasons in 1984-1986 (Renouf 1985a; 1985b; 1986a; 1986b; 1987) and its second three-year set in 1990-1992 (Renouf 1991; 1992). The 1992 field season had special significance since it was the last in this long line. As was the case for the 1990 and 1991 field seasons, the 1992 season had two components: [1] Palaeoeskimo sites within the Port au Choix National Historic Park and [2] prehistoric Indian components outside the Park boundaries, within the town of Port au Choix. The Canadian Parks Service provided most of the funds for the 1992 excavations, and additional resources came from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada; the Office of Research, Memorial University of Newfoundland; the Dean of Arts Office, Memorial University of Newfoundland; Historic Resources Division, Department of Tourism and Culture, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; the Student Employment Program, Department of Employment, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; and the Government of Canada's Challenge 92 student employment program.

The objectives of the 1992 season were: [1] to finish excavating the hillside midden at the Groswater site of Phillip's Garden West, [2] to excavate a well-defined house feature at the Dorset site of Phillip's Garden, [3] to continue excavation at the Recent Indian Spence site, [4] to survey for Indian sites within the town of Port au Choix and [5] to locate and test two potential Recent Indian sites further north on the Northern Peninsula.

1992 EXCAVATIONS AT PHILLIP'S GARDEN WEST (7A700-800; EeBi-11)

2.1 Summary Results of the 1991 Excavations

In 1991 two areas were excavated at Phillip's Garden West (Fig. 1): the upper terrace and the hillside. A set of five post-holes arranged in a ring around a hearth outlined a tent structure, which reinforced earlier suggestions that Phillip's Garden West was a short-term warm weather occupation (Renouf 1991; 1992; in press). A four metre wide trench was excavated down the terrace and a set of overlapping midden deposits provided a large faunal sample, identification of which is in progress by Darlene Balkwill of the Canadian Museum of Nature. Four new radiocarbon dates supported the single date from the 1990 excavations. The central points of the radiocarbon dates range from 2500-2100 B.P., confirming that Phillip's Garden West post-dates Phillip's Garden East.

2.2 Objectives of the 1992 Excavations

The objectives of the 1992 field season were straightforward: [1] to complete excavation of the lower areas of the hillside midden where the greatest amount of faunal material had accumulated, and [2] to test the lower terrace for signs of activity that would indicate that some of the midden material had been thrown up from below, in addition to down from above.

2.3 Description of Hillside Midden (Feature 5) Excavations

2.3.1 Introduction

Twelve units were excavated at the lower slope of the midden, from E012-E020 N014-N018, located within operations 7A711A and D (Figs. 2-3; Plates 1-2). A section in the lower part of the 1991 north-south trench was excavated, within operation 7A710B.
Fig. 1 Phillip’s Garden West, topographic map
Fig. 2 Phillip's Garden West, topographic map with excavation areas
Fig. 3 Phillip's Garden West, excavation and operation areas
Plate 1. Phillip's Garden West, excavation areas on the lower slope.

Plate 2. Phillip's Garden West, excavation on lower midden slope.
2.3.2 Excavations procedures
In virtually all excavations at Port au Choix we have carried out plan excavations, revealing each soil level throughout the entire excavation area. The single instance where we did not do this was the long hillside trench, since we were concerned about soil slide on the steep incline. However, since the area planned for excavation in 1992 was relatively small and slump was therefore not a potential problem, we reverted to exposure of soil horizon in plan. The total station transit was used for determining provenience.

2.3.3 Stratigraphy
The midden stratigraphy found in 1992 (Figs. 4-5) was little changed from that described for the 1991 midden (Renouf 1992). Level 1 consisted of thin and clumpy sod and dark brown silty humus, and ranged in depth from 5-20 cm. Level 2, a cultural level, was dark brown to black clayey silt. It was dark and rooty at the top, becoming darker at greater depths. Most of the bone was recovered from the lower region of this level, near the interface with Level 3. The lower half of the midden, consisting of units E012-014 N016-017, had three separate rock levels (L2RL1-3). These consisted of large boulders, some of which jutted up through Level 1, and were non-cultural (Plates 3-4). Level 3 consisted of 4-10 cm of medium brown sandy silt within which there were also rock levels (L3RL1-2) and Level 4 was basal limestone bedrock.

2.3.4 Midden subfeatures
The midden excavation area was divided into subfeatures on the basis of soil differences which potentially might indicate separate dumping episodes. This method worked very well for the large midden (Feature 2) at Phillip's Garden (Renouf 1987), and the 1991 excavations of the Phillip's Garden West hillside midden indicated the existence of a similar series of dumps (Renouf 1992). However, at Phillip's Garden West the dumping sequence did not seem to be as complex as it was at Phillip's Garden. Thus, subfeatures 5A-5D, although originally differentiated, were subsequently designated to the same deposit. They clearly belong to the eastern extension of the main hillside midden (Feature 5) which was described in 1991 (Renouf 1992). All were located in Level 3 (RL1) of 7A711A and thickness ranged from 2 to 21 cm. A charcoal sample from subfeatures C-D yielded a date of 2240+/-70 B.P.

In contrast to subfeatures 5A-D, subfeature 5E was a relatively localized and fairly large concentration of bone in Level 3 (RL1) of 7A711D. Although it, too, is probably associated with the midden (Feature 5), it appears to be a genuine pocket of bone and therefore may well represent a separate dump. This subfeature is also notable for the unusual concentration of cores and core fragments (lots 213, 217-219, 226, 231, 235, 240). A charcoal sample returned a date of 1960+/-80 B.P.
PROFILE LOOKING SOUTH; SOUTH WALL 7A711A
MIDDEN (FEATURE 5)

LEGEND

- Level 1: sand and rooty topsoil; black organic humus. Metre stake at 1 metre baulk intervals.

- Level 2: dark brown to black clayey silt

- Level 2: brownish grey sandy silt to silty sand with scattered white flecks, non-greasy.

- Level 2: light to medium brown silty clay lens (greasy).

- Level 3: medium brown sandy silt to silty sand with limestone rocks.

- Level 4: limestone and sandstone bedrock; sterile.

- Exfoliating limestone.

- Bone protruding from profile wall.
Fig. 5 Phillip's Garden West, midden profiles
Plate 3. Phillip’s Garden West, rock slump in midden area.

Plate 4. Phillip’s Garden West, rock (L1) at lower slope of midden.
2.3.5 Feature 29
This was a cluster of nine chert cores and core fragments (lots 195-198, 201-205) and numerous flakes (lot 193) in Level 3 (RL1) of unit E012 N014 in operation 7A711D. The cluster, measuring 70 cm by 40 cm, was found just on top of a concentration of faunal bone (subfeature 5E) and may possibly be associated with it. However, the nature of these artefacts and their tight clustering suggests that they came from a later (lithic) dumping episode.

2.3.6 Discussion of hillside midden
The 1992 midden block encompassing 12 m² was located to the west of the 1991 midden area (Feature 5), and the E012 gridline formed the boundary between the two (Fig. 3). The 1992 area was chosen with the intention of defining faunal dumping episodes and to expand the faunal and artefactual sample from the site.

In summary, we were unable to discern individual dumping episodes, except for subfeature 5E and Feature 29. It turned out that our excavation area was at the western margin of the hillside midden, where the deposit was too thin for us to see any deposit differentiation. The faunal material recovered in 1992 was far less than that recovered in 1991 except for areas that bounded the E012 gridline. The 1991 excavation area (Fig. 3) clearly appears to be the main midden deposit.

The artefacts and debris from 1992 were for the most part characteristic of a midden and included faunal bone (mostly seal but also bird, wolf, caribou, vole, fish, and possibly fox), fire-cracked rock, lithic debitage (cores, core fragments, flakes and shatter), unfinished tools (preforms and tools broken in manufacture), broken tools (especially endblade tips and bases), lithic expedient tools and only a few finished tools. It is expected that, as was the case for the 1991 assemblage, worked bone will be abundant, including both debitage and expedient points. Bone artefacts include several flakers which, along with the core and flake concentration (Feature 29), reflect tool making activities. It is particularly interesting in light of the fact that no preforms or tool making debris were found.
on the upper terrace where the habitation occurred.

2.4 Description of the Lower Slope Area (Lookout Station)

2.4.1 Introduction

If seals or other large sea mammals were taken from Phillip’s Garden West, it is likely that they were butchered at the base of the terrace, rather than at the top. If this was the case, bone refuse would have been thrown up the hillside as well as down, to form a part of the hillside midden (Feature 5) deposits. Alternatively, sea mammals could have been butchered right at the sea shore, in which case bone refuse would have been washed out at high tide. In 1992 we tested the area from the lower terrace to the present beach (Fig. 1) and found only a single prehistoric activity area which lay within operations 7A710B and 7A714C, from E07-10 N18-21 (Fig. 3). We opened this up for excavation.

2.4.2 Stratigraphy

Four soil strata were identified in this excavation area (Fig. 6). Level 1 consisted of a mossy sod-covered black, rooty and silty humus, and ranged in depth from 2-8 cm. As with all the levels, Level 1 was deepest in the southern units along the foot of the steep hill, where more soil had accumulated from erosion and human activity. Level 2 was a cultural level which consisted of a dark brown to black clayey silt with white flecks which were probably decomposing sandstone; depth ranged from 1-7 cm. Level 3 was a cultural level 4-10 cm deep consisting of two clay layers, Layer 3A and 3B. Layer 3A was a thin (0.5-1 cm) mottled brown-to-grey clay that had a patchy distribution. It appeared to have been a very thin horizon produced from dissolving limestone. Layer 3B was the major Level 3 soil, 3-9 cm deep, which was comprised of dark brown sandy clay. Because there is little significance between Levels 3A and 3B they were not differentiated on excavation forms. Level 4 was the sterile limestone and sandstone beach gravels, cobbles, and boulders.

2.4.3 Description of excavations

2.4.3.1 Introduction

The activity area at the bottom of the hill lay in the northwest crux at the bottom of the midden (Plates 1, 5-6) and represents both the petering out of the midden deposits and an area of separate cultural activity. This activity was not associated with butchering but, more probably, with resource monitoring. The excavation area, which was 10m², encompasses Features 27 and 28.

2.4.3.2 Feature 27

This was an amorphous cluster of chert flakes (lot 31) in Level 3 of unit E007 N020 of operation 7A714C (Plate 6). The concentration measured 72-42 cm, with its central provenience at E007.83 N020.58. Associated artefacts include a core fragment (lot 28), an endblade tip (lot 33), and flakes (lots 29, 32) not directly associated with the concentration (lot 31). Lot 31 flakes were mostly those from bifacial reduction and retouch and represent late stage tool manufacturing activity. A few early stage, decortification, flakes were also recovered. This feature is associated with Feature 28.
PHILLIP'S GARDEN WEST
LOOKOUT STATION

PROFILE LOOKING WEST; WEST WALL 7A710B - 7A714C

LEGEND

I - Level 1. - Soil and rubble layer; black organic humus.

II - Level 2. - Brown to black clayey silt with white flakes.

III - Level 3. - Compacted soil (activity floor).

IV - Level 4. - Fire-reddened soil.

V - Level 5. - Black organic spot.

VI - Level 6. - Level with limestone rocks; mottled grey-brown clay (a) to dark brown sandy clay (b).

VII - Level 7. - Sterile beach gravel.

PROFILE LOOKING SOUTH; SOUTH WALL 7A710B

Fig. 6 Phillip's Garden West, lookout station profiles.
Plate 5. Phillip's Garden West, compact soil of lookout station.

Plate 6. Phillip's Garden West, flake concentration (Feature 27).
2.4.3.3 Feature 28

Feature 28 is an activity floor which was defined on the basis of a hardened, compressed Level 3 earth which was 2-5 cm thick (Plate 5, Figure 7). This covered most of units E007 N019 and E007 N020, and was about 1.8 by 1.0 metres in extent. The area also extended westward into the unopened unit E006 N020. Numerous flakes and artefacts were associated (Table 2) and the feature is interpreted as an activity floor, probably a seal hunting/viewing station which may or may not be associated with any of the occupations on the terrace. This location offered many advantages as a lookout station. It was sheltered from the predominant northwest wind and it was close to the ocean with deep water offshore. Whereas if a hunter were to stand on top of the terrace he would be easily spotted by seals, if he were to stand or sit at the base of the hill would be camouflaged by the dark backdrop. These observations were made by Noel Broadbent, a visiting archaeologist from the National Science Foundation, who has seen similar sites in Scandinavia. His observations were reinforced by the fact that the spot was clearly the most suitable for a comfortable and breeze-free lunch. A charcoal and resin sample from this area returned a date of 2340+/-70 B.P.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Artefacts</th>
<th>Flakes</th>
<th>Charcoal</th>
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<tr>
<td>7A714C</td>
<td>33, 67, 68</td>
<td>32, 36</td>
<td>30, 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7A710B</td>
<td>343-347, 349-352</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These artefacts, along with the flake concentration, Feature 27, indicate that tool maintenance and manufacture took place at the lower slope area. The single burin-like tool might reflect whittling or carving activities while waiting, similar to the situation found at the two Dorset duck-hunting blinds, Gargamelle Point (Renouf 1991) and Dobbin Cave (Renouf 1992).

2.5 Discussion of 1992 Excavations at Phillip's Garden West

Two areas comprised the 1992 excavations (Fig. 3): [1] the last gasp of the hillside midden (Feature 5) as it spilled down the hill and [2] Feature 28, a lookout station. In this second area there was an extremely hardened floor with flakes and various artefacts, including an endblade, endblade fragments, a knife, biface fragments, a burin-like tool, a sideblade fragment, a core fragment, and a small number of retouched and utilized flakes. All these tools indicate a narrow range of non-domestic activities, which is reinforced by the absence of faunal material. The backdrop of the hill would have acted as a blind in which the hunters comfortably could have stayed out of view of seals while at the same time watching for them.

The lower terrace was intensively tested. It was hoped that this location would be the seal butchery spot associated with the upper terrace habitation and the hillside midden. Except for the lookout station, the lower terrace seemed to
Fig. 7 Phillip's Garden West, lookout station, top of Level 3.
1-7  endblades
8-9  sideblades
10-11 bifaces
12-15 bifaces
be sterile. It therefore is likely that the seals associated with the upper terrace occupation were butchered right at the shore, where the bones did not survive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab No.</th>
<th>Site Name and Parks Provenience</th>
<th>Descriptive Provenience</th>
<th>C14 Years, B.P., Uncalibrated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beta-66437</td>
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<td>Midden subfeatures 5C+5D</td>
<td>2240+/-70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beta-66438</td>
<td>Phillip’s Garden W. 7A711D253</td>
<td>Midden subfeature 5E</td>
<td>1960+/-80</td>
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<td>Beta-66439</td>
<td>Phillip’s Garden W. 7A714C30+35</td>
<td>Feature 28, lookout station</td>
<td>2340+/-70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Summary of new radiocarbon dates from Phillip’s Garden West

The artefacts from the 1992 excavations fitted into the established repertoire for the site, except that there was a high proportion of preforms (Plate 7:12-15). This is interesting since there were few preforms from the upper terrace, which on the face of it indicated that tool manufacturing activities were not carried out at the site. It now seems that they were and that all evidence of this was thrown over the terrace edge.

3 1992 EXCAVATIONS AT PHILLIP’S GARDEN (7A200-380; EeBi-1)

3.1 Summary of 1990 Excavations and 1991 Testing

Phillip’s Garden had not been a focus of major activity in the previous field season, and instead the site was only tested (Renouf 1992). One of the main objectives was to ensure that the well-defined house depression at 7A368C was undisturbed, which proved to be the case. In 1991 the areas outside two previously excavated houses, Features 1 and 14, were excavated along with a summer tent or windbreak structure and one unit within a large midden deposit (Renouf 1991). The summer structure was significant because it was the first definite indication of warm weather occupation of the site, highlighting the multi-season use of it.

3.2 Objectives of 1992 Field Season

Since 1992 was the last in the second three-year group of field seasons, the main objective was to obtain data that would be useful for future Canadian Parks Service exhibitions within the Port au Choix National Historic Park. We wanted more exhibitable quality artefacts and, more importantly, better information on house construction. In this regard, the well-defined dwelling at 7A368C had been slated for eventual excavation since we first noticed it in 1984. Because the 1991 testing confirmed that this feature was undisturbed, its excavation was the single objective of the 1992 field season at Phillip’s Garden.
3.3 Description of 1992 Excavations

3.3.1 Introduction
A total of 61m² was excavated covering the square depression that defined the house, Feature 55 (Fig. 8; Plate 9). This included short trenches on each side of the gridded area, to catch some of the area outside the house. The gridded area included operations 7A7A368B-D, 7A372A+D, 7A371A and 7A367B (Fig. 9). The house was at the eastern end of the site, on the middle terrace (Plate 10), and was surrounded by two other house depressions, one to the northeast and one to the south.

3.3.2 Stratigraphy
The soil horizon associated with the house was in most respects standard for the Phillip's Garden site. Level 1 was 2-3 cm of turf and peat, Level 2, the cultural level, was an organically stained dark brown to black greasy soil, and Level 2A was the faunal associated lense, blacker and more granular than the regular Level 2. Level 3 was also a cultural level, and was the thin mottled grey or light brown clay layer which occurred intermittently between Levels 3 and 4. Level 4 was the sterile sand and gravel. The soil stratigraphy of Feature 55 had two soil types not encountered before. Level 2S seemed to be a thin sod layer within Level 2. At first we thought that it might be associated with wall construction, but its distribution was too irregular. In addition there occurred a sooty, charcoal-stained, black soil which ranged in texture from dry to somewhat greasy. This soil was sterile and was usually located in rock crevices in the house wall and areas outside the house. It was also encountered in pit features 59, 65a, 65b, 76d 76e, 76f, 60 and 67, described below.

3.3.3 Feature 55
On the surface of the ground Feature 55 was a well defined house depression lying in the eastern area of the meadow, on the middle of the three terraces (Plates 9-10). It was first noted in the 1984 surface mapping of Phillip's Garden as a square which was sufficiently deep to attract a thick cluster of irises (Renouf 1985a: Plate 18). It was thought that such clear surface definition meant that this feature was similar to the large winter houses that Harp excavated, in particular, his House 2 (Harp 1976). Since the object of the Port au Choix Archaeology Project's excavations at Phillip's Garden was to establish the range of variation within the site, excavation of a typical winter house was not the first order of priority. However, since such a house would be the most likely to provide the clearest data on house construction, it was decided to excavate it in 1992. In addition, the field notes from Harp's 1961-1963 excavations at the site indicated that he had found numerous bone artefacts, including amulets, when he had excavated Phillip's Garden winter houses. Since bone artefacts have been fairly rare from our excavations at the site, we thought that we should try to obtain some good exhibitable pieces.

We were initially disappointed on two counts. Whereas we had expected to find lots of artefacts, the interior of the house was relatively sterile, and whereas we had expected to find a well-defined version of the winter houses described by Harp (1976), Feature 55 defied easy definition. To summarize Phillip's Garden winter house construction, in all houses (Fig. 10) the limestone beach rocks were first cleared away from what was to be the central living area, which measured
Surface Map of Phillip's Garden

- Port au Choix Project excavations (1984-86; 1990-92)
- Limits of Harp's excavations (1950; 1961-63)
- Mounds, most of which are old backdirt piles
- Unexcavated house depression
- Present beach
- Tucamore (stunted spruce)
- Temporary bench mark

Phillip's Garden West

Ancient Shoreline

1985-1990

1985-1986

1992

Phillip's Garden East

Gulf of St. Lawrence
Plate 9. Phillip's Garden, Feature 55 seen as iris filled depression.

Plate 10. Phillip's Garden, location of Feature 55 in relation to site.
Fig. 9. Phillip's Garden, 1992 excavation and operation areas
Schematic Representation of House Construction at Phillip's Garden

Fig. 10 Schematic representation of Phillip's Garden winter house
about four metres in diameter, and these were stacked at the side to form what appeared to be low walls which functioned as the foundation of the structure. The central area of the house was further emphasized by digging down about 20-30 cm into the sandy beach that underlay the rocks, and this central area created the oval and rectangular depressions visible on the surface of the ground. At the rear of the house a two metre deep sitting and sleeping platform was created by leaving the area at its original elevation and merely levelling it, sometimes with the addition of a pavement of flat slabs. This sort of platform is similar to those in historic Inuit houses, where one or a pair of raised areas against the wall are covered with skins. These platforms are where people sit, chat, work, and sleep.

Harp excavated 20 houses in part or in full and we excavated two. The internal dimensions of these houses ranged from 5-7 metres by 5-6 metres. Where an entrance could be perceived, it occurred as a break in the northeast wall, facing the sea but away from the prevailing northwesterly winds. In no case was there direct evidence of superstructure, although a skin and sod covered structure seems logical.

Bisecting the houses in a north-south direction was a series of hearth and food storage pits. This division of a house into two equal parts is characteristic of many Palaeoeskimo dwellings throughout the eastern arctic and might represent the conceptual organization of the world into sets of opposites, such as male:female, land:sea, light:dark (see for example McGhee 1977), or else it might represent a more functional division of household space into equal areas for two related families.

At Palaeoeskimo sites throughout the eastern Arctic, the space within a dwelling is commonly divided by what archaeologists call an axial feature (Fig. 11). This consists of a 70-100 cm metre wide linear arrangement of flat stones which cuts across the centre of the house. Sometimes the edges of this pavement are outlined by upright stones, and within the pavement is one, sometimes two, areas for a hearth or a stone cooking pot. In a sense, the hearth is analogous to a stove and the paved areas to either side function as work areas. This axial feature not only marks the house’s divide, it is its domestic focus, much in the same way as a kitchen table is in the modern western home. The north-south alignment of pit features in the Phillip’s Garden houses is an unformalized version of this axial feature, and it too would have been the domestic focus of each house.

As with the other house features excavated at Phillip’s Garden, Feature 55 was excavated in plan, exposing one level at a time; a cross-baulk was retained for profiles (Plate 11). With Level 4 exposed and the east-west baulk removed, the house was no easier to define, and all we could recognize was a deep central depression and some wall area (Plate 12). However, when we removed the north-south baulk, the architecture of the house immediately came into focus. Whereas our expectations and the north-south baulk had led us to look for a north-south orientation, it turned out that the structure was in fact oriented east-west (Fig. 12; Plates 13-14). Since none of the previously excavated houses at the site were baulk-free, they need to be re-examined in the light of Feature 55.

Fully exposed and properly oriented, Feature 55 measured 6 metres in diameter, with a central area 3.5 by 4.0 metres recessed approximately 25 cm into the limestone rock and sand beach. This area appeared as two egg-shaped depressions on each side of an axial feature (Plate 15). This is the first such feature found in a Phillip’s Garden house, and it is more in line with Palaeoeskimo houses found elsewhere.
Fig. 11  Independence I Palaeoeskimo house with axial feature. Lakeview site, northern Ellesmere Island, dated to 3960 B.P. Drawing reproduced from Schledermann (1990:31)
Plate 11. Phillip's Garden, Feature 55, looking north showing cross-baulk.

Plate 12. Phillip's Garden, profile of Feature 55 showing central area.
Fig. 12    Phillip's Garden, Feature 55, top of Level 4
Plate 13. Phillip's Garden, Feature 55 without baulks, looking northeast.

Plate 14. Phillip's Garden, close-up of Feature 55, looking west.
Plate 15. Phillip's Garden, steep inner area of Feature 55, looking east.
The axial feature would have been the hearth area and it consisted of a rough limestone slab pavement 75-100 cm wide, which cut across the width of the house (Fig. 12; Plate 14). Rather than having a rear sitting platform and what appeared to be low limestone beach rock walls, as in the other Phillip's Garden houses, the structure was outlined by a one metre wide perimeter of limestone beach rocks. At this point in the excavation, it was unclear whether this built-up area was a wall or a sitting platform. A northwest entrance occurred as a break in this area and was further demarcated by a slight hollow in the ground, created by use. A slight break and dip in the southeastern perimeter indicated a possible second entrance (Fig. 12). The northern side was particularly deep and the rocks of the "wall area" which lined it were almost vertical (Plate 15). The unusual depth of the segment near the northeastern entranceway suggests that it might have functioned like a cold trap entrance, i.e. a recessed entrance that caught the drafts. The "wall area" of Feature 55 was highlighted by a series of pits along the outside margin.

In our previous house excavations, we stopped work at the top of Level 4 since this is the sterile level and the base of the house. We would dig a few test pits to make sure Level 4 had no cultural material in it, and then begin to backfill. However, because Feature 55 was relatively well defined, we decided to remove all the rocks, keying each into a map, and setting them aside to allow the possibility of future reconstruction indoors as part of a museum display (Plates 16-17). A further surprise awaited us. The series of pits running along the outside rim of the "wall area" turned out to be large post-holes, each described in detail in sections below (Fig. 13; Plates 18-19).

Twelve large post-holes ringed the outside of the dwelling structure. They were spaced fairly closely together except for a clear break where the northeastern and southeastern entrances were located. Each of these post-holes would have held a major structural support. The apertures of the pits were round or oval, measuring 10-35 cm across, and the pits themselves were 10-32 cm deep. Most were lined with stacked stones, and in some cases flat stones were intentionally used and were arranged in a spiral. At the bottom of the pit a flat stone or beach cobbles were placed, onto which the post was set; in two cases these stones were deliberately covered with red ochre.

How the posts were set can be reconstructed. Large pits were dug into the sand below the limestone beach rocks, each post was placed on top of a flat stone or beach cobbles, and each was then shored up with rocks which were either placed in layers or set around the post in a spiral. Sand, or sand and small pebbles, was then filled in to hold the rocks and posts into place. With the eventual removal of the posts, more sand filled in the empty space, holding the rocks in their original positions. Importantly, the posts lay outside the area of built-up limestone rocks that circled the house, which means that this area lay within the dwelling and was therefore a perimeter sitting and sleeping platform and not a foundation of low walls. All other houses from Phillip's Garden will be re-evaluated in this light.

However, a puzzling feature of the post-holes remained. Where a slant in the holes could be discerned, as it could in five cases, it was oriented in such a way that if you stuck a straight pole into the hole, the pole would point away from the house rather than in towards it, as would be necessary for a conical tent frame. The crew chief for the site, Deea Linehan, suggested that this orientation...
Plate 16. Phillip's Garden, numbering rocks of Feature 55.

Plate 17. Phillip's Garden, close-up of numbered rocks.
Fig. 13   Phillip's Garden, Feature 55 post-holes after Level 4 rocks removed.

Plate 19. Phillip's Garden, Feature 55 post-holes
of the pits would make sense only if the posts were not straight, but were curved like a rib, to slant away from the house at the base, but to curve back towards it near the mid-section, and to converge at the top to form a dome.

As it happened, in 1989 a baleen whale had stranded itself at Port au Choix, not far from Phillip's Garden, and its partially exposed skeleton lay high on a beach. In 1991 Deea Linehan and another crew member, Trish Dunphy, had braved the rotting carcass to saw off two of its ribs. They did this in order to compare the ribs with the cut whalebone slabs that we had been finding at the houses and middens. In all our excavations at Phillip's Garden and Point Riche, we had found pieces of cut whalebone measuring about 30-110 cm and 20-30 cm wide, which we called “whalebone two-by-fours” and we wanted to confirm that what we were interpreting as cut surfaces were not natural flat planes.

These baleen whale ribs were brought out to Phillip's Garden and were slotted into the post-holes, to demonstrate how ribs from a similar or larger whale must have been used as the structural frame (Plates 20-21). Given the curvature of the ribs and the line of the post-holes, the structure would have been a dome, which was no doubt covered with skins. The ribs used in the demonstration did not converge over the dome's centre, which would have been closed by means of additional wood or bone pieces. Since stunted spruce forest occurs in northern Newfoundland, the Dorset would have had wood available as a building material, a less easily available resource in the more arctic areas of Dorset distribution. Such a dome would have provided room enough to stand in the central depression of the house, but sufficient headroom only to sit or crouch at the platform area. This makes sense given the necessary balance between standing room and heating area. Since whale ribs last for a long time and would have been a fairly scarce resource, it is likely that they were removed when a house was abandoned, to be used elsewhere.

The large post-holes were separated from each other by as little as 10 cm and as much as 120 cm; the separation was greater where the two entrances occurred. It is possible that the "whalebone two-by-fours" (Renouf 1986a: Plate 33) were used as horizontal struts, holding the main elements of the frame in place, and giving it additional solidity.

In addition to the large post-holes, which formed the curved line that outlined the house, there were three sets of two post-holes set at right angles to this curve (Fig. 13). One set was to the north, the other to the south, the third to the east. There did not appear to be a fourth set to the west, although they could have been obscured in a midden deposit in that area. The north and south post-hole sets would have accommodated sapling sized poles, and the eastern set was for large posts. It is likely that these outliers would have been for some sort of external buttressing, or an additional structure.

A charcoal sample from the centre of the house dates it to 1410+/- 100 B.P. which makes it among the youngest houses from the site.

In the sections below the features associated with this house are described in detail.
Plate 20. Deea Linehan with whale rib in post-hole at northwest margin of house. Note central house depression in background.

Plate 21. Deea Linehan and Katherine Scott at southeast margin of house.

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3.3.3.1 Feature 56
Feature 56 was an unusual rock formation located in units E185-186 N008-N009 and E187 N008, in operation 7A367B. It consisted of five large rocks forming a semi-circle, with the open end facing north (Plate 22). It first appeared in Level 1 and remained intact down to Level 4, and it measured 1.50 x 0.88 metres at its widest point. Few artefacts were found in direct association. Those nearby included a ground stone (lot 100), a biface fragment (lot 99), a fire-cracked rock, and two charcoal samples (lots 129-130). A whalebone concentration was found to the east (lots 92, 164 and 328). Initially Feature 56 was thought to be part of the house's outer wall; however, after definition of the dwelling structure, Feature 56 was clearly outside it. Function remains uncertain; there was not enough charcoal and fire-cracked rock to indicate a hearth, and since nothing was found beneath the rocks, it was not a cache.

3.3.3.2 Feature 56b
This was a pit feature in units E186 N008-N009 of operation 7A367B, outside the house. The pit was in the centre of Feature 56, becoming visible in Level 2 and continuing to Level 4. It measured 20 x 40 cm and was 7.5 cm deep. Associated artefacts were core fragments (lots 118-119), flakes (lot 110) a microblade (lot 98), a blade (lot 101) and some fire-cracked rock. This pit was outside the house area and was part of a shallow trench running from Feature 56 to the "wall area". Since the prevailing winds in this area are SW and NE, this feature was possibly an extra support for the posts of the house wall.

3.3.3.3 Feature 57
Feature 57 was the north-eastern entrance, which occurred in units E187 N014-N013 and E188 N014 (7A368C) and unit E187 N014 (7A368B). The area was highlighted by a sand-filled depression inside two rows of rocks, one row extending into E187 N014. This feature first appeared in Level 1 and ended in Level 3/4. It measured 99 x 100 cm and was 10 cm deep. The sand was sandwiched between two Level 2s, suggesting that sand was blown in as the entrance was used. No artefacts were associated.

The entrance was further delineated by two rows of rocks with a depression in the centre, in unit E188 NO15 (7A368C). This area measured 46 x 70 cm and was associated with Level 2A soil, which was particularly greasy in the depression. All associated artefacts were found in the Level 2A soil: flakes (lots 421,436), microblades (lots 423-454,428-429,433,434), an endblade (lot 430), scrapers (lots 426-427,435), soapstone fragments (lots 432,438), burned fat (lot 437) and charcoal (lots 431,440).

3.3.3.4 Feature 58
This was a bone concentration in unit E185 N013 (7A368C). It first appeared in Level 2 where it was initially defined by a concentration of seal vertebrae, skull fragments and phalanges. At Level 2 it measured 46 x 56 cm, and by Level 3 the bone was found throughout the unit, in and around a jumble of rocks. The feature was located on the edge of the house wall and may be part of the nearby midden (Feature 73). However, since bone was scattered about the house wall in other locations this feature may be scattered garbage from inside the house. Associated was abundant faunal material (lots 122,126,162,175) and some charcoal (lots 130,164,177,184).
Plate 22. Phillip's Garden, Feature 55, unusual rock formation.
3.3.3.5 Feature 59a,b
Initially Feature 59 appeared as two shallow pits (59a and 59b) in Level 2A of unit E192 N012 (7A372D). However, they later developed into large and very deep post holes which were lined from top to bottom with large, flat, slab-like rocks (Plates 23a-23b). In Level 2A, pit 59a measured 34 x 45 cm and pit 59b measured 21 x 30 cm. By Level 4 the outer rim of the rocks for each pit was clearly outlined and the pits themselves narrowed down to 10 x 12 cm (pit 59a) and 8 x 10 cm (pit 59b). Pit 59a was 55 cm deep and pit 59b was 45.8 cm. Both pits were filled with an extremely fine black greasy soil. In Levels 3 and 4 the pits were constructed of a spiral of flat rocks that narrowed to the bottom. At the bottom the soil became greasier and combined with the Level 4 sand.

These post-holes formed a pair at right angles to the house’s perimeter (Fig. 14). There were two other similar pairs which have been interpreted as part of an external support structure of the house. However, whereas these other sets of post-holes were small and shallow and were clearly secondary to the large deep post holes that ringed the house structure, the pair of Feature 59 post-holes was large, and was even deeper than the ring of post-holes outlining the house.

3.3.3.6 Feature 60
Feature 60 was a whalebone concentration (lots 92, 164 and 328) found in Level 2 of units E186-187 N008 (7A367B), immediately east of Feature 56 (Plate 24). The concentration measured 40 x 40 cm and was surrounded by four rocks, two of which were part of Feature 56. Associated artefacts were a burin-like tool (lot 135), a hammerstone (lot 140) and a flake (lot 141). Since this bone is only one metre away from the house perimeter, it could be structural.

3.3.3.7 Feature 64
Feature 64 was a sand lens found between two layers of Level 2 soil in unit E184 N012 (7A368D). Measuring 12 x 38 cm, it was one cm deep.

3.3.3.8 Feature 65a,b
This was a set of small subsidiary post-holes set at right angles to the main line of post-holes along the house perimeter (Fig. 14; Plate 26). Both were in unit E188 N016 (7A368B). Pit 65a was first noted in Level 2A, and was oval in shape with a limestone rock tilted in its southern edge. It measured 16 x 16 cm and was 9.5 cm deep. Pit 65b was first noted as an oval patch of black sooty soil in Level 3, 30 cm south of pit 65a. It measured 13 x 17 cm and was 10 cm deep. In Level 4 a large limestone rock lay between the two pits.

3.3.3.9 Feature 66a,b
These was another set of two small subsidiary post-holes, similar to Feature 65a and 65b described above, but at the southern extreme of the house (Figs. 13-14; Plate 26), in units E188 N007-N008 (7A367B). Pit 66a measured 13 x 14, was 7 cm deep, and was surrounded by four rocks. Pit 66b, 10 cm to the

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1Feature 61 was a small circular patch of white soil in unit E185 N011 which was originally thought to be a post hole. However, sectioning revealed it to be too shallow and the feature was cancelled. Similar features (62 and 63) were also cancelled upon cross-sectioning.
Plate 23a. Phillip's Garden, post-hole Features 59a and 59b in Level 2A.

Plate 23b. Phillip's Garden, post-hole Features 59a and 59b in Level 3-4, with large rocks that lined the pit showing up.
Fig. 14  Feature 55 showing feature numbers of post-holes
Plate 24. Phillip's Garden, whalebone concentration (Feature 60).
Plate 25. Post-hole Features 65a and 65b.
north, measured 28 x 26 cm, was 28 cm deep, and was surrounded by six rocks. Both pits were filled with Level 2 soil.

3.3.3.10 Feature 67
Feature 67 was a flake concentration (lot 560) in Level 2A of unit E186 N013 (7A368C). It measured 10 x 13 cm and was 3.5 cm deep. The associated artefacts were a utilized flake (lot 559), two tip flute spalls (lots 625-626) faunal material (lots 621,558) and a charcoal sample (lot 624). The flakes were of the same chert and were probably from a single flaking episode.

3.3.3.11 Feature 68
This was a concentration of flakes in Level 2A of units E187 N010-N011 (7A368C). It measured 17 x 16 cm and was one cm thick (Plate 27). The flakes (lot 667) were of the same material and represented various stages of the tool manufacturing process. Associated were some cut whalebone (lot 663), some faunal material (lot 666, 668), a tip flute spall (lot 669) and a charcoal sample (lot 661).

3.3.3.12 Feature 69
This was a substantial post-hole in the southern perimeter of the house, in units E189 N008-N009 (7A367B) (Fig. 14; Plate 28). The post-hole was surrounded by three large rocks in Level 2A and it was filled with a fine black soil. At Level 2A the pit measured 28 x 30 cm, with its dimensions narrowing to 17 x 21 cm in Level 3. The hole was 10 cm deep and was unslanted.

3.3.3.13 Feature 70
This was a charcoal (lot 743) and bone mulch (lot 747) concentration in unit E188 N012 (7A368C). Surrounded by 4-5 small rocks, it measured 22 x 20 cm and was 9 cm thick. The concentration occurred near the axial feature of the house (Feature 72 within Feature 55) and was probably associated.

3.3.3.14 Feature 71
This was a cooking platform in unit E185 N014 (7A368C), just outside the northwest wall area of the house. It consisted of two large flat rocks, one of which had a black stain on it, probably from burning. The large rock was slab-like and measured 30 x 62 cm; the smaller rock was thicker than a slab and measured 31 x 11 cm (Plate 29).

3.3.3.15 Feature 72
Feature 72 was the east-west axial feature running across the central house depression, Feature 55 (7A368C). It measured between 75-100 cm wide, and spanned the width of the house, at 6 metres (Plates 12-14). The feature consisted of cobbles of various sizes, along with some slab-like rocks.

Plate 27. Phillip's Garden, Feature 28, flake concentration.

Plate 29. Phillip's Garden, cooking platform (Feat. 71)
3.3.3.16 Feature 73
This feature was initially defined as a depression in the western quarter of E183 N012 (7A368D), underneath a large capstone. It also covered unit E184 N012. Abundant faunal and artefactual material was found from this area which, when opened up further to the west, was re-defined as a midden associated with the house. It is described separately below (section 3.3.4).

3.3.3.17 Feature 74
This was a whalebone concentration (lot 52) within the midden in unit E183 N012 (7A368D). It was composed of 43 small pieces of whalebone, plus five large and six medium sized pieces. The whalebone formed a mound measuring 20 x 20 cm and 4.5 cm thick. Associated with it was a variety of seal bone (lot 54) and a cut whalebone plank (lot 53). Some of the whalebone pieces were more obviously cut than others.

3.3.3.18 Feature 76²
Feature 76 refers to the twelve major structural post-holes, eleven of which were located in the trench the ringed the outside of the house "wall", thereby redefining it as a sitting platform or bench (Figs. 13-14; Plates 30-36). Although many of these features had been noted as pits of Level 2A soil during the excavation of Level 2 and had been given feature numbers, they did not become obvious as post-holes until the removal of the house rocks and the full exposure of the Level 4 sandy beach.

Feature 76a (Plate 30)
This post hole occurred in units E186 N014-015 (7A368B). It was a circular pit surrounded by five large and one smaller rock and it measured 16 cm by 13 cm and was 22 cm deep. There were no associated artefacts and no rocks lining the sides of the pit. Upon further excavation of the sand a large rock was uncovered at the base of the pit. The slant3 of this pit was northeast (Table 4).

Feature 76b (Plate 31)
This post-hole was located in units E187 N014-N015 (7A368B) and contained two pits, both of which were filled with Level 2A soil. The larger northern pit was surrounded by four rocks and it measured 23 x 17 cm at the outer rim, with the inner area measuring 17 x 9 cm; depth was 17 cm. No rocks lined the sides, but there was one small rock on the west side which protruded as if to secure a pole. There was a slight southeast slant (Table 4). A few rocks were found at the bottom of the pit, well under the sand.

The southern smaller pit was surrounded by two small and one large rock. The pit measured 7 x 10 cm and it was 22 cm deep. No rocks lined the sides and the slant was southwest (Table 4).

²There is no Feature 75.
³By slant is meant the direction in which a straight pole would point if it were stuck down into the post-hole.
Plate 30. Phillip's Garden, Feature 55, post-hole Feature 76a.
Plate 31. Phillip's Garden, Feature 55, post-hole Feature 76b.
Feature 76c (Plate 32)
Located in unit E187 N015 (7A368B), this post-hole consisted of an outer pit surrounded by three rocks, which sloped steeply to an inner pit bounded by three rocks closely jammed together. The outer pit measured 35 x 30 cm and the inner one measured 8 x 13 cm and was 19 cm deep. The inner pit was filled with Level 2A soil and there were some rocks at the bottom of the pit. The pit had no slant.

Feature 76d (Plate 33)
This was a set of two small post-holes which occurred in unit E191 N012 (7A372D). They were constructed of layers of small flat stones arranged in a spiral which narrowed near the bottom. Both contained a dry, fine, sooty soil which was mixed with the sand at the bottom. The northern pit measured 10 x 10 cm and was 13.5 cm deep, and the southern pit measured 11 x 9 cm and was 20 cm deep. A flat rock was found at the bottom of the north pit, while small beach pebbles were found in the bottom of the southern pit. Neither post-holes were slanted.

Feature 76e (Plate 34)
This was a post-hole in units E190 N013-N014 (7A372D), and it was surrounded by four large rocks. The pit measured 10 x 13 cm, was 24 cm deep, and it was filled with a dry, black, fine, sooty soil. The pit was lined by layers of rock arranged in a spiral that began half way down and continued to the bottom as the pit became narrower and narrower. The rocks were especially marked on the southwest side and the pit slanted northeast (Table 4). Sea shells were found between this pit and post-hole 76f (lot 260) and one of the inner rocks was stained with red ochre. There was a flat rock at the bottom of the pit.

Feature 76f (Plate 34)
This post-hole occurred in unit E190 N013 (7A372D) and at its surface there was one large rock to the north and one to the south. The pit measured 16 x 11 cm and was 26 cm deep. Its construction was similar to Features 59 and 76e, with layers of flat rocks beginning half way down in an ever-narrowing spiral. The rocks were concentrated in the northeast and one flat rock lined the wall in the southwest. The pit was filled with a dry, sooty, black soil which was mixed with sand at the bottom. One of the inner rocks was stained with red ochre (lot 259).

Feature 76g (Plates 35-36)
This was a post-hole in unit E189 N009 (7A367B) which was a relatively shallow depression inside a semi-circle of layered rocks, with the open end facing east. It measured 13 x 17 cm, was filled with Level 2A soil, and had a cobble-lined bottom, below which was one large rock. Depth was 12 cm, and there was no slant. The most rocks occurred in the west and southwest of the pit, as if the post had been tightly jammed in.

Feature 76h (Plates 35-36)
This post-hole was a deep pit in E189 N009 (7A367B) and it was filled with Level 2A soil and surrounded by two large rocks, one to the north and
Plate 32. Phillip's Garden, Feature 55, post-hole Feature 76c.
Plate 33. Phillip’s Garden, Feature 55, post-hole Feature 76d.
Plate 34. Phillip’s Garden, Feature 55, post-hole Feature 76f.
Plate 35. Feature 55, post-hole Features 76g, h, i, and 69.

Plate 36. Feature 55, post-hole Features 76g, h, i, and 69.
one to the south. The pit measured 12 x 15 cm and was 16 cm deep. It was layered with medium size rocks beginning a quarter of the way down and the rocks at the bottom were stained with red ochre. The pit had no slant.

**Feature 76i (Plates 35-36)**
This was a large pit in units E189 N008-009 (7A367B) which was surrounded by a narrowing spiral of small to medium size rocks. At the bottom there were lots of small pebbles and gravel that were used as fill. The pit was roughly circular, measuring 12 x 11 cm and was 32 cm deep. The pit slanted south (Table 4).

**Feature 76j (Fig. 14)**
This post-hole consisted of a round pit in unit E187 N008 (7A367B), and it was well outside the house. It began with an outer area of large rocks, and the pit narrowed as a layer of small flat rocks spiralled downward. The pit was filled with Level 2A soil and flat rocks were layered inside along the sides, with the most occurring in the southeast and northeast sides. The pit measured 20 x 13 cm and narrowed to 10 x 13 cm where the small rocks began. Depth was 15 cm and the bottom of the pit was filled with small beach pebbles and gravel which were used as fill. There was no slant to this pit.

**Feature 76k (Fig. 14)**
This post-hole was a shallow oval depression which occurred in unit E187 N009 (7A367B). It measured 17 x 17 cm and was 11 cm deep. Large rocks lined the southern half of the pit, with smaller ones lining its northern area. The pit was filled with Level 2A soil and crumbling limestone and cobbles were found at the base.

**Table 4. Summary of main post-hole dimensions, Feature 55**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feat</th>
<th>Pit size cm (L3-4)</th>
<th>Depth (cm)</th>
<th>Rock lining</th>
<th>Pit bottom</th>
<th>Slant of straight pole in pit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>27 x 21</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>layered at sides</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>away from depression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76a</td>
<td>15 x 30</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>rocks at top but not lining pit</td>
<td>single rock</td>
<td>away from depression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76b</td>
<td>17 x 9</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>rocks at top but not lining pit</td>
<td>rocks</td>
<td>slight slant away from depression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76c</td>
<td>8 x 13</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>jammed in at sides</td>
<td>rocks</td>
<td>no slant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76d (N)</td>
<td>10 x 10</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>flat rocks in spiral</td>
<td>pebbles</td>
<td>no slant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76d (S)</td>
<td>11 x 9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>spiral</td>
<td>flat rock</td>
<td>no slant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76e</td>
<td>10 x 13</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>narrowing spiral</td>
<td>flat rock</td>
<td>slight slant away from depression</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

53
3.3.4 Midden (Feature 73)

A substantial midden deposit turned up in the western trench of the excavation area (Fig. 12). At first it was thought to be a bone concentration within the house (Feature 55) but when the house was firmly delineated it became clear that this was a midden deposit outside, but likely associated with it. According to the surface contours, another house depression lay immediately west of Feature 55 and the midden deposit was thrown into the depression of this abandoned house. Although the midden deposit was extensive and rich, time constraints meant that only two units were excavated in it.

There are two main observations to be made about the midden. First, whereas in Level 2A the bone was mostly seal, in Level 4 there was a wider variety of species represented, including eider duck, cod and other fish species, suggesting at least two midden components or dump episodes. Second, the variety of organic artefacts is greater than normal in our experience at Phillip’s Garden, including bone points, harpoon tips (Plate 37), ivory plugs, carved teeth, and an amulet (Plate 38). Most of these artefacts found were complete, which suggests that this is a different kind of midden than Feature 2 excavated in 1985-86 (Renouf 1986; 1987) where organic artefacts were few and broken.

A charcoal sample from the midden returned a date of 1370+/-90 B.P. which overlaps with the date from the house, Feature 55.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artefact</th>
<th>Lot Number (7A368D)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microblades</td>
<td>77, 83, 109, 113, 114, 119, 121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bifaces and fragments</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preforms</td>
<td>23, 105, 131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endblades</td>
<td>82, 104, 110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scrapers | 85  
Cores and fragments | 88, 97, 99, 101-102, 112, 118  
Hammerstones | 106  
Abraders | 132  
Soapstone pieces and fragments | 87, 95, 98  
Harpoon heads | 123  
Cut or carved ivory pieces | 43-44, 46, 81, 90, 116, 122, 134  
Bone points | 100, 107-108, 111, 115, 117, 120, 128  
Burin-like tool hafts | 129  
Flakers | 126  
Needles | 125, 127  
Amulets | 84, 103  
Worked bone, including whalebone | 45, 80, 96  

Table 6. Non-artefact lot summary, midden (Feature 73), Phillip's Garden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faunal</th>
<th>Flake</th>
<th>Charcoal</th>
<th>Soil Samples</th>
<th>Watersift</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41, 78, 86, 91, 130</td>
<td>92, 42</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7. Summary of new radiocarbon dates from Phillip's Garden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab No.</th>
<th>Site Name and Parks Provenience</th>
<th>Descriptive Provenience</th>
<th>C14 Years, B.P., Uncalibrated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beta-66435</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden 7A368C743</td>
<td>Level 2, central area of house (Feature 55)</td>
<td>1410+/-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta-66436</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden 7A368D79</td>
<td>Midden (Feature 73)</td>
<td>1370+/-90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Plate 37. Organic artefacts from midden (Feature 73).
1-3 ivory/bone points
4 flaker
5 harpoon head
6-7 burin-like tool hafts
Plate 38. Dorsal and ventral view of amulet from midden (Feature 73), enlarged 3.5 times life size. A similar amulet is illustrated in Harp (1969/70: fig. 7d), which he describes as a unique specimen. In both cases, the profile, in which the distal end is raised like a head above water, immediately suggests a bird (Harp 1979/70:16).
3.4 Discussion of Phillip's Garden

The strongest clue to Phillip's Garden's function lies in a comparison between it and the Groswater Phillip's Garden East site directly to the east (Renouf 1987:34-48; 1991:19-42; 1992:1-18; Kennett 1990). Identified faunal material from both sites demonstrates that each is a winter-spring harp seal hunting sites, but their size and complexity differs markedly.

Whereas Phillip's Garden East is about 1/2 hectare, Phillip's Garden is approximately two hectares. Approximately one third of Phillip’s Garden East has been excavated or tested, and two house features have been identified, one semi-subterranean and the other a surface structure such as a tent. Lithics, bones and fire-cracked rock are jumbled throughout the site and occur within at least two distinct cultural levels (Renouf 1987). This indicates repeated seasonal use, each occupation of the site disturbing some of the traces of previous visits. Although group size is impossible to reconstruct, the small size of the site and the small number of house features so far located suggest one or two family groups at a time, or possibly just a single task group. A task-specific occupation is also reflected in the relatively narrow range of material from the site, with a high proportion of expedient tools, a low proportion of items related to tool manufacture, and a relatively high proportion of hunting and processing tools (Kennett 1990; Renouf in press).

In contrast to Phillip’s Garden East, Phillip's Garden is larger; in fact, this is the largest Palaeoeskimo site known in the province of Newfoundland, and it one of the largest known in the eastern Canadian arctic. It is also considerably more complex and intensively occupied, with at least 50 house depressions spread out along two raised terraces (Fig 8). This is a conservative estimate given the fact that a number of other houses have been infilled by midden deposits after abandonment and do not show up on the surface of the ground. Not all the houses would have been occupied at one time, and population size estimates, a shaky exercise at best, are not attempted. However, it seems likely that more than one or two families at a time occupied Phillip's Garden. At the site there is considerable intra-site variability in house form, house contents, and midden sizes and seasonality.

Whereas Harp had excavated a number of versions of his winter house, described above, and one summer house (Harp 1976) our own excavations added to this a possible fall, qarmat-like structure (Feature 1), on the basis of faunal material and details of dwelling construction (Murray 1992). Another is clearly a summer windbreak or tent (Feature 42) (Renouf 1991:55-60), and one other seems to be a winter-spring house on the basis of its large size, relatively clear definition, and abundance of seal material (Feature 14) (Renouf 1987:3-18). The substantial nature of Feature 55 suggests that this is another winter-spring house, although its architecture is quite different from the other houses excavated, with an east-west oriented axial feature. The possibility of an east-west orientation of Feature 1 was also suggested by Murray on the basis of the distribution of faunal fragments in the house (Murray 1992). Although the suggestion was only tentative when made, the new information from Feature 55 substantiates her initial observation.

The range of variation in house structure is also mirrored in midden seasonality. Although by far the major proportion of the faunal material is seal,
presumably harp⁴, there are differences amongst the middens. Whereas the largest faunal collection from a midden indicates late winter-spring occupation (Renouf 1991), a smaller collection from a house suggests fall-early winter (Murray 1992) and a small collection from a test unit in another midden clearly indicates the spring seal hunt. Although no summer faunal assemblage has been found, Feature 42 is an undisputedly warm-weather structure.

House contents from 11⁵ of the 28 investigated dwelling structures are also variable, showing few patterns. While certain tool categories such as retouched and utilized flakes, burin-like tools, microblades and scrapers are consistent across houses, there is a great deal of variation in other categories such as soapstone, cores, endblades, bifaces, sled runner fragment, needles, harpoon heads and lances. This variation is related to season of use, length of use, and house function.

Table 8. Relative percentages of tool types from Phillip’s Garden houses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House #</th>
<th>Feature 1</th>
<th>Feature 14</th>
<th>Feature 55</th>
<th>House 10</th>
<th>House 11</th>
<th>House 6</th>
<th>House 5</th>
<th>House 17</th>
<th>House 2</th>
<th>House 4</th>
<th>House 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House date (B.P.)</td>
<td>1850 +/- 111</td>
<td>1970 +/- 100</td>
<td>1370 +/- 90</td>
<td>1777 +/- 41</td>
<td>1568 +/- 7</td>
<td>1799 +/- 49</td>
<td>1560 +/- 7</td>
<td>1522 +/- 49</td>
<td>1722 +/- 49</td>
<td>1540 +/- 54</td>
<td>1956 +/- 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retouched/utilized flakes</td>
<td>11.04%</td>
<td>10.59%</td>
<td>13.43%</td>
<td>10.43%</td>
<td>10.08%</td>
<td>9.44%</td>
<td>14.43%</td>
<td>13.04%</td>
<td>11.10%</td>
<td>9.02%</td>
<td>11.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microblades</td>
<td>17.09%</td>
<td>12.10%</td>
<td>23.92%</td>
<td>32.47%</td>
<td>27.03%</td>
<td>35.24%</td>
<td>23.20%</td>
<td>21.32%</td>
<td>27.04%</td>
<td>20.22%</td>
<td>24.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burin-like tools</td>
<td>1.92%</td>
<td>2.62%</td>
<td>1.08%</td>
<td>0.87%</td>
<td>1.90%</td>
<td>1.52%</td>
<td>2.06%</td>
<td>1.93%</td>
<td>1.16%</td>
<td>1.38%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axe/adze</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cores + fragments</td>
<td>35.00%</td>
<td>16.19%</td>
<td>15.12%</td>
<td>1.30%</td>
<td>2.67%</td>
<td>1.84%</td>
<td>5.15%</td>
<td>1.82%</td>
<td>1.80%</td>
<td>1.19%</td>
<td>1.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soapstone fragments</td>
<td>3.36%</td>
<td>19.76%</td>
<td>16.36%</td>
<td>14.06%</td>
<td>7.21%</td>
<td>12.74%</td>
<td>6.70%</td>
<td>15.98%</td>
<td>16.35%</td>
<td>10.11%</td>
<td>10.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endblades</td>
<td>12.71%</td>
<td>19.50%</td>
<td>9.41%</td>
<td>13.66%</td>
<td>13.63%</td>
<td>17.59%</td>
<td>21.65%</td>
<td>12.81%</td>
<td>8.49%</td>
<td>17.73%</td>
<td>15.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bifaces</td>
<td>5.28%</td>
<td>1.88%</td>
<td>13.59%</td>
<td>7.41%</td>
<td>10.63%</td>
<td>3.93%</td>
<td>5.67%</td>
<td>8.86%</td>
<td>9.66%</td>
<td>17.89%</td>
<td>13.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whetstones</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sideblades</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrapers</td>
<td>6.72%</td>
<td>10.24%</td>
<td>2.78%</td>
<td>13.48%</td>
<td>12.28%</td>
<td>10.27%</td>
<td>14.43%</td>
<td>16.75%</td>
<td>16.18%</td>
<td>17.47%</td>
<td>13.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammerstones</td>
<td>0.71%</td>
<td>0.77%</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
<td>0.13%</td>
<td>0.54%</td>
<td>0.68%</td>
<td>0.26%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraders</td>
<td>2.16%</td>
<td>2.62%</td>
<td>1.23%</td>
<td>0.69%</td>
<td>0.74%</td>
<td>0.24%</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground slate</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>3.39%</td>
<td>1.85%</td>
<td>6.08%</td>
<td>4.27%</td>
<td>6.72%</td>
<td>6.70%</td>
<td>6.19%</td>
<td>7.01%</td>
<td>5.96%</td>
<td>8.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graver/awl</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithic Total</td>
<td>100.23%</td>
<td>99.99%</td>
<td>99.98%</td>
<td>100.02</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.01</td>
<td>99.99</td>
<td>100.01</td>
<td>99.99</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n = 417</td>
<td>n = 420</td>
<td>n = 648</td>
<td>n = 1728</td>
<td>n = 2590</td>
<td>n = 1578</td>
<td>n = 194</td>
<td>n = 2585</td>
<td>n = 2406</td>
<td>n = 1929</td>
<td>n = 1524</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⁴Seal can only be speciated on the basis of a few skeletal elements, thus most of the bone assemblage can only be identified to genus. However, since harp seal dominates amongst the bones that are identifiable to species, it is assumed that most of the unspeciated bone is also harp.

⁵Data are compared from three house structures excavated by Renouf (the fourth being an outdoor hearth windbreak or tent with too few artefacts to use) and the eight houses that Harp fully excavated; the remaining 16 he only partially excavated. I would like to acknowledge Elmer Harp’s kind permission to let me tabulate these tool frequencies from his field notes.

⁶Radiocarbon dates from Feature 1, 14 and 55 are from Beta Analytic and have been summarized in Renouf (1991) and reported above. All other dates are Harp’s charcoal based dates given in Harp (1976).
The faunal collections from Phillip’s Garden and Phillip’s Garden East explain why the two sites are situated where they are, namely for March-April, and possibly December, access to the migrating harp seal herds. However, the differences in the size and complexity of the sites indicates that although both sites are seal hunting locations, the hunt took place in two different contexts. It is possible that the difference is rooted in social rather than subsistence reasons, and that the spring seal hunt from Phillip’s Garden was the basis for periodic aggregations of Dorset populations on the northwest coast who were dispersed in small residentially mobile groups throughout the rest of the year.

The concept of hunter-gatherer population aggregations and dispersals is the stuff of introductory anthropology textbooks. At certain times of the year hunter-gatherers live in small groups and at other times these groups coalesce. The period of population aggregation is one of intense social activity and it often includes distantly as well as closely related people. This is the time when rituals are performed, marriages arranged, oral history and mythology passed on. In other words, it is the time when ethnic identity and group membership is reinforced. Given the dispersal of most hunter-gatherer populations into small groups for most of the year, this identity would weaken or lapse without such periodic reinforcements. One cannot help but think of the Christian Christmas when many people travel long distances to remind themselves of who they are and to whom they are connected. The period of population aggregation occurs when it is either economically feasible or necessary. Although superficially the pattern of population aggregation and dispersal may look economically driven, it is in fact both economically and socially motivated, and the social reasons are the primary rationale.

If one takes as a given that a periodic population aggregation is common to hunter-gatherers, Phillip’s Garden is a good choice of location. Although the spring seal hunt need not necessarily involve more than one or two families, it is a
food source that could support larger than normal groups of people, thus making it possible to have a large gatherings which could have occurred on a yearly basis, or could have been less frequent.

How far a net Phillip's Garden threw is open to question, but the only chert represented at the site is the Cow Head chert, used by the Dorset of the west coast of Newfoundland and southern Labrador, in contrast to the Dorset of the northeast and southern coast of Newfoundland who used different chert sources (Robbins 1986) which are not found at Phillip's Garden.

4 1992 EXCAVATIONS AT THE SPENCE SITE (EeBi-36; 7A76-85)

4.1 Summary of 1991 Excavations
The 1991 excavations at the Spence site demonstrated that it belonged to the Recent Indian period of Newfoundland and Labrador's prehistory (2000 years ago to the historic period). Finding the site was important because it demonstrated continuity of prehistoric occupation of Port au Choix from Martime Archaic (4500-3200 B.P.) through various Palaeoeskimo occupations (2800-1300 B.P.) to the early part of the Recent Indian sequence (1300-1200 B.P.).

The 1991 excavations established that the Spence site was either a workshop site where local medium-quality chert was reduced to usable form, or else it was a living site with a workshop component on it. Some Dorset artefacts from the site indicate a small Palaeoeskimo component, or else curation of Palaeoeskimo artefacts by Recent Indians.

4.2 Objectives of the 1992 Excavations
The objectives of the 1992 excavations were: [1] to expand the 1991 main excavation area to establish whether or not Spence was more generalized than a workshop site, and [2] to excavate an area near an old shed (Fig. 15) which we knew had not been bulldozed. We were happy to receive the kind permission from the owner of the property around the shed, Mrs. Norma Goodland, to excavate in this area.

4.3 Description of the 1992 Excavations
4.3.1 Introduction
Two areas were excavated at the Spence site: [1] 34 m² at the main excavation area (7A79-80) (Fig. 16; Plate 40) and [2] a 10 metre long trench, one metre wide, at the shed area (7A85A) (Fig. 17). Since the site is outside the Park boundaries, all artefacts were catalogued sequentially within the Borden designation EeBi-36. Therefore, lot 1622 is catalogued as EeBi-36:1622.

4.3.2 Stratigraphy
The soil stratigraphy of the main excavation area was the same as that for 1991, which was described as follows (1992:87): "The stratigraphy of the Spence site was straightforward, with a single cultural level, Level 3. Level 1 was the disturbed uppermost layer that had been created by the bulldozer. It consisted of large rocks and beach soil (angular limestone pebbles, waterworn pebbles, and shell fragments of various mollusc species) and contained a few flakes. The thickness of this level varied from 25 cm in the western part of the excavation area to 0-10 cm in the east. Level 2 was a layer of undisturbed peat
Fig. 16 Excavation and operation areas, Spence
Plate 40. 1992 excavation area, Spence.

Plate 41. Flake and core concentration (Feature 16), Spence.
Fig. 17
Spence shed area excavation

WEST-EAST PROFILE LOOKING NORTH

PLAN VIEW

LEGEND

SPENCE SHED

EeBi-36 7A85A
TOP OF LEVEL 4
which extended over most of the excavation area. The peat varied in thickness from 25-30 cm in the least disturbed areas, to approximately 10 cm in the more disturbed areas, in particular in the easternmost area where the peat appeared to have been ploughed off. In the more disturbed eastern areas, a few centimetres of beach gravel was mixed into the top of the peat level. Throughout the excavation area a small amount of lithic material occurred in the basal 5 cm of the peat, probably as a result of frost action. Level 3 was the cultural level and was characterized by a black/brown organic and often slightly greasy soil. It varied in thickness from 2-7 cm and fire-cracked and small limestone rocks were scattered throughout, although clustering in places. At the base of Level 3 a thin medium grey layer of clay-like soil occurred. As at the other Port au Choix sites, this was a result of a reaction between the basic limestone beach/bedrock and the overlying and more acidic layers. Both Indian and Palaeoeskimo cultural material was found within Level 3, with no clear horizontal or vertical distinction between them. Level 4 was the ancient beach terrace, its matrix consisting of limestone and waterworn pebbles and various shell fragments, similar to the disturbed Level 1. Several squares excavated into the beach proved to be sterile.

The soil stratigraphy of the shed area was similar, except that Level 1 and Level 2 together constituted a disturbed level consisting of soil and peat and containing large amounts of modern material such as glass, nails, etc. Level 3 was the undisturbed cultural level which overlay the beach, Level 4.

4.3.3 Main excavation area

The following features are related to workshop and bone marrow and fat extraction activities which took place at the main area of the site.

4.3.3.1 Feature 16

This was a concentration of flakes and core fragments of the coarse grained chert typical of the workshop activities of the site (Plate 41); they appeared to be heat treated. The concentration was approximately 50 x 50 cm wide and occurred within units E002 N011-12 (7A78D). The material turned up immediately under the peat of Level 2 and continued until Level 4. Most of the flakes were tertiary and retouch flakes, and a smaller proportion were primary. A charcoal sample from this feature returned a date of 840 +/- 90 B.P., which is younger than the other dates from this area, which range from 1300-1400 B.P. (Renouf 1992:102-3). This date places this activity within the same time period as the activity at the shed area (see section 4.3.4).

Table 9. Lot summary from Feature 16, Spence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flakes</th>
<th>Core fragments</th>
<th>Utilized flakes</th>
<th>Artefacts</th>
<th>Faunal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1448,1475, 1511,1516, 1552,1592, 1594,1730, 1732,1767, 1774,1761</td>
<td>1449,1491,1514,1551,1555-6,1565,1562,1567,1568-70, 1579,1580-2,1591, 1593, 1596-7,1601-2,1605, 1607,1673,1674,1675,1733-58,1768,1769,1770,1771-2</td>
<td>1512-3,1553-4,1557-61,1563-4,1576,1577-8,1584-90,1595, 1598,1603-4, 1606,1608-10</td>
<td>1515,1583, 1599,1600, 1766</td>
<td>1450,1731</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

lot # = EeBi-36: #
Plate 42. Spence, flake and core concentration (Feature 22).
4.3.3.2 Feature 17
This was a small lithic concentration location in W006 N011 (7A79D). It first appeared in the bottom of Level 2 and ended in Level 3; it measured approximately 9 x 6 cm. There were numerous flakes associated (lots 1519-26). The concentration’s small size along with the facts that most of the flakes were secondary and that all were of the same poor grade chert, suggest that this feature represents a single reduction episode.

4.3.3.3 Feature 18
This was a large flake and bone concentration in Level 3 of unit E000 N010 (7A78D); it measured approximately 99 x 50 cm. The concentration included a side-notched biface (lot 1629) 48 possibly utilized flakes (lots 1623-4,1626-7), flakes (lot 1622), a core fragment (lot 1630), faunal material (lot 1625), and a charcoal sample (lot 1628).

4.3.3.4 Feature 19
This was a fairly well-defined hearth found in Levels 3 and 4 of E003 N10-11. It consisted of a shallow oblong pit surrounded by rocks, the entire feature measuring 52 x 99 cm. A large number of flakes (lots 1548,1560,1562,1642,1656,1682) and burned and unburned bone (lots 1647,1683) was found in and around the rocks. Most of the flakes were of the medium grade chert characteristic of the site; however, a small number of flakes were ramah chert. Associated material included possibly utilized flakes (lots 1643,1645-6,1653-54,1658-62,1674,1678-81) a retouched flake (lot 1549), three core fragments (lots 1651-2,1663), a microblade (lot 1675), and a biface fragment (lot 1675). Two charcoal samples were taken (lots 1655,1657).

4.3.3.5 Feature 20
Feature 20 was a large feature which comprised a number of smaller activity areas (Plate 42). It spanned units W002-5 N009-10 (7A79C + 7A80B), and possibly extended further in all directions, including outside the 1992 excavation area. The cultural material turned up in the bottom few centimetres of Level 2 and continued through to Level 4. The larger activity area consisted of a series of overlapping concentrations of flakes, cores, bone and bone mash, which were often found mixed up together. No clear hearth remains were visible; however there was a cluster of fire-cracked rocks in W005 N010. The lithic material from this area is not heat treated, which suggests that tool working was not the major function of the feature. Rather, the numerous pockets of bone mash and tiny flakes suggests that it was a midden area where the remains of food processing and tool retouch activities were deposited. A well defined and deep, possibly storage, pit was found in W004 N009 within which there were animal bones. A total of 48 flake bags and 28 bone bags were found along with 75 possibly retouched flakes, 71 possibly utilized flakes, 54 core fragments, 27 microblades, 18 bifaces and biface fragments, 14 biface preforms, and 7 scrapers. Eight charcoal samples were collected. Lot numbers for this large amount of material are available in the feature notes.
4.3.3.6 Feature 21

This was a lithic, bone and fire-cracked rock concentration within a slight depression; it appears to have been a small dump. It was located in W001 N013 (7A79C), first appearing in the lowermost centimetres of Level 2 and ending in Level 4. A layer of poorly preserved unburned bone occurred within the depression and some burned bone was found around the outer rim. The concentration measured approximately 60 x 90 cm. Associated material includes flakes (lots 1498, 1814, 1497, 1496), faunal (lots 1499, 1815), two core fragments (lots 1812-3), four biface fragments (lots 1492-5) and a microblade (1908).

4.3.3.7 Feature 26

This was a small lithic concentration found in unit E001 N013 (7A78D). Measuring approximately 32 x 25 cm, it first appeared in Level 3 and ended in Level 4. Flakes and one core fragment were associated (lots 2211-18).

4.3.3.8 Feature 27

Feature 27 was a lithic, faunal and charcoal concentration covering the entire unit W001 N007 (7A80B). It first appeared in Level 2 and ended in Level 4. Three charcoal samples were collected, one of which (lot 2544) returned a date of 1340+/- 80 B.P. Associated with the concentration were flakes (lots 2341, 2471, 2481, 2541), core fragments (lots 2337-9), microblades (lots 2332, 2342, 2350, 2475, 2542-3, 2546), faunal (lot 2480), a biface fragment (lot 2340), a possible tip flute spall (lot 2349) and a Dorset endblade (lot 2345).

4.3.3.9 Feature 28

This was a lithic concentration in the northeast quadrant of unit W006 N006 (7A80A) where it measured approximately 21 x 42 cm. The concentration was entirely contained within Level 3 and consisted of small retouch flakes along with some burned and unburned bone. Associated were flakes (lot 2227), faunal (lot 2226), microblades (lots 2229, 2433-4, 2437) and a small biface (lot 2435).

4.3.3.10 Feature 30

This was a lithic concentration and a shallow pit located in W001 N009 (7A80B). The flake and core fragment concentration occurred in Levels 2-4, and the pit occurred only in Levels 3-4; the pit measured 66 x 62 cm and was only 2 cm deep. There was little faunal. Material from this feature included flakes (lots 2193, 2360, 2455, 2467), core fragments (lots 2200, 2457-8), microblades (lots 2468-9), endblades (lots 2194, 2576), biface fragments (lots 2192, 2201, 2203, 2197) and a biface preform (lot 2464). All material appears to be Recent Indian, with the exception of a Dorset endblade (lot 2197), a Groswater endblade (lot 2194) and a possibly Dorset or Groswater biface fragment (lot 2576).

Feature 22 was incorporated into Feature 20. Features 23-24 are described in the shed area excavation (section 4.3.4).
4.3.4 Shed area trench

4.3.4.1 Introduction
A few hundred metres east of the main excavation area near the road is a disused shed on the property of Mrs. Norma Goodland. It is clear from the surface features that the shed area and a small strip of land at its back (south) constitute one of the few areas that have not been disturbed by bulldozers. Furthermore, the approximately 30m² area seems to be right at the edge of the infilled inlet described in Renouf (1992:83,93). Mrs. Goodland graciously gave us permission to excavate in and around her shed, and we laid a 10 x 1 m trench along the south side, at the inlet bank.

4.3.4.2 Feature 23
This was a large, dense flake concentration within E004-5 N000 (7A85A). It first appeared in the bottom of Level 2, continued in Level 3, and measured approximately 2 x 2 metres. Flakes were abundant (lots 2240-2, 2255,2262,2597-8,2598,2761) and included many tiny retouch flakes. Other material was faunal (lot 2254), microblades (lots 2260,2244,2235) and biface fragments (2252-3,2599).

4.3.4.3 Feature 24
This was a roughly square perimeter of rocks outlining a shallow depression in unit E002-3 N000 (7A85A). It measured 62 cm east-west and at least 38 cm north-south, the feature extending north into the unexcavated area. The feature first appeared in Level 3 and ended in Level 4, and within the depression was some calcined bone and charcoal flecks which suggest that it might have been a hearth. A few pieces of bone were large enough to be identifiable; these appear to be caribou. Associated with this feature were flakes (lots 2115,2129), faunal (lot 2116), and cut antler (lot 2117). A charcoal sample (lot 2118) and a soil sample (lot 2293) were collected.

4.3.4.4 Feature 25
This was a small midden deposit in E010-11 N000 (7A85A), possibly continuing into the unexcavated units directly to the north. The feature was first distinguishable on the basis of an area of loose soil. It became further delineated on the basis of a concentration of flakes, charcoal, and bone. The deposit first appeared in the lowest few cm of Level 3 and ended in Level 4; it measured approximately 30 x 25 cm in Level 3, expanding to 55 x 58 cm in Level 4. Material includes flakes (lot 2038), faunal (lots 2041,2044,2047), a microblade (lot 2039), a biface fragment (lot 2040), cut bone (lot 2045) an endblade tip (lot 2045), and a charred substance sample (lot 2042) which returned an AMS date of 1020 +/- 60 B.P.

4.3.4.5 Feature 29
This was a pit feature in Levels 3 and 4 of E008 N000 (7A85A). It was oval, measuring 36 x 45 cm at the top, narrowing to 11 x 12 cm at its base; it was 14.5 cm deep. Three fist sized limestone rocks were located at the bottom. No cultural material was in association.
4.4 Discussion of 1992 Excavations at the Spence Site

The interpretation of the 1991 excavations at Spence (Renouf 1992:93ff) was that it dated to the early part of the Recent Indian period of Newfoundland's prehistory (1490-1280 B.P.) and, like the comparably dated Cow Head Band 2 component (Tuck 1878), was a workshop location. At Spence there were many areas of poorly defined and overlapping hearths associated with many cores, core fragments and flakes; much of this was intentionally or unintentionally heat treated. The chert was considerably coarser than the Cow Head chert used by the Palaeoeskimo groups and it was argued that the source was at the now buried inlet area (Renouf 1992:95). Seven hearth features were found, consisting of a shallow pit, fire-cracked rock, charcoal flecks, burned bone, and in some cases cores, core fragments and flakes. The distribution of the core fragments and flakes suggested that the area of workshop activities tailed off to the north and west of the 1991 excavation area.

This northern and western area was opened up in 1992 and the frequencies of cores, flakes and fire-cracked rock features did decline, as anticipated. Nine features were excavated, but there was only one hearth with a shallow pit and fire-cracked rock (Feature 19). Other features were five flake and core concentrations (Features 16, 17, 26, 28, and 30), a flake and bone concentration (Feature 18), a small dump (Feature 21), and a large area of shallow pits with bone mash (Feature 20), similar to the large hearth feature found within a house structure at the Recent Indian site of Boyd's Cove, Notre Dame Bay (Pastore, 1992:40).

Although less material was found in 1992 than 1991, the relative proportions of finished tools to cores, core fragments and flakes is roughly the same, as are the proportions of primary to secondary and tertiary flakes (Table 10). This suggests workshop activities in this area of the site as well, although the fewer artefacts suggest a lesser intensity. Domestic activities are suggested by Feature 20 where the large amounts of burned bone mash in small shallow pits indicate burning of the bone for fat and marrow.

Table 10. Lithic frequencies, 1991-1992 main area excavations, Spence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Finished Tools</th>
<th>Preforms</th>
<th>Cores and Core Fragments</th>
<th>Primary Flakes</th>
<th>Secondary Flakes</th>
<th>Retouch Flakes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>3,640</td>
<td>14,600</td>
<td>16,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>2,967</td>
<td>3,177</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary = those flakes with some cortex remaining
Secondary = those flakes neither primary or tertiary
Tertiary = small retouch flakes

As was the case in the 1991 excavations, 1992 saw a small number of Palaeoeskimo artefacts, including five whole Dorset endblades, a fragment of a Dorset endblade, one Groswater endblade, another endblade that is possibly Groswater, and two Palaeoeskimo bifaces. It is possible that there is a small Palaeoeskimo component at the site, which is not unlikely given that Palaeoeskimo material has been found in test pits in nearby areas. Certainly the
1400-1300 B.P. date range could apply to Palaeoeskimo as well as Recent Indian inhabitants of the inlet area.

Another possibility is intriguing. Did the Recent Indians pick up and curate the Palaeoeskimo artefacts? If the Recent Indian occupation of Port au Choix came just after Phillip's Garden was abandoned by the Dorset, Recent Indians, who would have been familiar with the landscape around the area, inevitably would have come across the abandoned Phillip's Garden. Although the older houses, dating to 1900-1899 B.P. would have been overgrown, the more recent houses, dating to 1400-1300 B.P., would be less overgrown and much more noticeable. A toe in the ground would kick up artefacts, and some might still be lying on the surface of the ground. What would have been the reaction of the Recent Indians to a material culture that was so like yet so unlike their own?

The material from the main area of the Spence site is comparable to the Beaches complex material from Bonavista Bay (Carignan 1975; 1977) and other areas of Newfoundland. However, the material from the shed area is younger. Most of the projectile points are Little Passage points, which are characterised as small and deeply corner-notched in contrast to the larger side-notched Beaches points. The Spence Little Passage points are more finely made than the Beaches points from the same site, a direct result of the finer grained cherts that were used. The fact that none of the tiny Little Passage points that characterise the younger end of the Little Passage time period were found in the shed trench places the Spence occupation at the beginning of the Little Passage Complex (1000-700 B.P.). This is confirmed by a radiocarbon date of 1020 +/- 60 B.P. The 840 +/- B.P. date for Feature 16 in the main excavation area indicates that the Recent Indian component extends to this area.
Plate 43. Bifaces from shed area trench, Spence.
Table 11. Summary of new radiocarbon dates from Spence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab No.</th>
<th>Site Name and Parks Provenience</th>
<th>Descriptive Provenience</th>
<th>C14 Years, B.P., Uncalibrated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beta-66440</td>
<td>Spence EeBi-36:1773</td>
<td>Charcoal and peat from Feature 16, core and flake concentration in Levels 2-4 of the main excavation area.</td>
<td>840+/-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta-66441</td>
<td>Spence EeBi-36:2042</td>
<td>Charred material from Feature 25, a midden in Levels 3-4 of the shed area trench.</td>
<td>1020+/-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMS-9758</td>
<td></td>
<td>Charcoal from Feature 27, a lithic, faunal and charcoal concentration in Levels 2-4 of the main excavation area.</td>
<td>1340+/-80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **1992 SURVEY**

5.1 **Town Area**

5.1.1. **Introduction**

Two areas of the town were intensively tested with the aim of locating other Indian sites. These areas were: [1] The inner cove area of Gargamelle Cove and [2] areas surrounding the infilled inlet, on which the Spence site is located.

5.1.2 **Gargamelle survey**

Seven areas were tested around Gargamelle Cove and the area between Gargamelle Cove and Back Arm, in particular around the Spence site. The areas looked at and the results are summarized in Figure 19. Some undisturbed spots of Palaeoeskimo material were found around the foundation of Dorothy Lavers' house (Area 8), and all other areas where Palaeoeskimo/Recent material were found were heavily disturbed (Areas 2, 3, and 7).
1992 Gargamelle Survey

Area 1. Area of tuckamorc - sterile
Area 2. Sea Echo - disturbed PE and/or RI
Area 3. Courthouse/Women's Institute, disturbed PE
Area 4. Mrs. Spence's backyard - sterile
Area 5. South Gargamelle meadow - historic
Area 6. Yard on Fisher's and Lavers' Rd. - sterile
Area 7. Stan Lavers' old house - disturbed PE and/or RI
Area 8. In and around Dorothy Lavers' basement
    - disturbed and undisturbed PE

PE = Palaeoeskimo  RI = Recent Indian

Fig. 19  Gargamelle survey areas
5.2 Eddies Cove
In 1991 two geologists working with the government of Newfoundland and Labrador found Recent Indian material in two locations at Eddies Cove, and the material was registered as the Bragg Site (EeBb-1) and the Regular Site (EeBb-2). In 1992 a survey crew of four returned to both areas where they intensively test; no more cultural material was found.

6. SUMMARY OF 1992 FIELD SEASON AT PORT AU CHOIX
The 1992 field season at Port au Choix included excavation within the town and within the National Historic Park. Excavations at the Groswater site of Phillip's Garden West clued up the hillside midden and uncovered a sea mammal hunting lookout station at the lower terrace. Evidence of lithic tool making was apparent in the midden assemblage, in contrast to the virtual absence of cores, primary flakes and preforms from the upper terrace. As was the case in 1991, the midden produced considerable debris from bone tool manufacture.

At Phillip's Garden well-defined house remains provided us with the first direct evidence of house construction.

Within the town area, the Spence site's chronology was extended from 1400 years ago to 800 years ago, to include a Little Passage occupation. This brings the prehistoric chronology of the Port au Choix area to what is recognized as ancestral Beothuck, which appropriately concludes an long line of prehistoric occupation that began with the Maritime Archaic Indians, 4500 years ago.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab No.</th>
<th>Site Name and Parks Provenience</th>
<th>Descriptive Provenience</th>
<th>C14 Years B.P. Uncalibrated</th>
<th>C14 Years B.P. Calibrated, Intercept Method, 1 sigma (Stuiver and Becker 1986)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beta-66437</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden W. 7A711A842 +843</td>
<td>Midden subfeatures 5C+5D</td>
<td>2240 +/-70</td>
<td>2345-2155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta-66438</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden W. 7A711D253</td>
<td>Midden subfeature 5E</td>
<td>1960 +/-80</td>
<td>2040-1822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta-66439</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden W. 7A714C30+35</td>
<td>Feature 28, lookout station</td>
<td>2340 +/-70</td>
<td>2430-2335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta-66435</td>
<td>Phillip's Garden 7A368C743</td>
<td>Level 2, central area of house (Feature 5)</td>
<td>1410 +/-100</td>
<td>1410-1270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 12. Summary of radiocarbon dates from 1992 excavations

78
| Beta-66436 | Phillip's Garden 7A368D79 | Midden (Feature 73), associated with house Feature 55 | 1370+/-90 | 1351-1185 |
| Beta-66440 | Spence EeBi-36:1773 | Charcoal and peat from Feature 16, core and flake concentration in Levels 2-4 of the main excavation area. | 840+/-90 | 911-674 |
| Beta-66442 | Spence EeBi-36:2544 | Charcoal from Feature 27, a lithic, faunal and charcoal concentration in Levels 2-4 of the main excavation area. | 1340+/-80 | 1310-1180 |
| Beta-66441 CAMs-9758 | Spence, EeBi-36:2042 | Charred material from midden Feature 25, shed area trench. | 1020+/-60 | 970-804 |

All dates are on charcoal and based on a half-life of 5568 radiocarbon years.

**REFERENCES**


