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Around Town: The Archaeological Invest-
igation of Four Structures in Dawson
City, Yukon

by Peter J. Priess

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Investigation of Four Structures
in Dawson City, Yukon
By Peter J. Priess

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INTRODUCTION

One feature of the archaeology program in Dawson City was that management and archaeology requirements got out of step and the time required for completion of reports on the various excavations was often not available. End-of-season reports were prepared, and usually published as a Research Bulletin, but completion of more major statements on investigations of the various buildings was set aside as other, more urgent, activities were carried out. As time passed, the opportunity to return to some of this unfinished work diminished. The need for the information may also have diminished as restorations and interpretations were completed and the sites program moved on to other, always urgent, projects.

The reports presented here are an attempt to clear up some of the back log created by the situation. They are written by someone who was not involved in any of the excavations and who was usually not directly involved in the Dawson City archaeology program. Consequently, analysis and interpretation were derived almost entirely from documentation generated during excavation. This consisted of field notes, maps, plans, profiles and photographs. The archaeologist was consulted to a limited extent.

The reports deal primarily with structural information. They present the excavated data, compare it to historical information, where available, and attempt to develop an understanding of the physical nature of the structures or their construction history. The artifacts which were collected are considered only superficially. Artifact information included in the descriptions or interpretations is taken from the field notes or other lists rather than

from an examination of any of the the actual items. Consequently, identifications may be incorrect and lists may be incomplete.

Part 1 Excavations at Ruby's Place; (1983, 1984)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In architectural terms, Ruby's Place was not a landmark in Dawson. The structure dates back to 1903 and its elegant boomtown facade reflected the aspirations of its first owner. The style of the building and the techniques of its construction were fully in keeping with Dawson's attempt at Edwardian grandeur. It is also a building of anomalies, many of which remain unresolved. It was designed originally to be a desirable lodging house but its interior plan allowed for its later use as a house of prostitution. Yet it must be emphasized that the importance of the structure lay in its function rather than in its form. Ruby's Place was just one small part of Dawson's urban landscape but it represented a large part of Dawson's social history. (Guest 1983:61).

The above statement summarizes one historian's impression of the building most commonly known as Ruby's Place, a name associated only with the latter half of its history. Guest concludes that the building was erected early in 1903 (1983: 44). Local folklore now seems to associate the building with prostitution in Dawson City. However, that association is valid only beginning in 1935 when the building was acquired by Mathilde (Ruby) Scott and operated as a brothel for almost three decades (Guest 1983: 19).

Originally the building as well as a number of cabins behind it (Figs. 1.1, 1.2) served as a laundry and residence for the owner and some of the laundry staff. Within a short period it had become a boarding house, sometimes listed in directories as a hotel. Its presumed association with prostitution may be due to the use of laundries or

boarding houses (also cigar stores) as fronts for prostitution (Guest 1983). From 1962 to 1968 the building again functioned as a boarding house, operated by "Ruby" Scott, and in 1970 it was acquired by the Crown.

Structurally the building is one of contrasts. "The facade projected elegance and craftsmanship; the remaining walls reflected function and quick construction"(Guest 1983: 42). It is a two-storey platform frame structure with a gable roof and a boomtown or false front. The second floor is wider than the first, resulting in an overhang on the north side (Fig. 1.1). Although such an arrangement could have provided a covered passageway to the backyard if another building had stood immediately adjacent on the north side, there is no evidence of such other building so the purpose of the overhang is unclear (Guest 1983: 42). The elegance of the facade was in part due to its two "primitive oriel windows....aesthetically dramatic and represent[ing] the work of a skilled craftsman" (Guest 1983: 45). The roof was clad in sheet metal as were some of the walls, other than the front.

To the rear of the main two-storey structure there are now two interconnected outbuildings (Figs. 1.1, 1.2). Guest (1983: 56) briefly discusses the historic uses of such buildings as well as the confusion over the number which actually stood there in the past. At present there are two "cabins" but according to documentary sources there may have been as many as seven. Originally they appear to have functioned as residences for laundry staff but in 1910, for example, they were reported to be vacant.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Archaeological investigations were conducted in 1983 and 1984 to locate and examine evidence of structural features associated with the extant and non-extant cabins (Fig. 1.3). The area of the main structure could no longer be investigated for similar remains due to extensive disturbance during foundation stabilization shortly after acquisition by the Canadian Parks Service.

The 1983 excavations were located north of the extant cabins and were intended to investigate the cabin foundations, access and utility features associated with the cabins, and search for evidence of non-extant outbuildings. The 1984 excavations were located northeast and south of the extant cabins. In part these continued the investigation of features discovered in 1983 but were also intended to investigate more thoroughly the boardwalks in the area, to obtain information on the enclosed passageway between the cabins and to continue the search for nonextant outbuildings. Six units were excavated in 1983 and 21 in 1984.

Excavation during both years was primarily in metre square units (Fig. 1.3). In a few instances the size of a unit was adjusted, either larger or smaller, to extend to the wall of an extant structure or maintain regular spacing between units. Only one unit was 1.0 m by 2.0 m. Vertical control was through arbitrary 10 cm levels except for the lowest levels of a few units which were 20 cm. Permafrost was encountered in some of the units and was the reason for termination of excavation in these units.

EXCAVATION RESULTS

The excavations provided information on foundations for both of the cabins, on the nature and location of boardwalks around the cabins, on the possibility of structures predating the extant cabins and on use of the area south of the cabins. Throughout the archaeological investigations the two cabins have been designated Annex A (closest to the main building) and Annex B. For consistency these designations are retained here (Fig. 1.3).

Annex A

A single excavation unit (1Y914F01) was located adjacent to this structure and provided information on the footing at the northeast corner (Figs. 1.13, 1.14). The corner rested on a stacked footing consisting of several layers of short timber sections, stacked one on another. The bottom layer consisted of five north-south oriented plank sections of varying sizes. Length, where recorded, was 80 cm. Two of the planks were 30 cm by 5 cm, one plank was comprised of two 20.5 cm by 2.5 cm planks stacked together and the fourth plank was 4 cm thick. The next-to-bottom layer consisted of two plank sections, oriented east-west with a 30 cm by 5 cm cross section. Only one of these, however, rested under the building and supported it. The other was located to the north, completely removed from any possibility of providing support for the building.

The third layer of footing was a 25 cm by 20 cm beam,

estimated to be 85 cm long and oriented east-west. The upper surface of this timber had an 8 cm wide notch, located 28 cm from the west end. This notch, however, did not serve any structural purpose in its present location and thus may be an indication of reuse of a timber.

Other components of the structure's base could be seen under the floor and behind the footing just described. These consisted primarily of the base structure of the west wall. The major component was a 15 cm square sill oriented north-south as were all of the base components in this area. The bottom of this sill was at about the same level as the top of the stacked footing described above but the sill was located beside the footing rather than on it. On this sill there were two layers of plank. The bottom plank was 12 cm by 4 cm in cross section and the top plank was 10 cm by 5 cm. The latter may be the bottom plate for the west wall.

It appears possible that the structure has shifted during its existence. The middle layer of the footing had one plank which no longer provided any support; possibly the result of shifting and dislocation. The west wall sill did not rest on the footing but was situated beside it. The vertical position of the sill, however, suggests that it could have rested on the footing. The west wall sill was also slightly rotated rather than laying flat. Shims located under the sill stood at a steep angle rather than laying relatively horizontal as would be expected. This may be the result of the sill shifting off its main support and placing an additional burden on the shims, resulting in some settling and change in the angle of the shims.

In contrast to other wooden remains both on and in the ground at Ruby's, the footing at the northwest corner of Annex A was undeteriorated and appeared to be relatively recent. The surfaces of the planks, for instance, clearly showed the evidence of having been cut with a circular saw. In the absence of information on the footings at the other

three corners of the building, it is not possible to say whether the excavated footing was typical or unique. If the excavated footing was dissimilar from the other three, it is more likely a recent repair or replacement. If, however, all footings were similar they could all be the result of recent repairs or indicate that the location of Annex A itself was a recent phenomena. If position relative to other buildings is a factor, it should be pointed out that the two annexes almost line up but together they are not aligned with nor square to the main building. Such a relationship need not, however, indicate shifting of the annexes. It could also be the result of casual placement.

Annex B

Excavation at the northeast and northwest corners of this structure (1Y914F05, 1Y914F04) (Figs. 1.3, 1.17, 1.18) located two posts which, at the time of excavation, were considered to be foundation posts for the structure. These posts, with diameters of 18 cm and 21 cm, were tilted to the south with their upper ends at or near the north wall of the annex. It is likely that these features were footings for the annex and their position, therefore, indicates a shifting of the building southward by about 20 cm. The probability of this interpretation is strengthened by the fact that the two posts did not appear to relate to most of the adjacent wooden remains in either of the two excavation units; that is, remains which would provide a different interpretation for the posts.

Unit 1Y914F04 contained a number of pieces of planking which may have sat on top of the post, and consequently were likely part of the building's wall support. These included a 10 cm by 5 cm east-west plank partially resting on the post plus several other planks resting on the first one. The three latter planks were about 14 cm wide and 3

to 6 cm thick, oriented either north-south or east-west. Their exact function is not known. The nature of the bottom of the north wall in either of the excavation units was not noted.

There is some indication that both annexes have shifted southward. Since the two buildings are not firmly joined to each other there is no reason why such a shift should have taken place at the same time for both buildings. Yet the two buildings are relatively parallel and square to each other as well as being out of alignment with the main building. This relationship does not negate the possibility of a shift. It may be no more than a noteworthy coincidence.

Non-Extant Annexes

Although the "term" annex is a somewhat arbitrary and not entirely appropriate one, for the sake of consistency its use will be extended to include non-extant structures behind the main building. There is evidence of two non-extant structures: one south of the two extant annexes and one partially under Annex B.

Excavation generally south of Annex B (1Y914G18, 1Y914G20, 1Y914G21) (Figs. 1.3, 1.4, 1.29-1.31) exposed a number of wooden features which may have been part of a building. These consist of a notched beam section in 1Y914G18, a possible support timber in 1Y914G20 and probable flooring in 1Y914G20 and 1Y914G21.

Unit 1Y914G18 contained a single short beam, dressed on three sides and oriented north-south. It was 15 cm by 9.5 cm in cross section and 50 cm long. An axe-cut notch was located centrally on its upper surface. The beam and notch could have served as support for an east-west oriented beam (sill or something similar) which might have been part of a building. No evidence of such a beam was

found here or in a nearby excavation unit to the east. The possibility of this being part of a boardwalk appears unlikely since a section of boardwalk was found north and east of this unit (in 1Y914G17). This boardwalk would have been adjacent to Annex B and between Annex B and the non-extant annex in 1Y914G18 if the two annexes were contemporary.

Units 1Y914G20 and 1Y914G21 (Fig. 1.4) both contained east-west oriented planks along their south sides. These planks were about 26 cm wide and one was noted to be 2 cm thick. Parallel to the plank in 1Y914G20 there was a log with two flat areas cut into its upper surface, one being at the end of the log.

This log was situated at a level below that of the flooring and field observations suggest use as a support for a floor joist. This interpretation is theoretically possible. The joist would have been oriented north-south perpendicular to the flooring, and its end could have rested on the east-west sill which was supported by the beam in 1Y914G18. If such structural components actually existed, the building clean-up (or removal) was very thorough. It is, however, difficult to visualize the removal of a floor joist while leaving the flooring, as appears to have happened.

Units 1Y914G20 and 1Y914G21 (Fig. 1.4) contained the greatest concentration of artifacts, located below the flooring level. Although the items have not been evaluated individually, they included an enameled pail which had been filled with domestic and kitchen related artifacts and then set down upsidedown. Other items included a wicker object and parts of a barrel. Their position below the floor suggests deposition prior to construction of the floor and may offer a chance to study early KNHS artifacts from a sealed context.

Evidence of another structure was found north and east of the northeast corner of Annex B, in units 1Y914F05,

1Y914F06, 1Y914F09 and 1Y914G12 and possibly 1Y914G13 and 1Y914G15 (Fig. 1.5). The remains consisted primarily of floor planks and joists with a footing post and a sill. The general indication was of a structure extending both east and north of Annex B, and predating Annex B because one annex had been built on top of part of the floor of the other.

The footings for this structure included, or were entirely composed of, posts set into the ground. Two such posts, located in 1Y914G10 and 1Y914G12, measured 15.2 cm and 25 cm in diameter. These posts may represent the east wall of the building. They likely supported a north-south oriented sill, a section of which was present in 1Y914G10.

A substantial section of floor was exposed in 1Y914F06 and 1Y914G09 with joists only exposed in 1Y914F05. Joists were oriented east-west, the flooring was north-south. The joists were deteriorated so the shape of original cross section could not be established but a cross section dimension of 10 cm was recorded. The joists were spaced about 50 cm apart and, according to remains in 1Y914F05, had been supported by short cross timbers. The floor planks were approximately 17.5 cm wide and 3.0 cm thick. One of the exotic items found under the floorboards was a metal sheeting washboard.

The excavation records do not provide specific detail that the flooring extends under Annex B. However, it appears that the flooring continues under the annex, thus predating it.

There may also be a question of whether the planking and joists are the remains of a building or whether they actually represent a boardwalk. The excavations were not sufficiently extensive to provide evidence of a relationship between joists and the one probable sill. There is also no direct connection between the joists and sections of boardwalk located several metres to the west. The joists and planking together occupied a larger area (or

width) than would be expected in a boardwalk and thus suggest a floor (or platform?).

Another point of confusion is the indication in the excavation record that a notch cut into the planking at the western edge of 1Y914F06 was created to fit the southernmost joist in 1Y914F05. This would suggest a sequence of installation rather than contemporaneity of plank and joist. The relative elevations of these two components, however, do not indicate that the joist post-dates the planking.

If the posts, sill, joists and planking were all part of a single structure, it would have had one dimension of at least 6.5 m. But since the building is so incompletely represented, it is not possible to state whether this dimension is a length or width.

Privy

An extant privy is located at the north end of the passageway between the two annexes, placed largely beyond the line of the north walls of these structures. Its door faces south toward a boardwalk.

Excavations were conducted on three sides of the privy (1Y914F03, 1Y914F04, 1Y914G05)(Figs. 1.3, 1.7, 1.16, 1.17, 1.21, 1.22) but little evidence of its construction was recovered. It was found to be set on a sill, with the boardwalk on the west side running underneath it, indicating the privy is a later feature. The chronological relationship between the privy and annexes is not clearly indicated but since the boardwalk presumably was built no earlier than the annexes, the privy had to be built after the annexes (since it postdates the boardwalk).

Boardwalks

In addition to the extant structures, there were extensive boardwalk sections and fragments to indicate boardwalk locations. The most extensive above ground remains were located between the two annexes, occupying almost the entire space and extending from the privy to the south end of the passageway (Figs. 1.6, 1.7 1.10, 1.11). Excavated remains related to boardwalks north and south of the annexes with the most substantial remains occurring on the north side.

Indications for a boardwalk on the south side were discovered in 1Y914G17 (Fig. 1.28). They consisted of the ends of a number of parallel planks, oriented north-south and located along the north side of the unit, and a piece of east-west oriented wood below them. The latter may have functioned as a joist but its function was difficult to determine because of deterioration. The planks were 18 cm by 2 cm in cross section.

Adjacent to and south of the above boardwalk remains there was a 9 cm square post. No association with the boardwalk was noted although its proximity to the boardwalk remains could indicate some relationship. Evidence of a boardwalk north of the annexes was exposed in a number of excavation units (1Y914F03, 1Y914F05, 1Y914G07)(Figs. 1.16, 1.18, 1.23) as well as appearing at the surface adjacent to some of these units. The north edge of a boardwalk was best represented in 1Y914G07 (Fig. 1.23) and consisted of the ends of a series of parallel planks on a double joist. The planks were oriented north-south and measured 23 cm wide and 2.5 cm thick. (The photograph of this unit suggests some variation in width.) The ends of most of the planks may now be broken off since, except for one of them, they extended only onto the joist. The end of one plank extended about 20 cm beyond the joists. Within 1Y914G07 there were two joists side-by-side, measuring 7.6 cm by 5 cm and set on edge. Doubling of the joists could be a

feature throughout the boardwalk system or the configuration in this unit could be only an overlapping of ends of a single joist system. The joists may have been levelled or supported by short timber sections placed at right angles to the joist. A timber was also discovered parallel to the joists but below the level of the few shims. It may not be part of the boardwalk. There was no indication of the joists being attached to any type of footing.

The same boardwalk presumably also appears in 1Y914F03 and 1Y914G05 (Figs. 1.16, 1.18) and possibly in 1Y914G01 (Fig. 1.20). Unit 1Y914F03 contained the south edge of an east-west boardwalk as well as the beginning of a north-south boardwalk. The latter was the north end of the boardwalk between the two annexes. As in 1Y914G07, the east-west boardwalk consists of north-south oriented planks on east-west joists. The directions for the north-south boardwalk are the reverse of the above. Unit 1Y914F01 contained one plank with the appropriate location and orientation to be from the south edge of the east west boardwalk.

Planks of the east-west boardwalk were recorded as being 20 cm wide and 2 cm thick; therefore, being different than the planking in 1Y914G07. Planks for the north-south boardwalk were recorded as 25 cm wide and 2 cm thick. One joist was exposed for each section of boardwalk. Each was 10 cm by 5 cm and set on edge. Each plank had been attached to the joist with two common wire nails. There was no indication in the excavations of the joists having been attached or anchored.

The boardwalk was sufficiently exposed at the surface to allow recording of plank length (boardwalk width) as 90 cm for the east-west boardwalk. At present it was located approximately 70 cm north of Annex A. Given the possibility of the annex having shifted, this distance may be greater than originally intended.

Evidence of a boardwalk east of the passageway between the two annexes is not definite. Unit 1Y914F04 (Fig. 1.17) contained a number of pieces of wood but they did not appear to represent the remains of a boardwalk. Similarly 1Y914G14 (Fig. 1.27) contained a number of pieces of wood which did not conform with the expected orientation of boardwalk planking nor do they otherwise look like the remains of a boardwalk. This wood looked like an accumulation of discarded items, including a piece of metal sheeting and a wooden toilet seat (Fig. 1.26).

In general, the boardwalk remains north of the extant annexes indicated a boardwalk running along the north wall of Annex A and turning southward to run between the annexes. It may not have continued beside the north wall of Annex B. The boardwalk was constructed of 20 to 25 cm wide planks, up to 2.5 cm thick, attached to 10 cm by 5 cm joists. Some of the joists may have been doubled but there was no indication of the joists being attached to any other footing. The planking was oriented perpendicular to the line of traffic (that is, across the boardwalk) and the joists were parallel to the line of traffic.

The boardwalk presumably would have continued westward to connect with the main building, with either the front or back door or both. The existence of such a continuation is not recorded.

South Yard

Excavations south of the annexes immediately encountered a thick, banded gravel strata, being 30 cm thick in some locations. The banding consisted of thicker zones of relatively clean white channel gravel alternating with thin, dark bands. This is likely an indication of a driveway or

parking lot with the banding being the result of use (accumulation of dirt from traffic) and regravelling. This gravel covered the structural remains described earlier.

North Yard

An area north of the boardwalk, including units 1Y914G01, 1Y914G02, 1Y914G03, 1Y914G06 and 1Y914G08, contained some indication of burning, was usually in the form of an ash layer in the stratigraphy but in one instance (1Y914G03) consisting of burned soil and cinders. Except for the latter unit, the evidence could be interpreted as disposal of waste from within any of the nearby buildings; that is, waste from burning elsewhere. The burned soil, however, indicates burning in situ. In addition to waste disposal, the area could have been used for burning trash.

Artifacts

A detailed inventory or analysis of the artifacts recovered has not been done. However, the general types of artifacts were noted during excavation and from this it is possible to obtain a general impression of the kinds and quantities of items present. The artifacts are of a domestic nature, relating to household activities. Although many of the items may not have been completely identified during the excavations, there is a lack of tools related to any commercial or trade activities.

The greatest quantity of artifacts were noted to occur south of the annexes, below the flooring remains of a non-extant structure. These could be associated with relatively early occupations at Ruby's and may provide some indication of the social and economic status of the residents.

A social or economic interpretation of Ruby's would have to place the occupants into the broader context of Dawson City or the Klondike. By comparing artifacts col-

lections from a number of different domestic contexts such an interpretation could be achieved.

It may also be asked whether the artifact collection reflects use of the buildings as a brothel. It may be particularly interesting to be able to make such an interpretation for the early years prior to any confirmed use as a brothel. However, what aspect of an artifact collection points conclusively and without question to a brothel. The presence of domestic artifacts points to a residential use and artifacts relating to women point to the presence of women. The presence of a preponderance of artifacts relating to women merely indicates that there were more women than men present - as could be the case in a boarding house. The presence of artifacts relating to birth control indicates sexual activity but that is possible in a variety of contexts. Identification as a brothel may lie in a particular type of artifact assemblage - based on specific items and proportions - but other, equally valid interpretations must also be considered before any definite conclusions can be drawn.

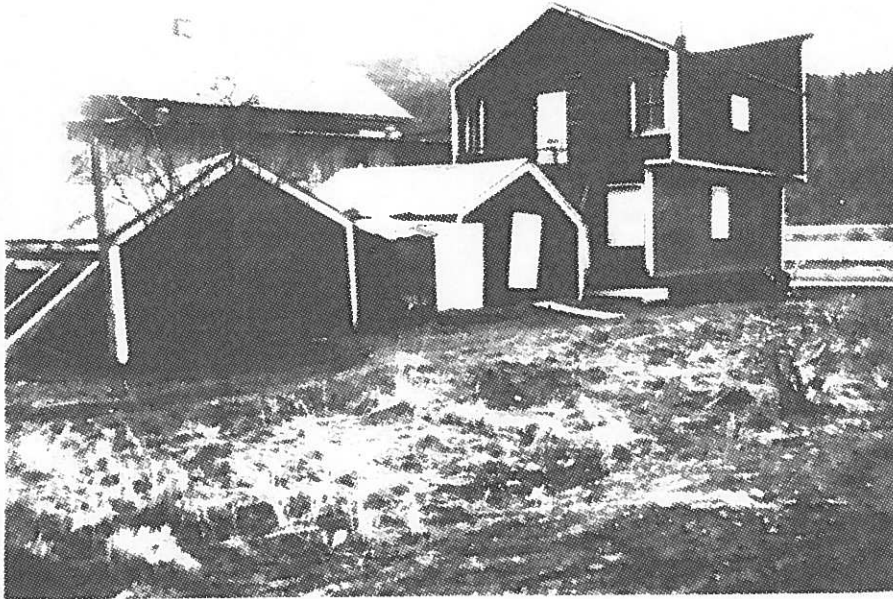


Figure 1.1. Extant structure; view of the rear of the main building and associated annexes, seen from the northeast. (Photo by B. Ross)

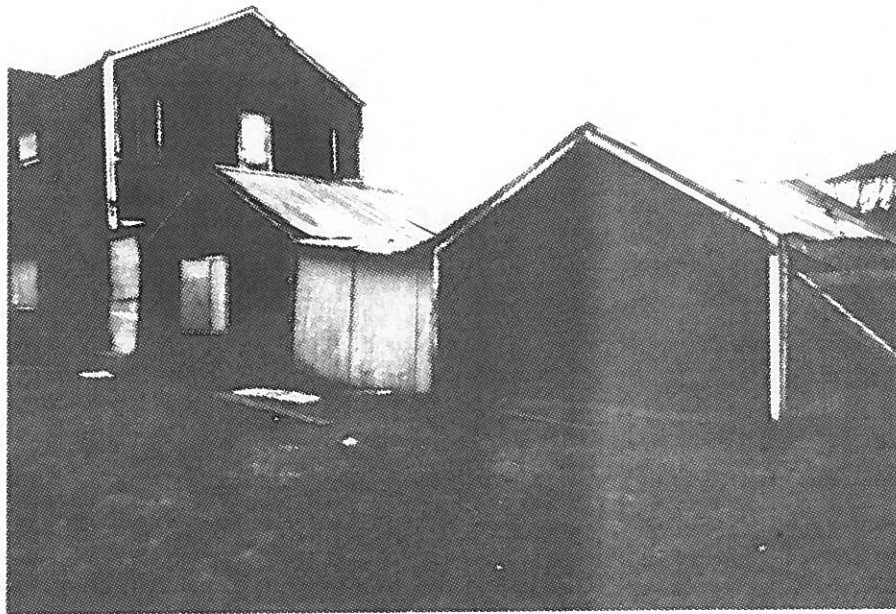


Figure 1.2. Extant structure; view of the rear of the main building and associated annexes, seen from the southeast. (Photo by B. Ross)

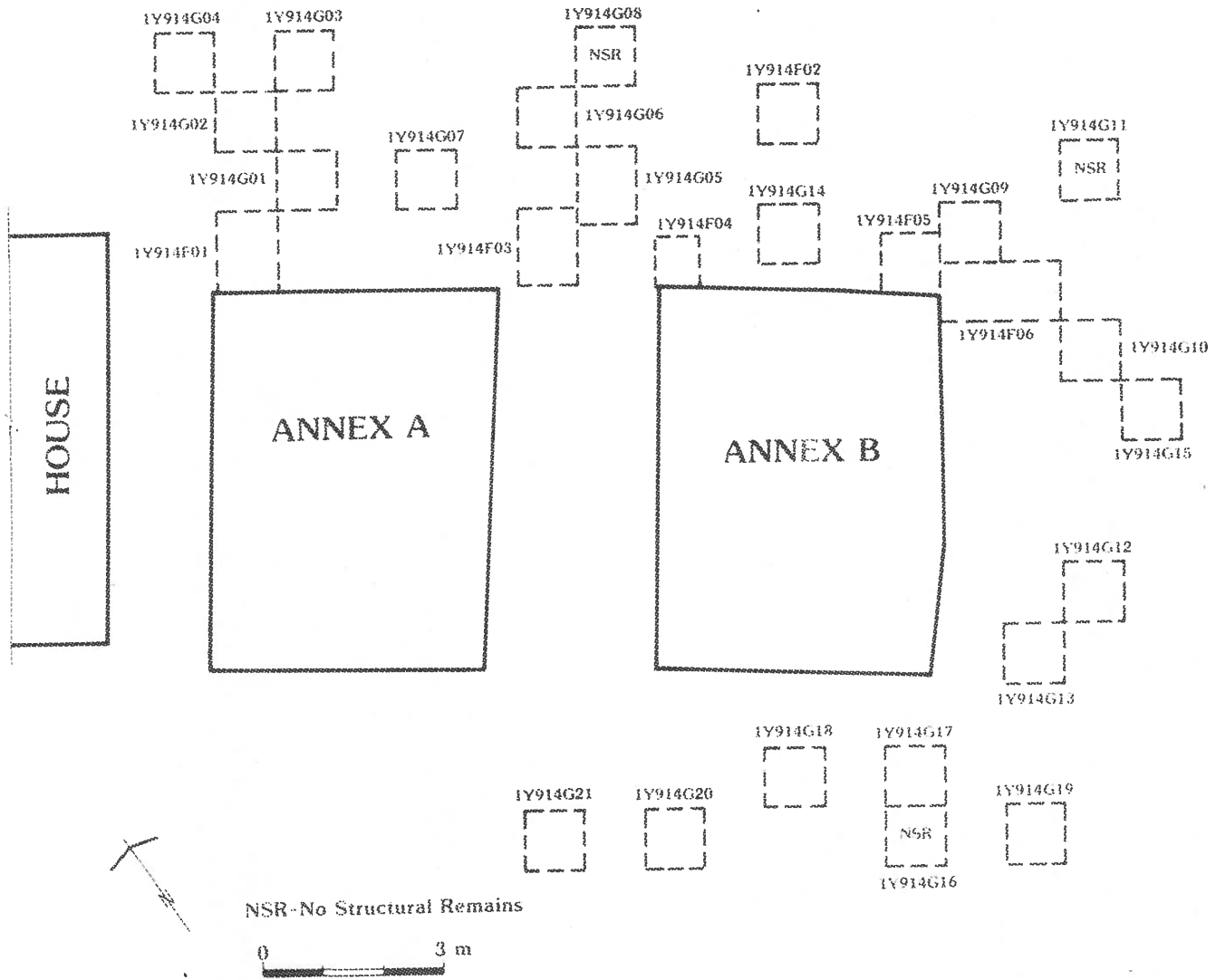


Figure 1.3. Building plan and location and identification of excavation units. (Drawn by D. Elrick)

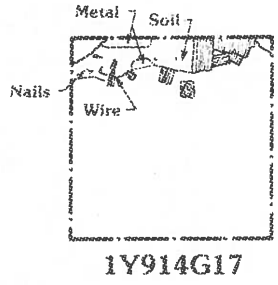
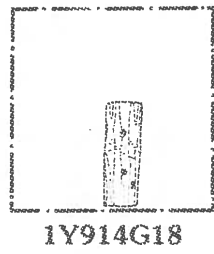
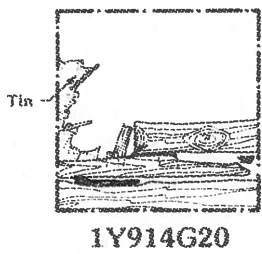
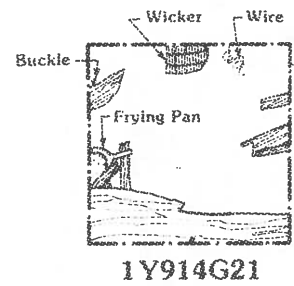


Figure 1.4. Excavated remains south of annexes. (Drawn by D. Elrick)

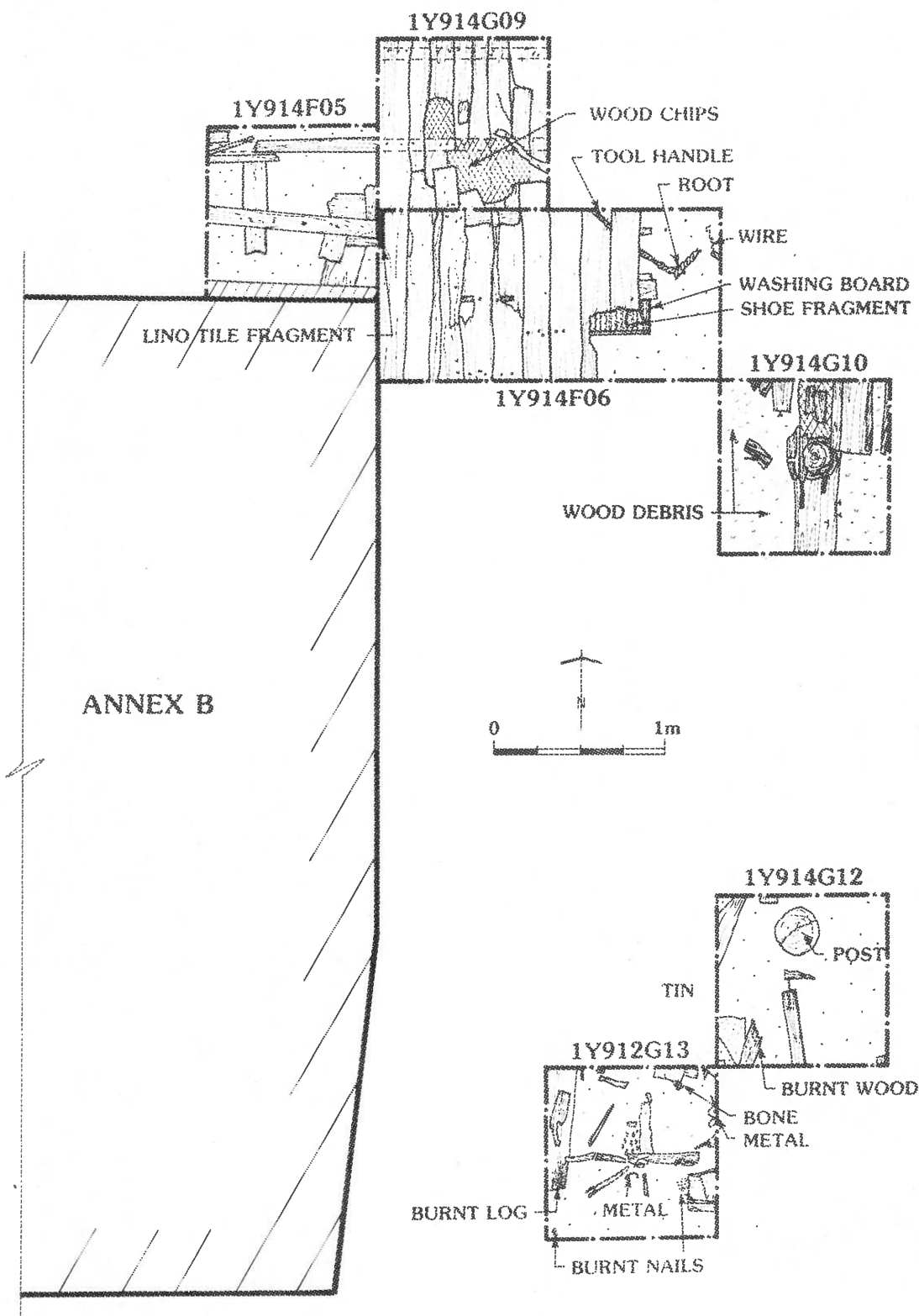


Figure 1.5. Possible annex remains north and east of Annex B. (Drawn by D. Elrick)

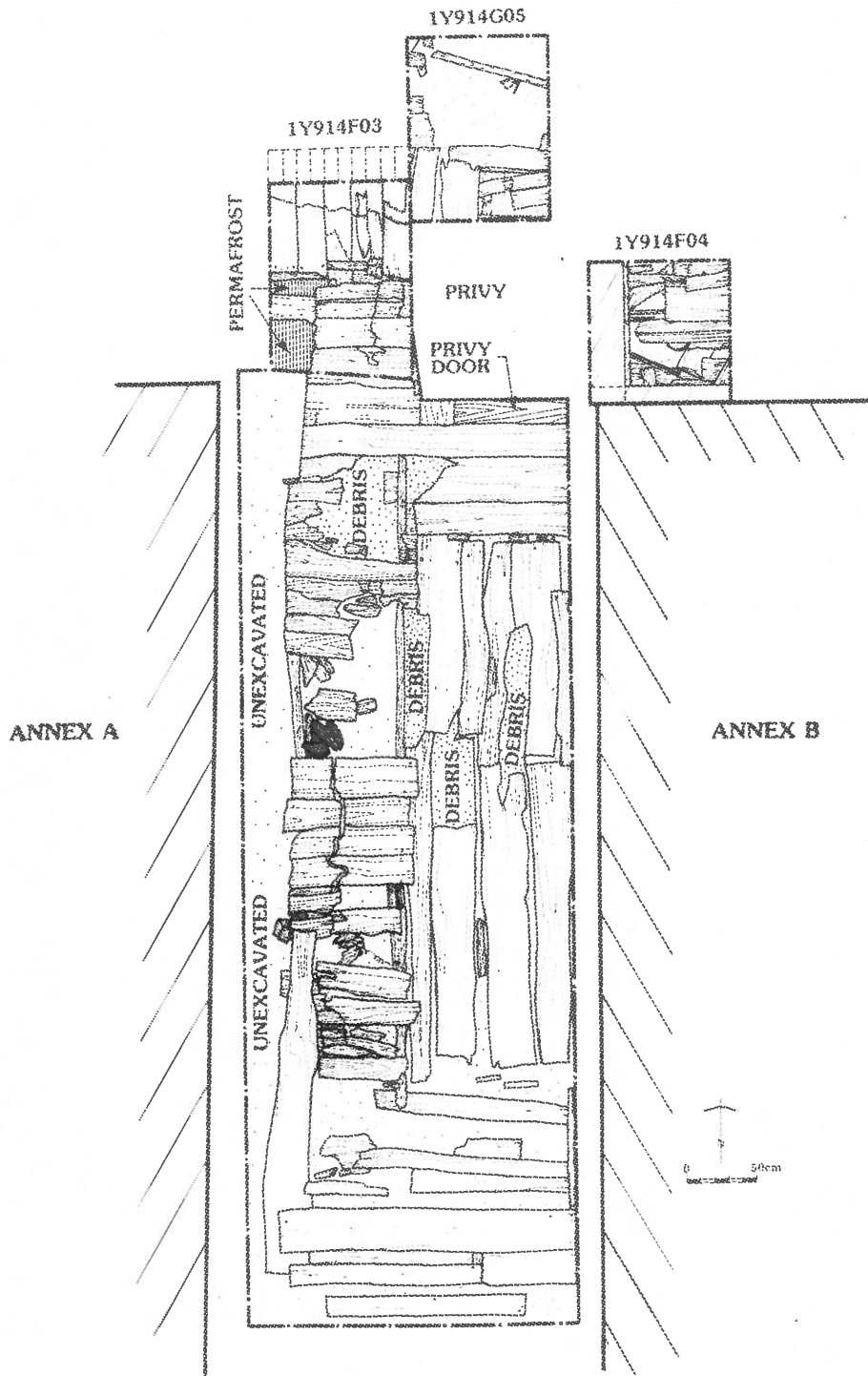


Figure 1.6. Extant and excavated boardwalk remains.
(Drawn by D. Elrick)

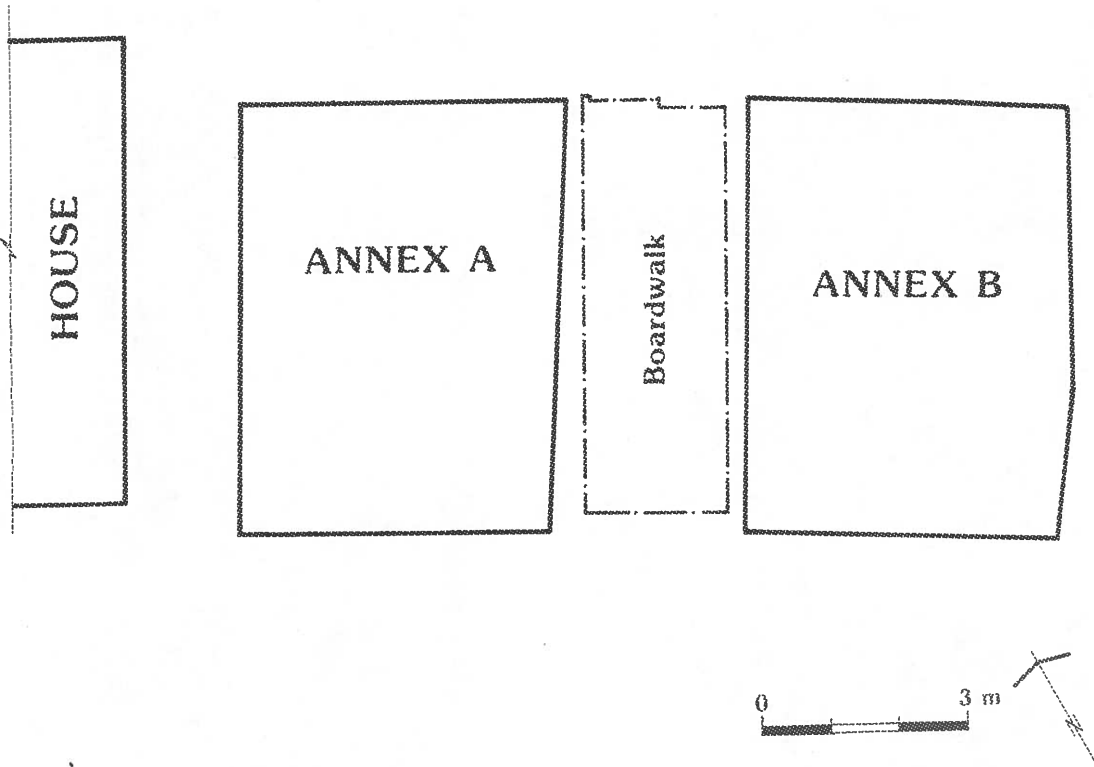


Figure 1.7. Planview of boardwalk and annexes. (Drawn by D. Elrick)



Figure 1.8. Excavations north of Annex A. (Photo by B. Ross)



Figure 1.9. Excavations south of Annexes A and B. Note that Annex B has been moved from its original location. (Photo by B. Ross)



Figure 1.10. Boardwalk remains between annexes, looking north. (Photo by B. Ross)



Figure 1.11.

Boardwalk remains between annexes, facing south.
(Photo by B. Ross)



Figure 1.12.

Excavations north of annexes, also note boardwalk between annexes (cf. Fig. 1.11). (Photo by B. Ross)

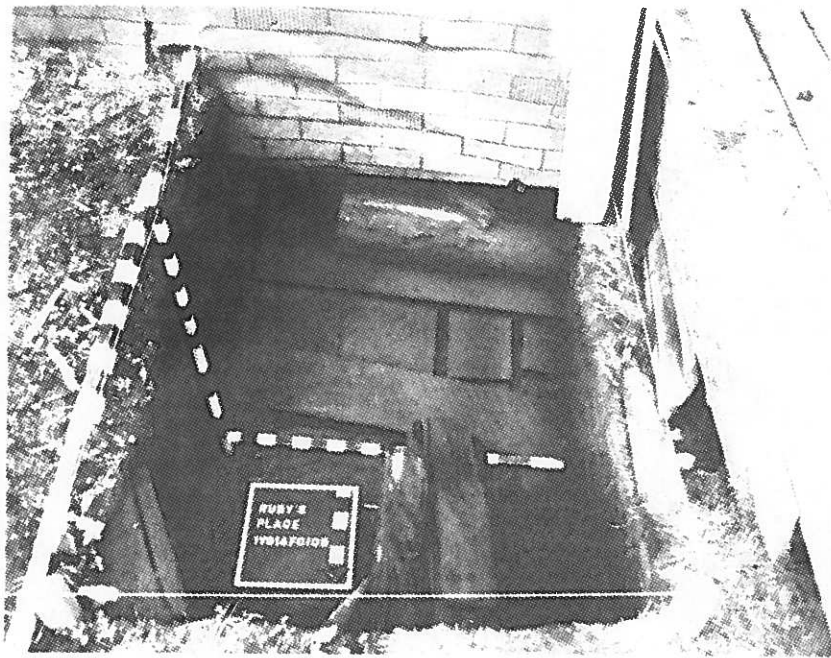


Figure 1.13. 1Y914F01, planview; facing south. (Photo by M. Gagnon)

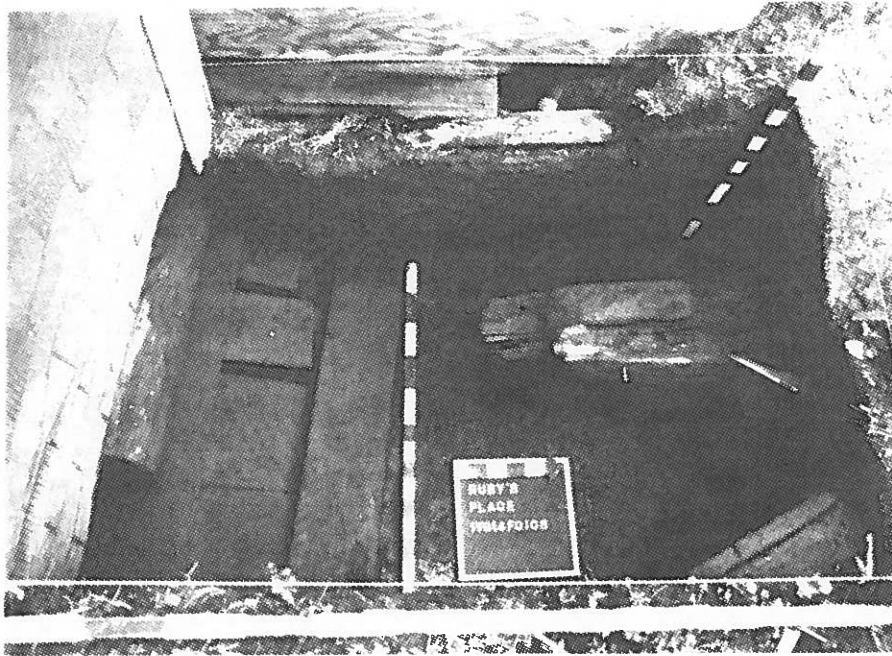


Figure 1.14. 1Y914F01, planview; facing west. (Photo by M. Gagnon)

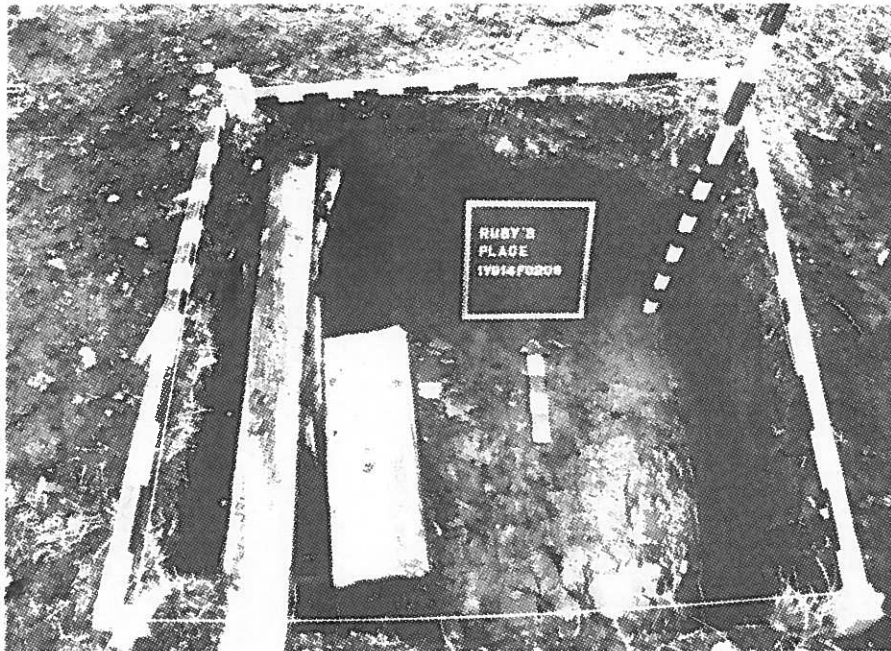


Figure 1.15. 1Y914F02, planview. (Photo by M. Gagnon)

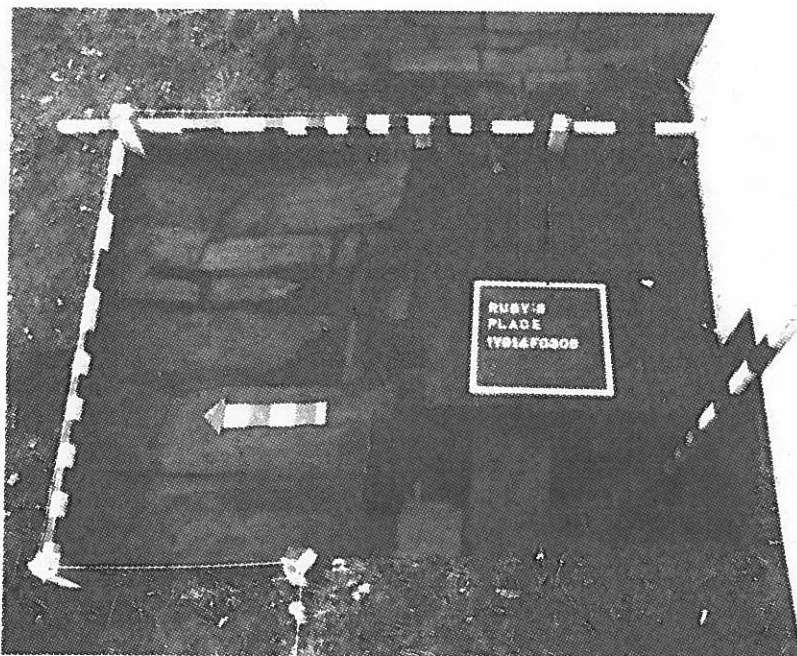


Figure 1.16. 1Y914F03, planview. (Photo by M. Gagnon)

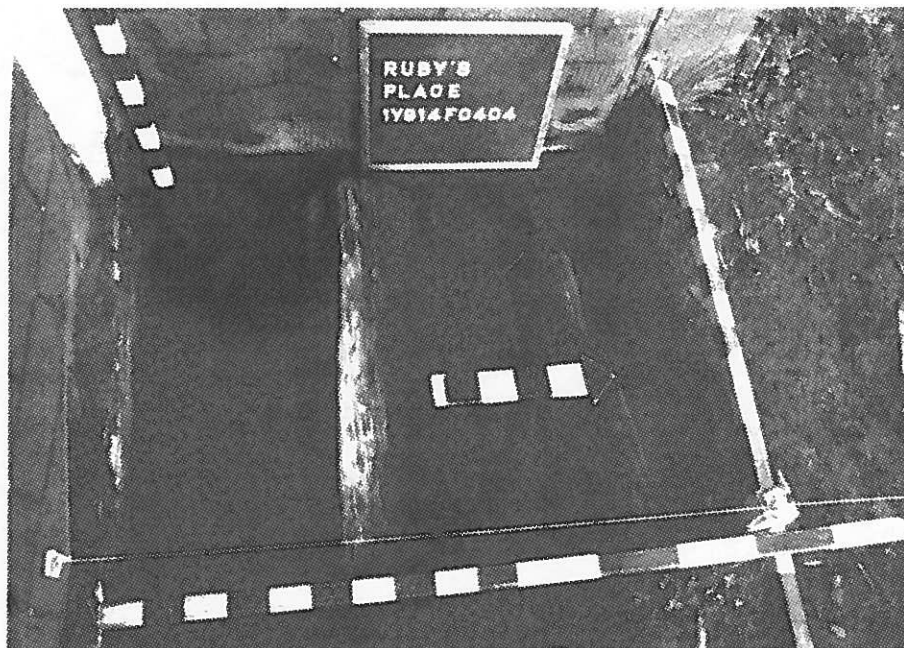


Figure 1.17. 1Y914F04, planview. (Photo by M. Gagnon)

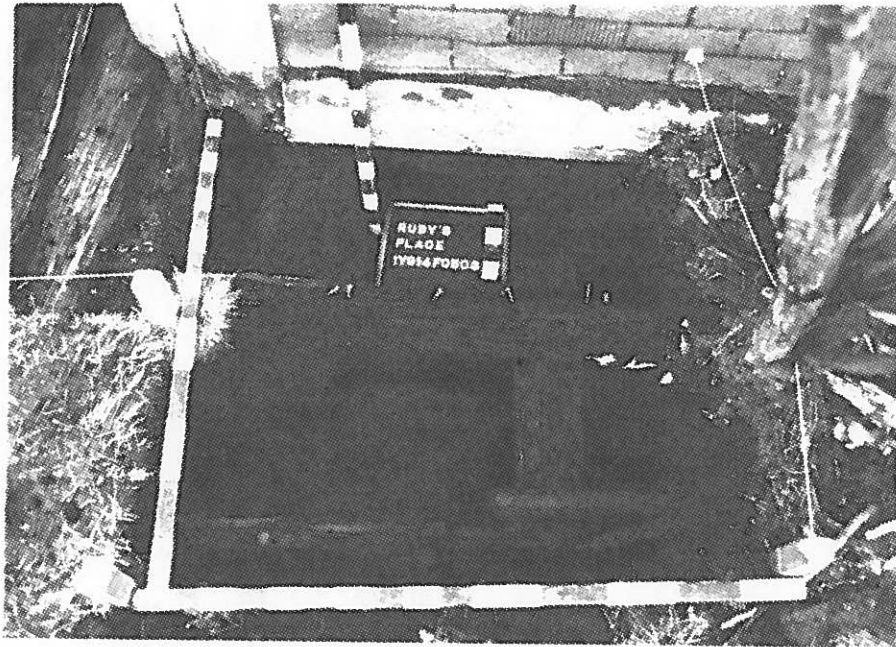


Figure 1.18. 1Y914F05, planview. (Photo by M. Gagnon)



Figure 1.19.
1Y914F06, planview of
flooring remains. (Photo
by M. Gagnon)

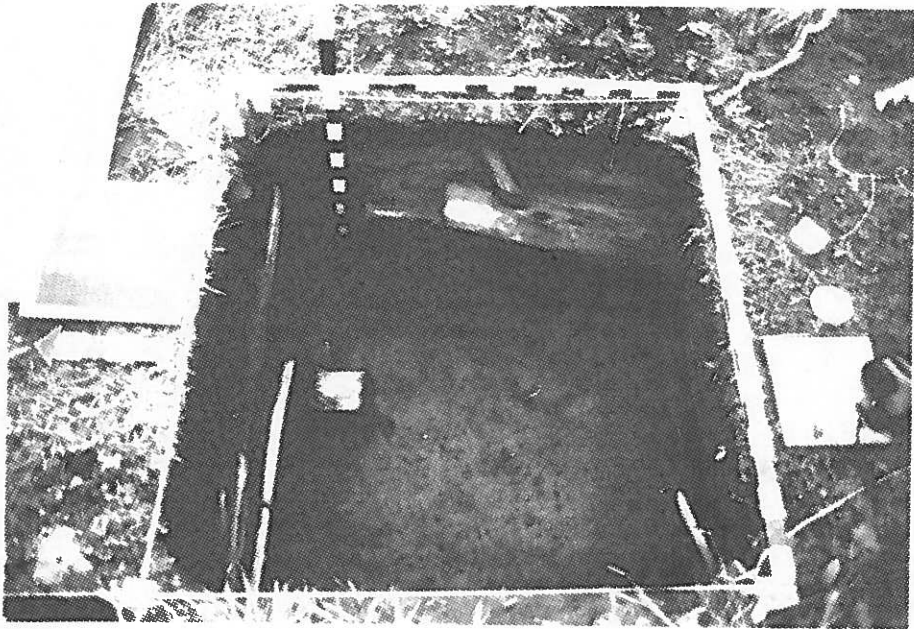


Figure 1.20. 1Y914G01, planview. (Photo by B. Ross)



Figure 1.21. 1Y914G0502, planview. (Photo by S. Koteff)



Figure 1.22. 1Y914G0503, planview. (Photo by B. Ross)

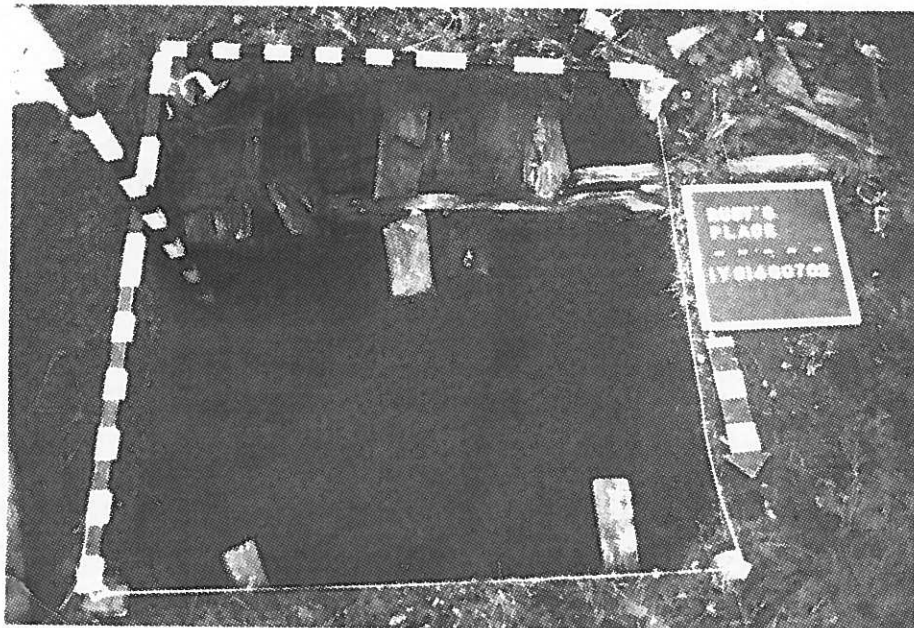


Figure 1.23. 1Y914G07, planview. (Photo by B. Ross)

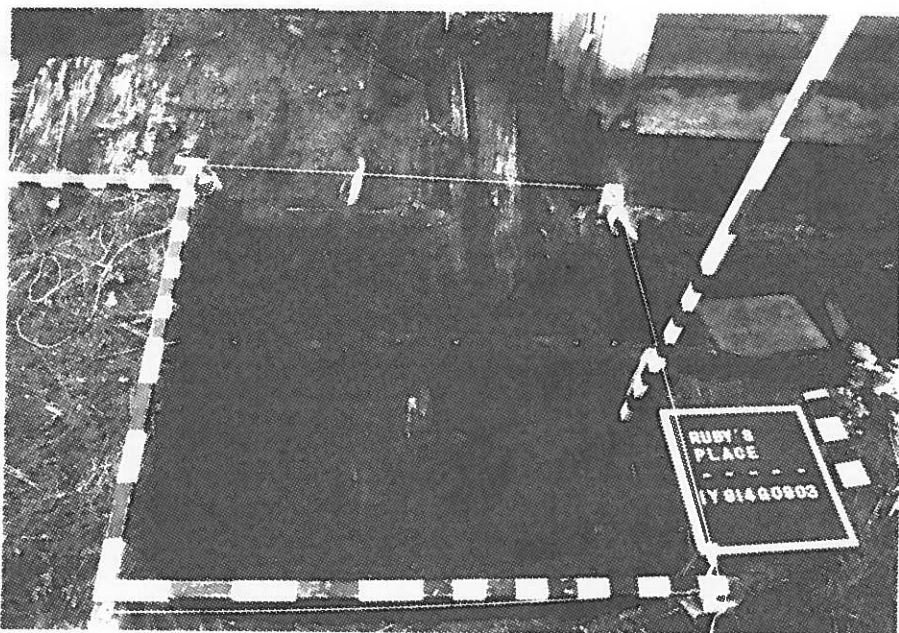


Figure 1.24. 1Y914G09, planview. (Photo by B. Ross)

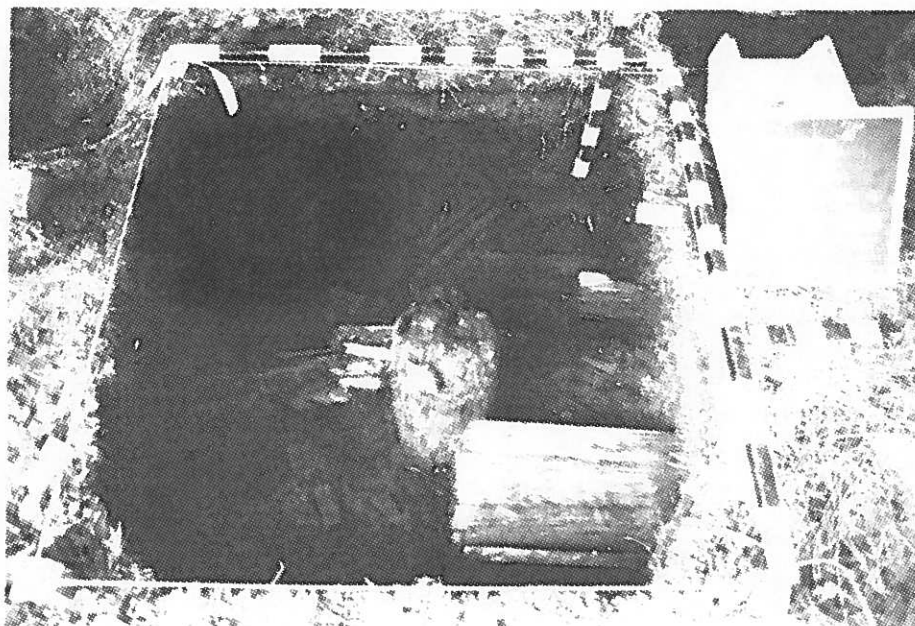


Figure 1.25. 1Y914G10, planview. (Photo by B. Ross)

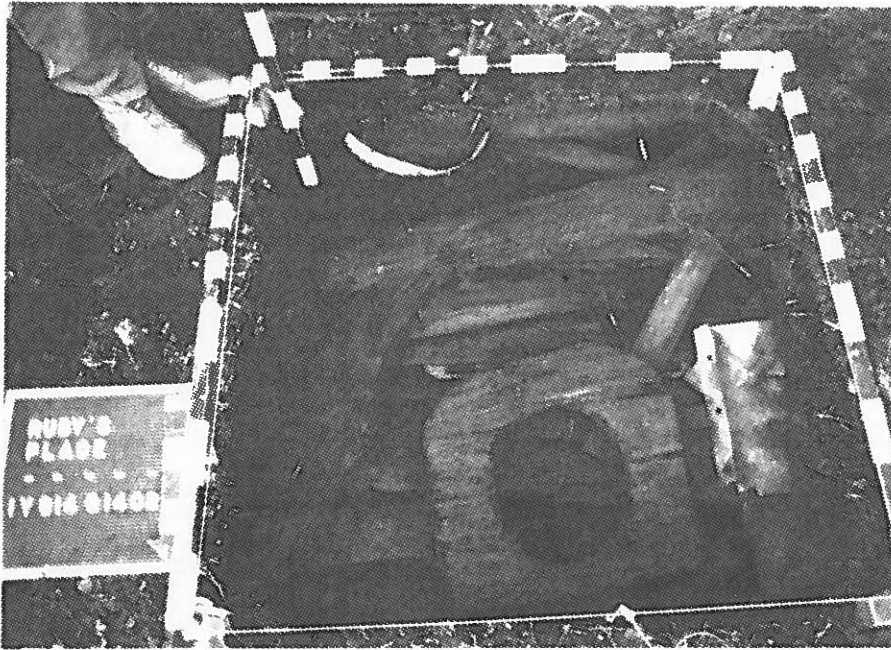


Figure 1.26. 1Y914G1402, planview. (Photo by B. Ross)

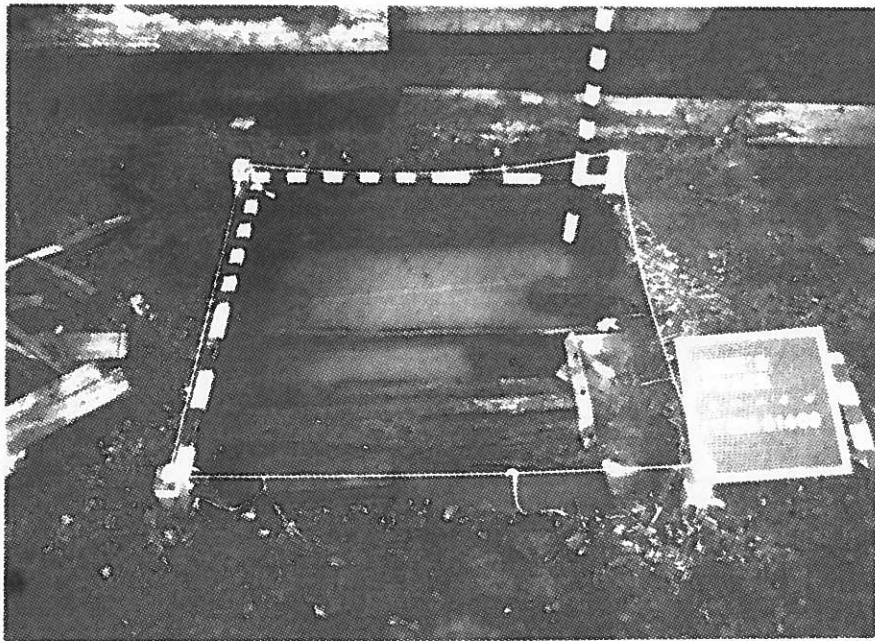


Figure 1.27. 1Y914G1403, planview. (Photo by S. Koteff)

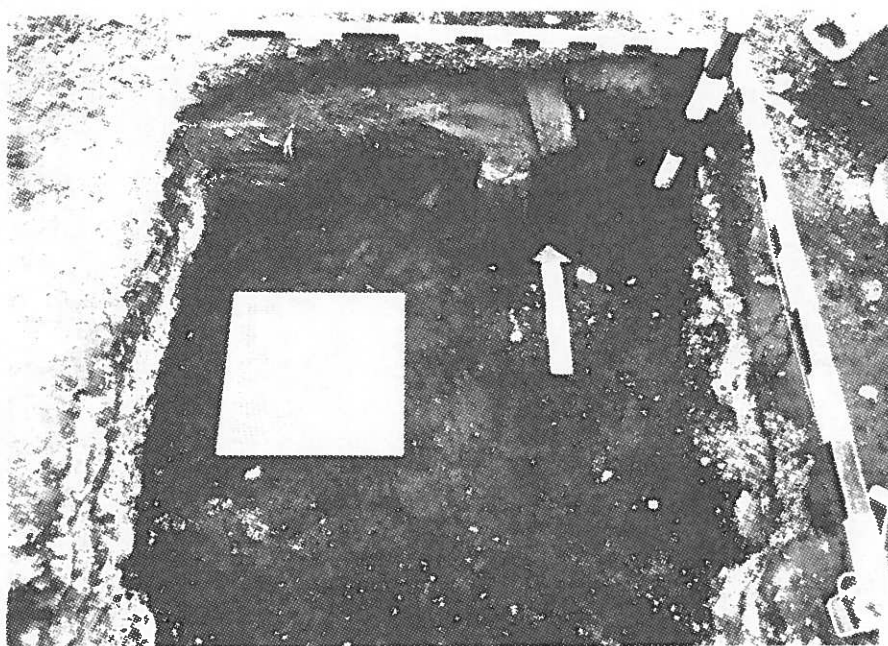


Figure 1.28. 1Y914G17, planview. (Photo by B. Ross)

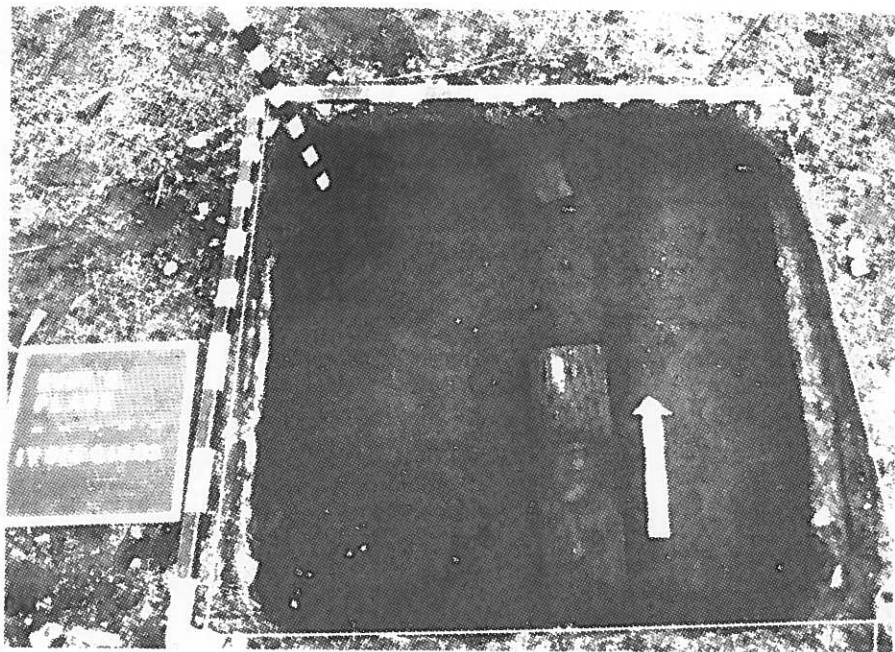


Figure 1.29. 1Y914G18, planview. (Photo by B. Ross)

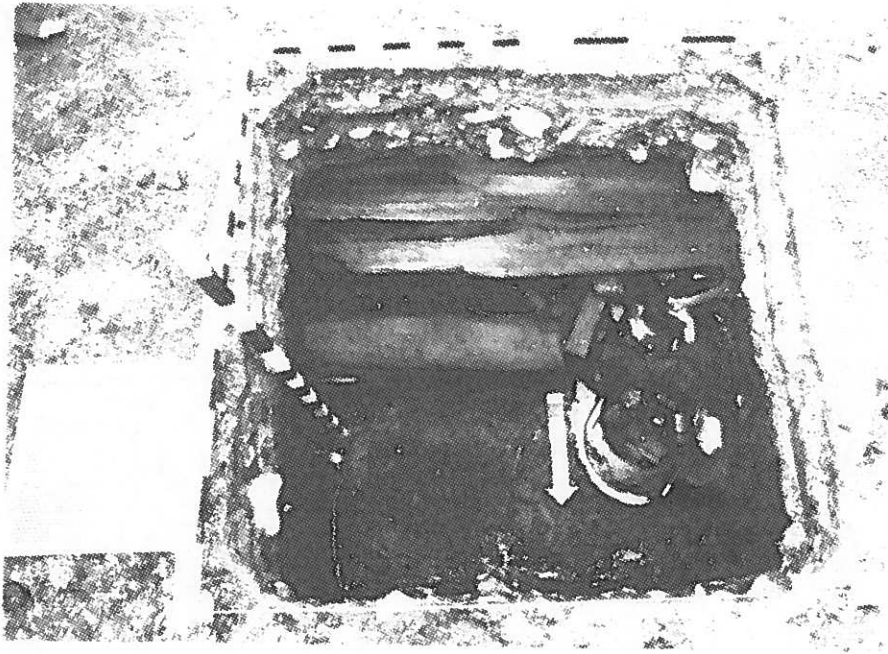


Figure 1.30. 1Y914G2008, planview. (Photo by B. Ross)

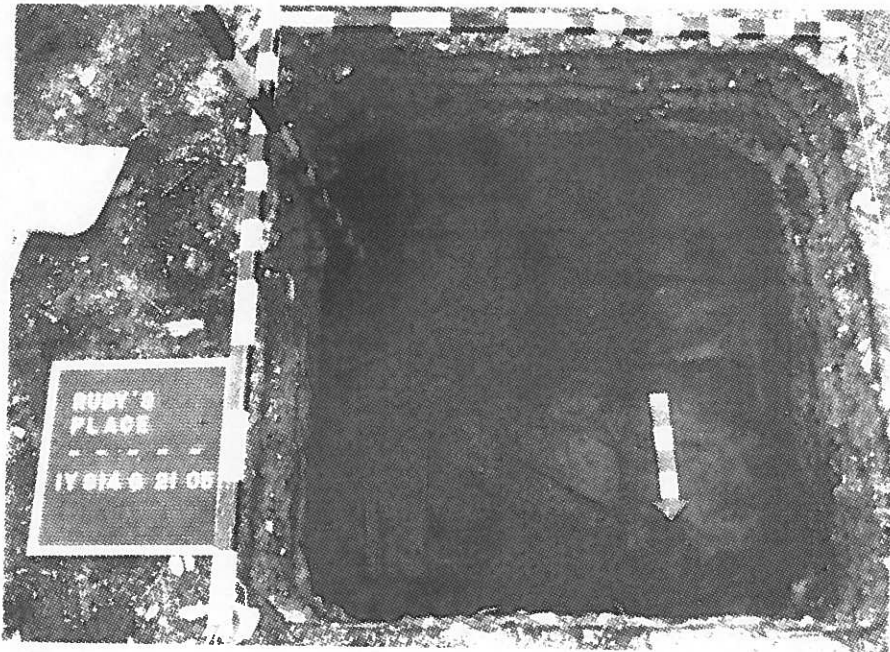


Figure 1.31. 1Y914G2105, planview. (Photo by B. Ross)

Part 2 Excavations at Bigg's Blacksmith Shop
(1982, 1983)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The building now commonly referred to as Bigg's blacksmith shop (Figs. 2.1, 2.2) probably came into existence prior to 1899. Located on the southeast corner of Third and Princess, it is now comprised of four sections representing four different construction styles. Initially it consisted of a two-and-a-half-storey front section operating as the Great Northern Hotel (Fig. 3.1). At that time there may have been a lean-to on the back or east side. Its function as a hotel is known to have continued at least until 1904. In 1907 the building was purchased by W. Oakden and converted into a blacksmith shop. In 1924 it was taken over by A.A. Bigg and run as a blacksmith shop until his death in 1955.

In 1913 the building was enlarged to its present configuration with three additions. The first addition was of stud wall construction, as was the original structure; the second and third additions were of log. After 1944 the original building was also modified from a gable roof with false front to a shed roof with false front, eliminating the half-storey and reducing the usefulness of the second storey because of the sloping roof (Fig. 2.2). The south wall may have retained much of its original height through this conversion (Fig. 2.1); the front wall still retains the boarded-up openings of the original second-storey windows (Fig. 2.2). (The above summary has been derived from Becker 1982 and Bouse, D'Amours and Lévesque 1982, which are, in turn, partially derived from Carter n.d.)

For ease of reference in future discussions the four parts of the extant structure have been designated Areas 1 to 4 beginning with the original structure at the west end as Area 1 and ending with the third annex at the east end as Area 4 (Fig. 2.3).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Investigations were conducted in 1982 and 1983 as part of the stabilization plan for the building. Archaeology was required to assess the nature and extent of archaeological remains, to identify areas requiring further investigation and to carry out some of these investigations. Brief descriptions of these excavations have been presented by Ross (1983; 1985).

The existence of the building itself and presence of a street on the north and west sides limited the potential area for investigation (Fig. 2.3). The 1982 excavations (designated 1Y911E) consisted primarily of alternate two metre long units along the exterior of the south wall. The pattern of units was varied slightly to allow excavation adjacent to each of the four components of the building as well as at the southwest and southeast corners. A north-south trench was also excavated through the interior of the easternmost part of the building (Area 4).

Excavations in 1983 (designated 1Y911F) examined the area outside the east wall of the original building (that is, within Area 2) in search of evidence of the early lean-to, the area at the east end of the lot and interior features associated with heavy machine placement.

Vertical control was maintained through arbitrary levels; consistently 10 cm in 1982 and either 5 or 10 cm in 1983. Some excavations had to be terminated when permafrost was reached.

EXCAVATION RESULTS

The excavations investigated a number of areas within and adjacent to the four structures which now constitute Bigg's blacksmith shop. However, for the most part, the excavations were individual and unconnected units. Features discovered in one unit did not necessarily continue into another one and were not investigated more extensively with the addition of adjacent units. The identification of features or their relationship to the extant structure(s) were not always evident. Consequently, a description of excavations and features exposed does not appear to have much to contribute to an understanding of extant structures or their structural development. The original objectives of establishing the nature of archaeological resources and undertaking some follow-up investigations were met. However, the latter excavations did not succeed particularly well in providing further understanding of the buildings. This report, then, is primarily a record of work undertaken and features discovered; it does not provide structural or chronological interpretations.

South Yard

Excavations immediately south of the extant structure are considered here under the general designation "south yard", without however intending to imply that this area was necessarily associated with the blacksmith shop property and operation. Structural remains in this area consist of

a variety of beams and planks, in part representing a boardwalk and elsewhere possibly representing a building, annex or another boardwalk.

The area immediately south of the extant structure contained a number of plank fragments which, in some instances at least, are probably remains of a boardwalk (Figs. 2.4, 2.7, 2.8, 2.23, 2.24). Any doubt on identification lies with the fact that the excavations did not extend more than one metre out from the building and within this distance a southern limit for the structural remains was not established. The probability of a boardwalk is supported by the historical information that a space existed between the Great Northern Hotel and the next building to the south. It has been suggested that a boardwalk here may have been associated with a balcony on Area 2 (Bouse 1982).

At the southwest corner (1Y911E01) the remains consist of a series of plank fragments parallel to the building and spanning the width of the excavation unit (Figs. 2.4, 2.23). Fragments of two beams at right angles to these planks may be the remains of the joists to which the planks were attached. Similar planks, parallel to the building, continue along much of the south wall (eg. Fig. 2.24), although there are fewer planks in any one unit and generally there are no associated joists at right angles. One unit (1Y911E06) (Fig. 2.6) has a number of items of lumber below the planks but these are not oriented perpendicular to the planking and their quantity and arrangement may suggest random deposition (disposal) or support for the boardwalk. Elsewhere (1Y911E04) there is a 48 cm wide plank oriented perpendicular to the building and resting on a 14 cm wide piece of lumber.

In total, planking remains parallel to the building extend at least to 1Y911E08 (Fig. 2.8) or roughly to the middle of Area 3. Since there is no building access at this point, it seems reasonable to suggest that either the

boardwalk continued or there was another building somewhere in the vicinity. Although there was a balcony on Area 2, should it be assumed that it was accessible from the outside and that the boardwalk was somehow associated with such access?

Plank width ranged from 7 to 32 cm with most being greater than 15 cm. Plank thickness was not recorded. The beam or joist in 1Y911E01 was 25 cm wide.

Unit 1Y911E05 also included a metal post set into the ground (Fig. 2.5). A ring and eye were attached near the upper end. The post may have been a section of I-beam. When excavation began, this post was leaning slightly towards the building and when excavation ended at a depth of 70 cm it had been removed. This feature could have served as a hitching post. It is located approximately at the mid-point of Area 1 and six metres from the double door into Area 2 (the only door on the south side).

The vicinity of the east end of the extant structure, still on the south side, contained structural remains similar to those just discussed as a boardwalk but their extent suggests a different identification. A major area of planking was located in 1Y911F04. This consisted of at least four planks, parallel to each other and perpendicular to the building, beginning at the building and forming a continuous surface (such as a floor) (Figs. 2.17, 2.28). These planks ranged in width from 20 to 34 cm and were probably located above a plank or beam parallel to the building, located in 1Y911E07 (Figs. 2.10, 2.26).

Such a feature could still be part of a boardwalk but similar remains are also present in 1Y911F06, two metres to the south. These remains consist of planking oriented perpendicular to the building, in the east end of the unit, and planking oriented parallel to the building, in the west end of the unit (Figs. 2.18, 2.29). These two areas of planking appear at about the same level but excavation did not establish a more precise relationship.

A similar situation also existed in 1Y911F03, more than four metres from the extant structure. Planking oriented both parallel and perpendicular to the building was present (Figs. 2.16, 2.27) but again their relationship was not clarified by the excavations.

In 1Y911E03 there were only a few fragments of plank with several stones and brick bats (Figs. 2.9, 2.25). These remains do not appear to relate either to the planking just discussed or the probable boardwalk discussed previously.

In general, excavations at the east end of the extant structure suggest the presence of a floored feature extending south of the structure and bordering on the back lane. The planking suggests a floor but the excavation did not establish the presence of a system of joists nor did it uncover any structural components which can be interpreted as the base of a wall. It can probably be safely said that these remains are of more than just a boardwalk.

Unit 1Y911F06 also contained a door or shutter lying above the planking and only partly exposed by excavation. This item was of board and batten construction with one hinge still attached (Fig. 2.29).

First Annex (Area 2)

The interior of this structure was investigated along its west side, where it abuts the east wall of the original structure (Area 1). Three excavation units (1Y911F01, 1Y911F05, 1Y911F02) examined three-quarters of the length of the wall, from the interior northwest corner of the first annex to beyond the centrally located doorway between the annex and the original building (Fig. 2.3). Structural remains uncovered consisted of two layers of floor planks attached to a set of joists (Figs. 2.14, 2.30-2.33).

The joists were partially dressed logs (Fig. 2.31) set on or into the ground. Positioning and levelling was achieved through the use of shims under and beside the joists (Fig. 2.33). The upper surface of each joist was dressed level, to accommodate attachment of the flooring (Fig. 2.31). Otherwise the joists were dressed to varying degrees. Joist size varied, ranging from 9 cm by 9 cm to 15 cm by 18 cm. Floor planks were also of variable size with widths up to 20 cm. The planks had been laid down with all joints appearing on the same joist.

The joists were oriented east-west with the floor planks perpendicular. The west ends of the joists butted on the east wall of the original structure. The west end of one joist had been reinforced or extended by nailing a short section of 2 by 8 to the south side of the joist (Fig. 2.31).

With the joists ending at the east wall of the original building, it can be concluded that construction of these two areas need not have been contemporary (the historical records do not suggest contemporaneity). The floor of Area 2 could have been put down at any time during or after construction of the east wall of Area 2. Since Area 2 is supposed to be a later annex, the archaeological evidence does not indicate that the construction of Area 2 involved a modification of Area 1. There is also no indication of another lean-to preceding the first annex (Area 2).

Second Annex (Area 3)

The final activity for investigations of the blacksmith shop was the removal of sections of the floorboards in the second annex (Area 3) and recording of the sub-floor features (Fig. 2.15). The latter consisted primarily of a set of east west oriented joists. The joists are of

different sizes, occasionally almost square, and appear to have been prepared or finished to different extents. A number of joists are recorded as being half log. Cross section sizes are in the vicinity of 10 cm but are recorded as being as little as 8 cm and as much as 16 cm. Joist spacing ranged from 62 to 75 cm. In one instance, at the north wall, the joist spacing was 82 cm and in another instance, at the south wall, the joist spacing was 54 cm. The latter two joists are also the ones noted to be half log.

Near the west wall there appears to be a break in at least four of the joists. Since the only information for these joists is from a field drawing (no written descriptions), it is not certain what is happening. The planview notes generally larger dimensions for the joists and the general impression is for a change of joists rather than an addition to a continuing joist; based, for example, on a change from a 10 cm by 15.5 cm cross section to one which is 6.5 cm by 15 cm or a change from 10 cm by 10 cm to 20 cm by 21 cm.

Approximately midway along the south side there is a north-south oriented timber, measuring 17.5 cm by 26 cm, extending across two joists and butting at each end on a joist. It is not clearly shown whether this timber interrupts the two joists or whether it somehow rests above them. It is relatively massive and may have been used as a machinery base.

Across the room from the above timber and near the north wall there is a 25 cm diameter post. This also may be a machine base but appears to be too slight for such a purpose.

Investigation of Area 3 did not involve any excavation so no information was obtained on supports or other structural components below the joists.

Third Annex (Area 4)

A north-south test trench was excavated through this structure (1Y911E09, 1Y911E10, 1Y911E11, 1Y911E12) (Fig. 2.3). The existing plank floor and partially dressed log joists were removed to the extent necessary and excavation proceeded in the fill beneath. Only one layer of floor planking was present and further excavation did not locate an earlier floor. The fill, especially in 1Y911E10, contained a large quantity of wood including planks, beams, short sections of logs or posts, and possibly branches (Fig. 2.34). This material appears to have been discarded here rather than being the in situ remains of a structure. There is no pattern apparent and no indication of joists and floor planks. The short log sections could be the remains of a post which was cut to length and used for construction somewhere in the vicinity.

Stratigraphy and Artifacts

The stratigraphy encountered was a combination of natural and cultural deposits (Figs. 2.19-2.22) with the latter possibly related primarily to blacksmith activities or the period of building use as a blacksmith shop. The lowest layers excavated, extending to or slightly into permafrost, consisted of clays and silts and probably are pre-occupation flood deposits and other natural accumulation. The uppermost layers were a mixture of cultural and natural materials which may be due primarily to natural accumulation subsequent to the most recent regular occupation. The ground surface was a sod layer over a humus accumulation.

Cultural deposits generally appear between the upper and lower strata excavated and consist to a great extent of blacksmithing-related waste, such as slag and cinders, or gravel over a mixture of sawdust, oakum and dark soil. Within Area 4 (1Y911E09 to 1Y911E12) the overall strati-

graphy was similar except for the absence of an upper layer accumulation of sod and humus. The blacksmith deposits of cinders appeared immediately below the floorboards. Within Area 2 the stratigraphy was more natural with less deposition of cinders or other forge waste.

Possibly the major questions to be addressed on accumulation of the cultural deposits relate to the origin or interpretation of some of the materials and the interpretation of the sequence of deposition. Cinders, charcoal and other materials generally designated as forge waste in the field notes probably have their origin in the operation of a blacksmith shop and their presence in the stratigraphy is the result of a slow build-up in a working area or accumulation through discard. The area south of the extant structure, since it was outside, is not as likely to have been a work area and thus more likely served as a disposal area. Cinders in this area appear toward the back or east end of the lot (1Y911E08, 1Y911F03, 1Y911F04, 1Y911F06) rather than throughout. The extensive accumulation of blacksmith debris in Area 4 could be understood in at least two ways. The area was either used as a disposal area prior to the erection of a building or it was a work area with a dirt floor. The construction history (dates) for the annexes favours the second interpretation - the building was in existence early in the history of blacksmithing on the site.

The south side toward the front or west end of the structure has gravel deposits rather than forge waste. Such material was probably deposited intentionally and its presence sometimes immediately below boardwalk or other planking remains suggests an association with installation of the planking. Gravel below a boardwalk or floor would have provided better drainage.

The extensive and thick deposits of sawdust and oakum appear below the forge waste or gravel and immediately above the natural or pre-occupation strata. The presence

of oakum in these deposits may appear strange and, at this time, no explanation for it is attempted. Identification of the material may be suspect but for present purposes little can be done about such doubts; identification is provided in the field notes.

Sawdust is often used as insulation in walls. Its presence in the ground, however, does not imply a similar purpose - wet sawdust does not have insulating qualities. The sawdust may be the remains of construction although thickness of the deposit suggests a more intentional origin. It may be material which had been used as insulation and was dumped during building renovations. The presence of oakum mixed with the sawdust may indicate an attempt to seal a wall as well as to insulate it. Such an interpretation would gain considerable credibility if it could be established that walls in other buildings had been treated similarly. Regardless of a specific explanation, the deposits of sawdust and oakum came early in the cultural history of this area and predated the long period of use for blacksmithing.

The artifacts have not been examined for preparation of this report. The information which is available comes primarily from the excavation record and no inventory has been prepared. A major indication from the artifacts is of the use of the building for blacksmithing. In addition to the extensive deposits of forge waste, there are also large amounts of discarded metal, such as broken items, reusable items or off-cuts. These artifacts indicate the operation of a blacksmith shop. The presence of horseshoes and horseshoe nails are also extensive evidence of farriery.

The project aspiration of locating conclusive evidence of the pre-blacksmith shop occupation may not have been met. Many items which could be considered domestic were also of recent date. There were few items which suggested a hotel function and fewer which appeared in an appropriate early context. A more complete evaluation of the artifacts

may provide a more conclusive indication of the hotel period and function.

A scattering of contemporary or modern artifacts attests to the use of another empty lot for casual garbage disposal and possibly an occasional event. The presence of alcohol bottle remains suggests the nature of some of these events. A concentration of near complete beer bottles under some of the boardwalk planking suggests a specific and possibly clandestine activity. It seems possible that someone was keeping a stock of beer under the boardwalk. Several possible explanations come to mind for such an arrangement - ranging from a desire to avoid detection to identifying the location as a place for regular meetings.

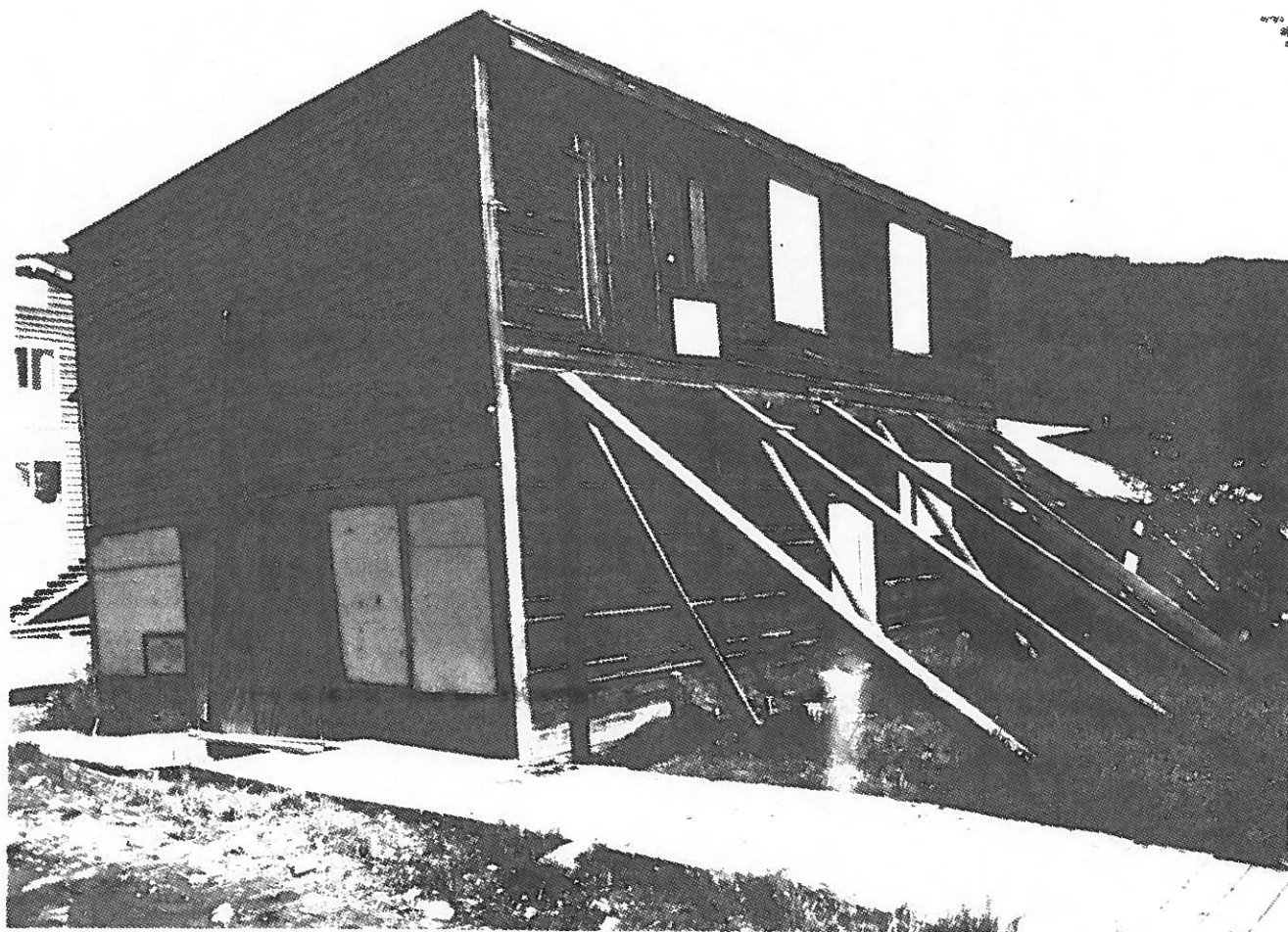


Figure 2.1. Extant building, south side and west end;
facing northeast. (Photo by B. Ross.)

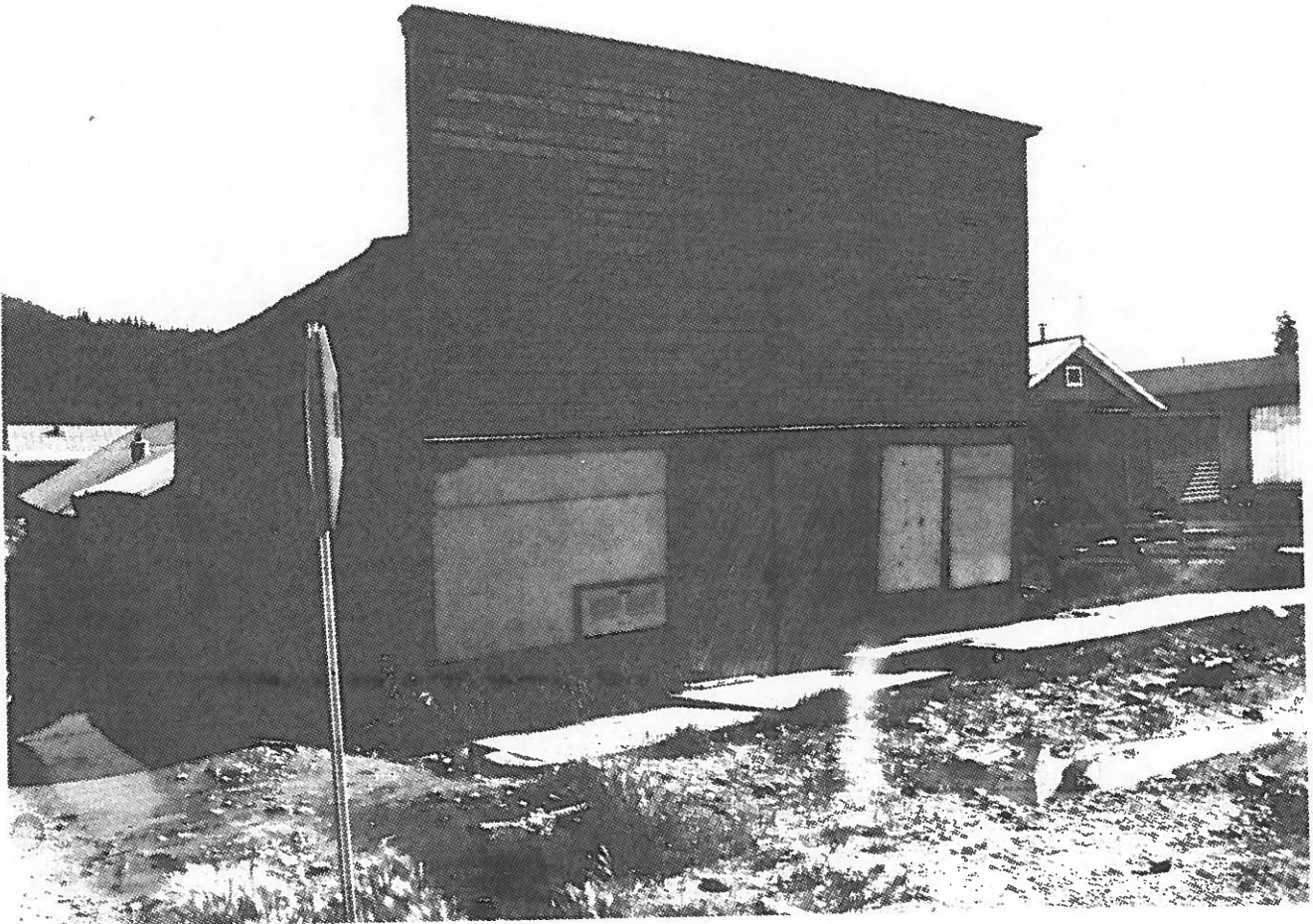


Figure 2.2. Extant building, north side and west end;
facing southeast. (Photo by B. Ross.)

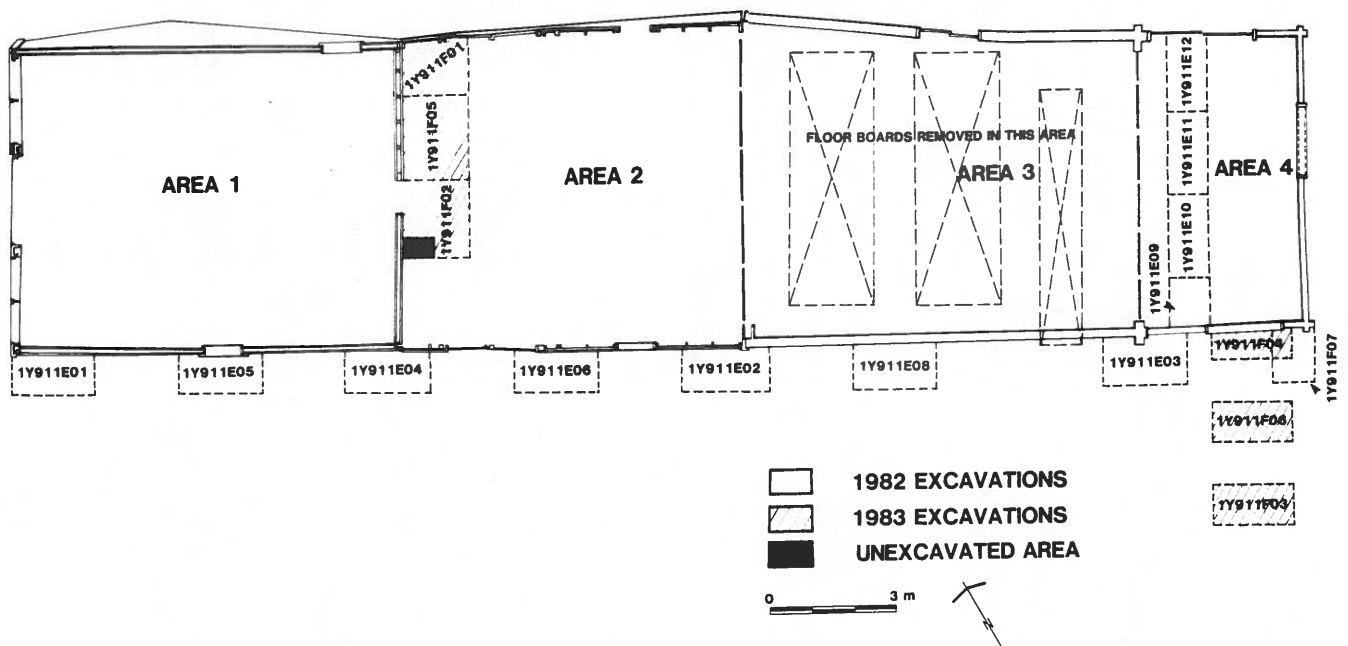


Figure 2.3. Building layout and location and identification of excavation units. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

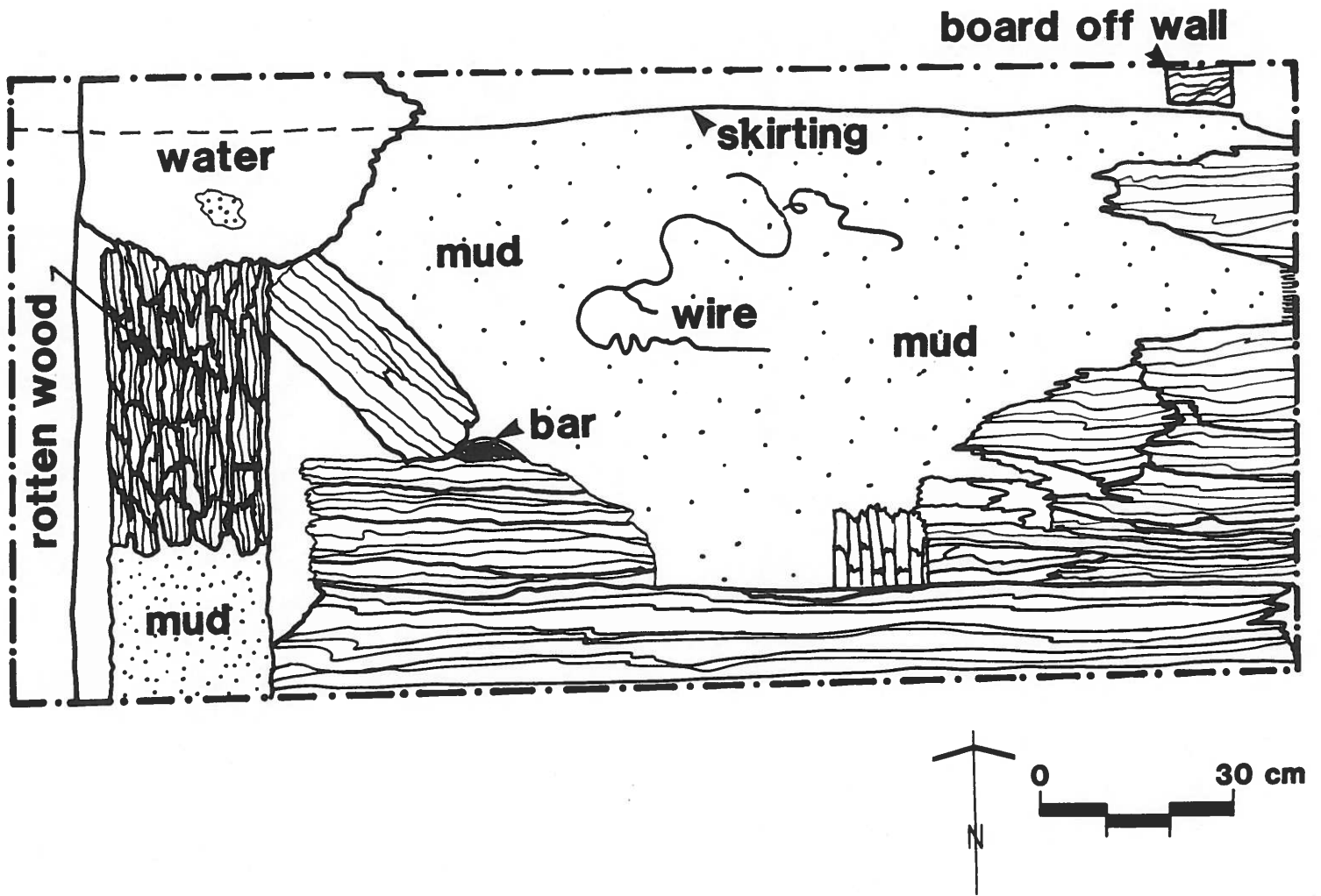


Figure 2.4. 1Y911E01, planview. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

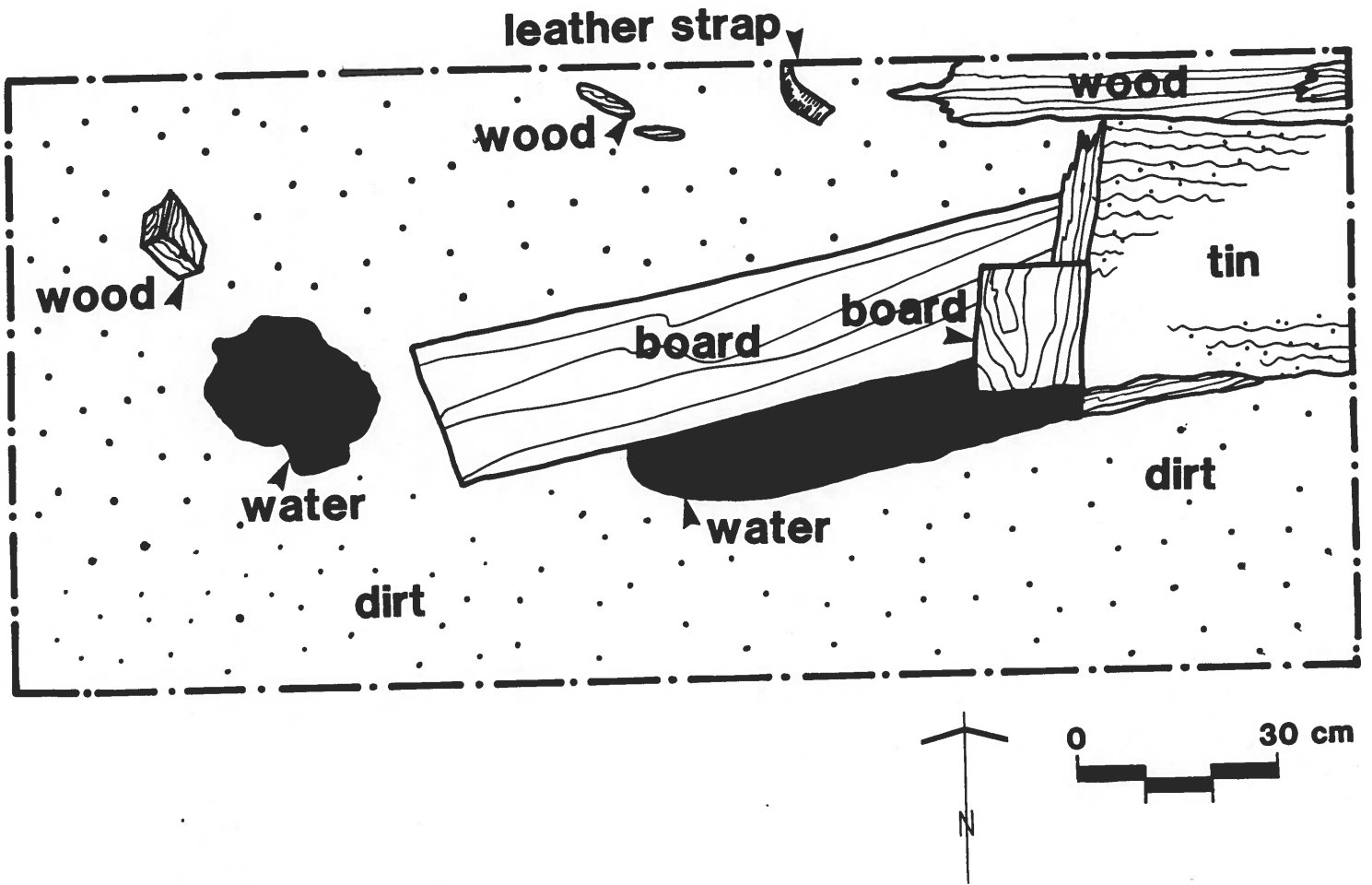


Figure 2.5. 1Y911E05, planview. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

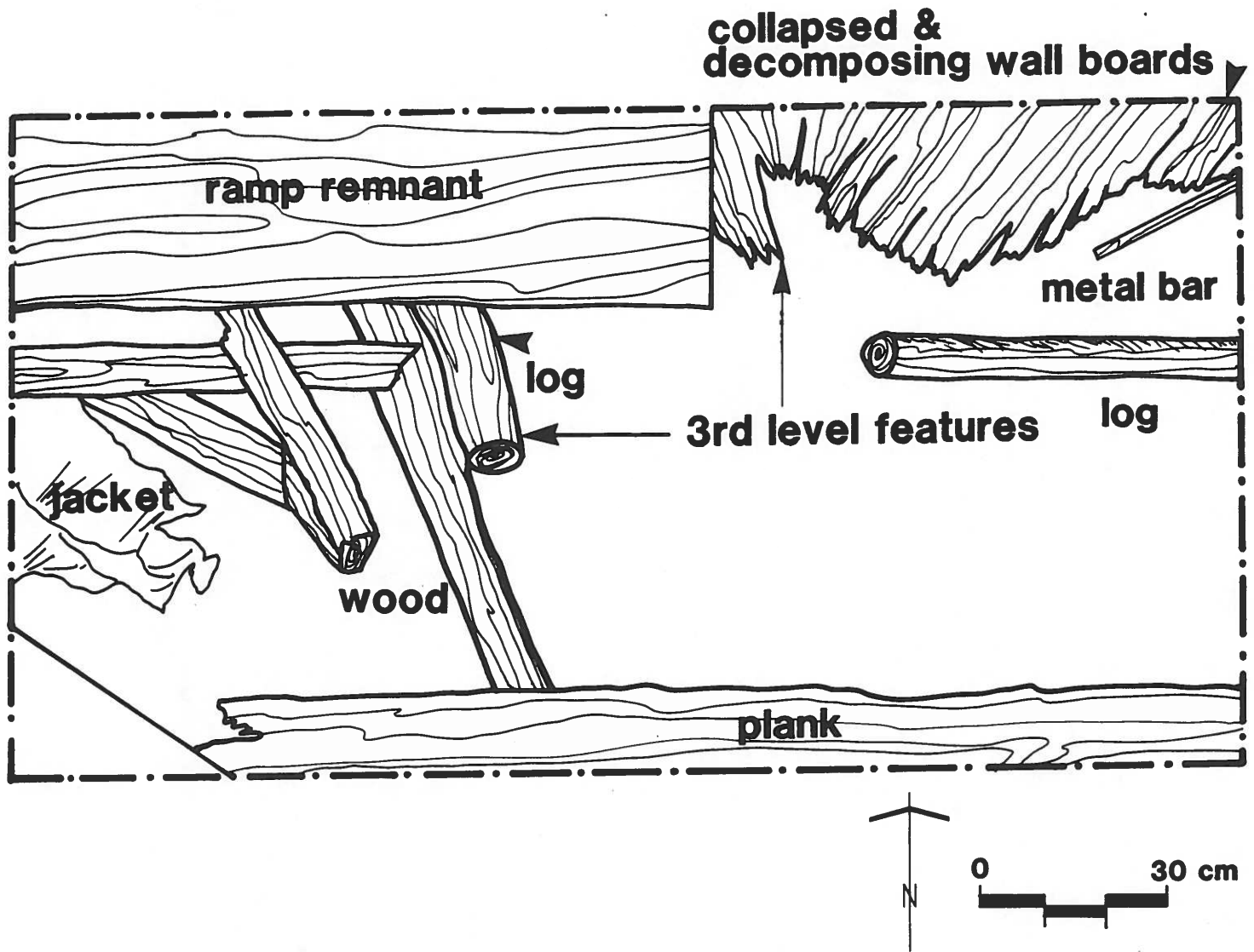


Figure 2.6. 1Y911E06, planview. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

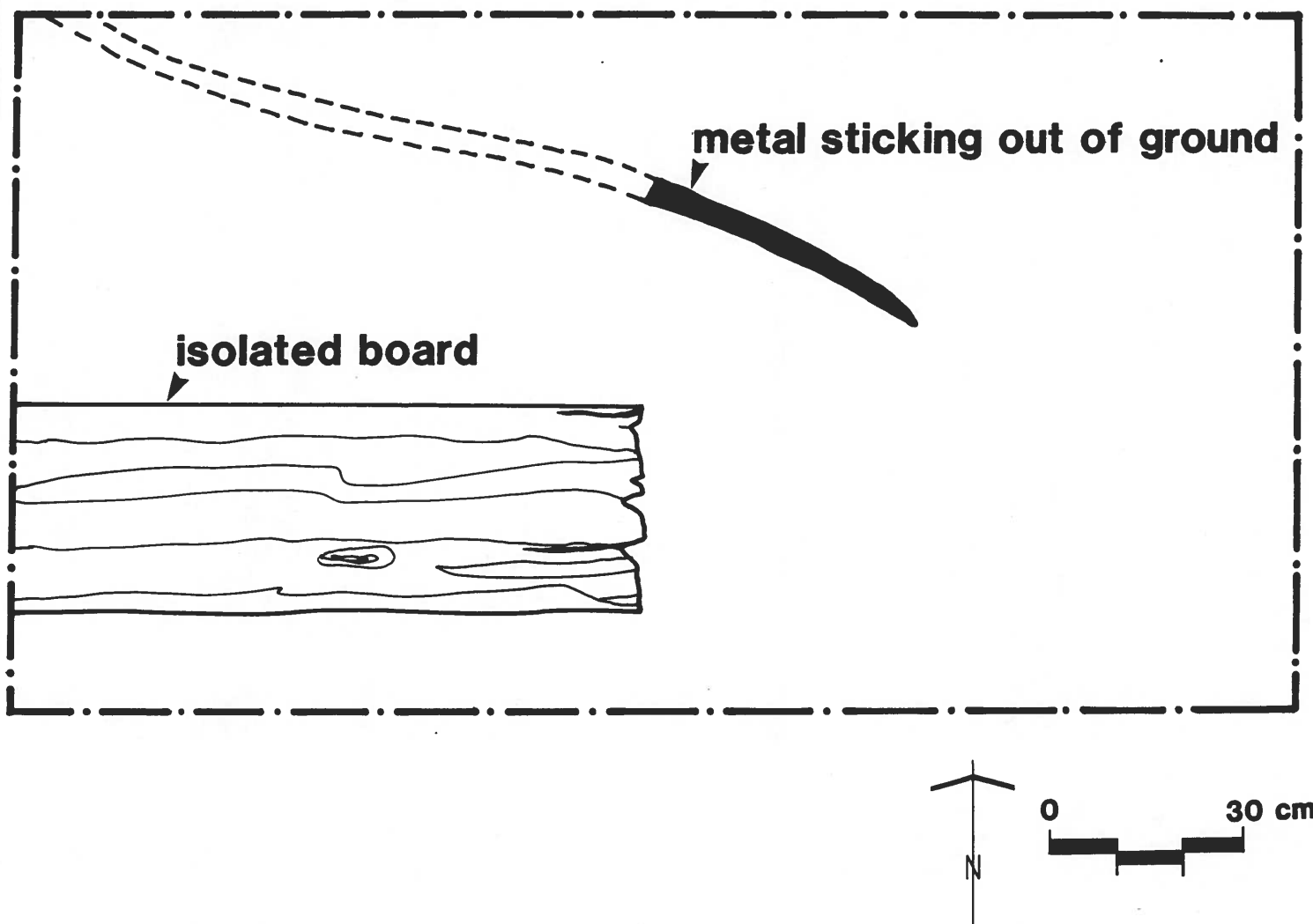


Figure 2.7. 1Y911E02, planview. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

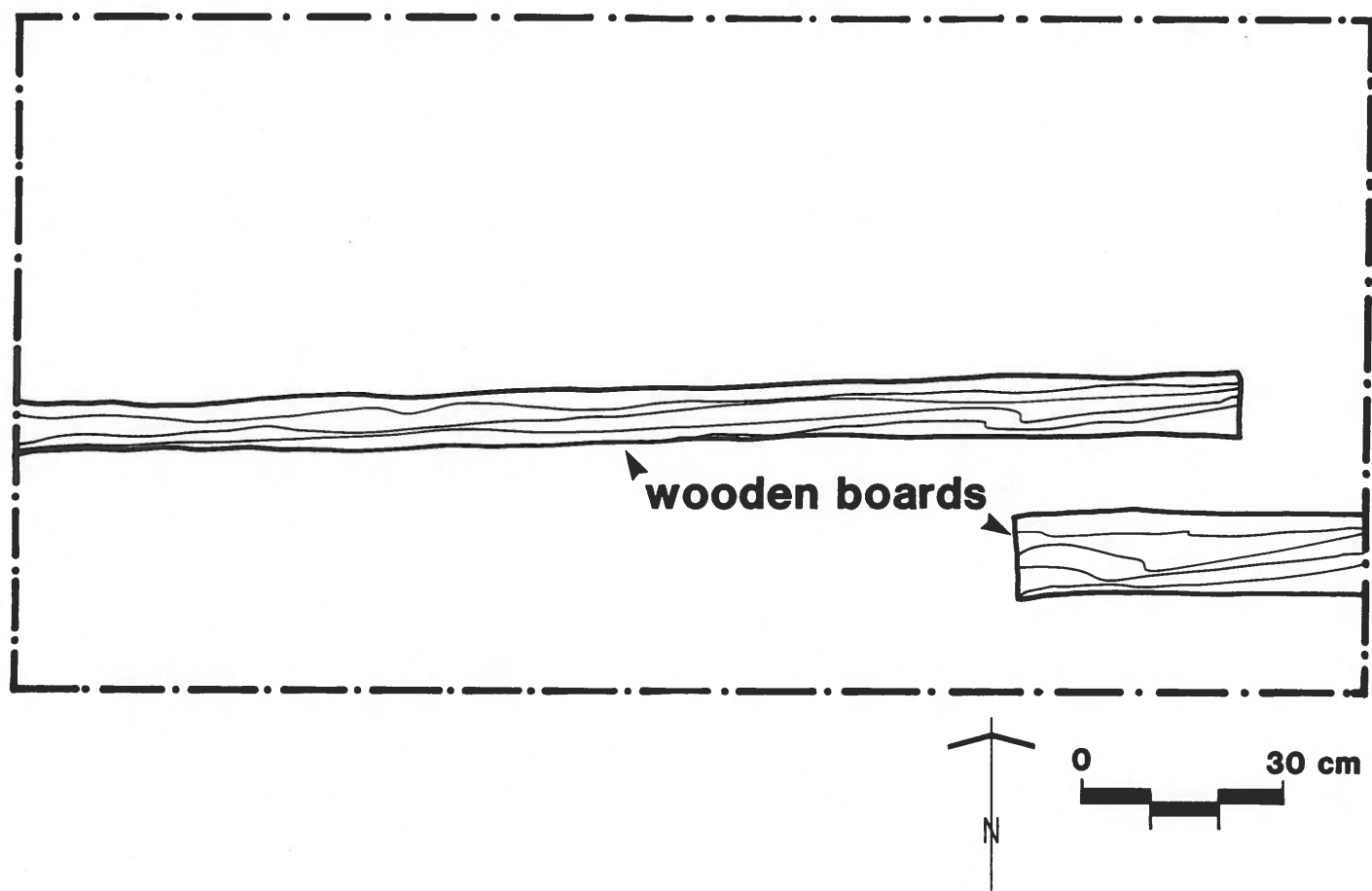


Figure 2.8. 1Y911E08, planview. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

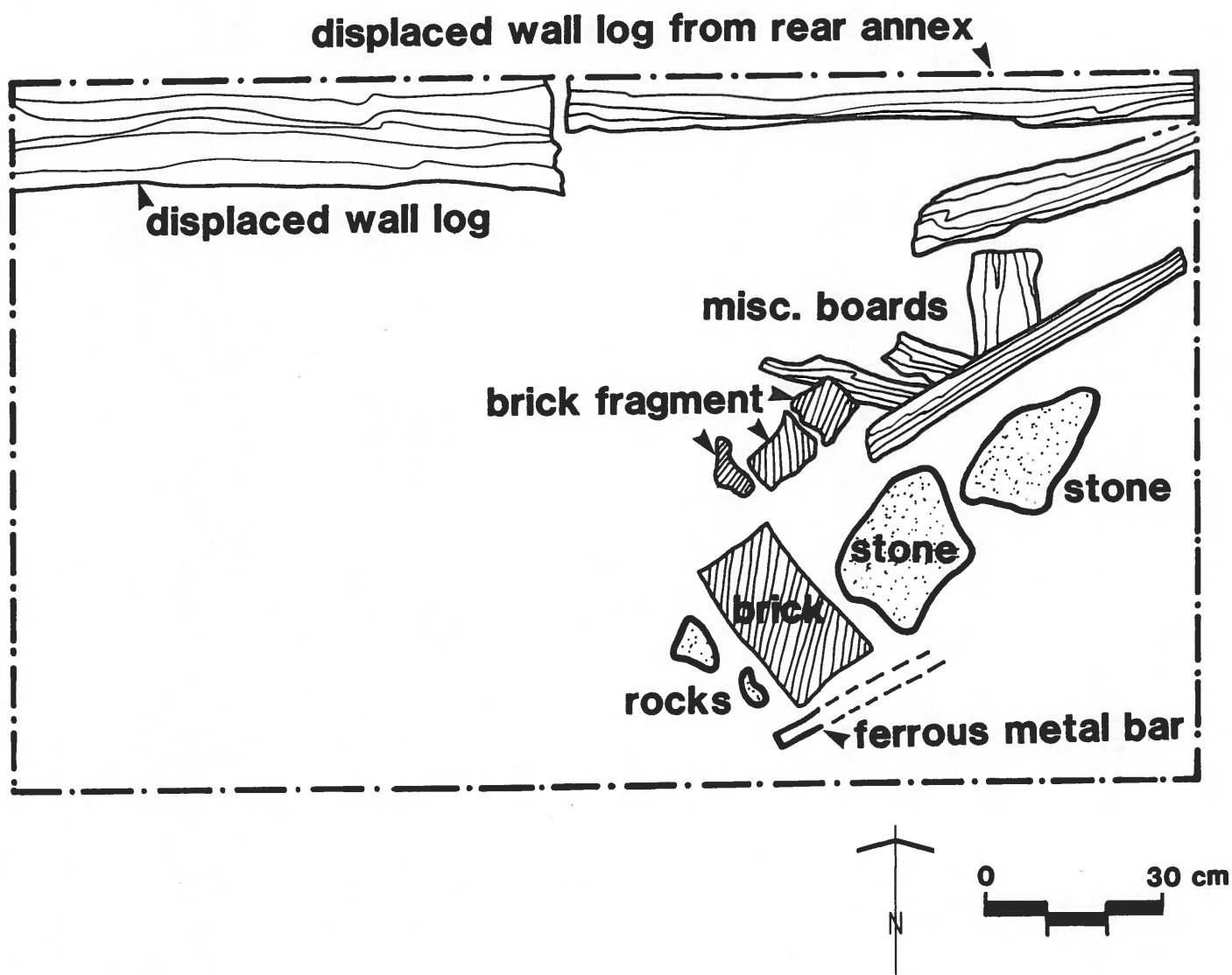


Figure 2.9. 1Y911E03, planview. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

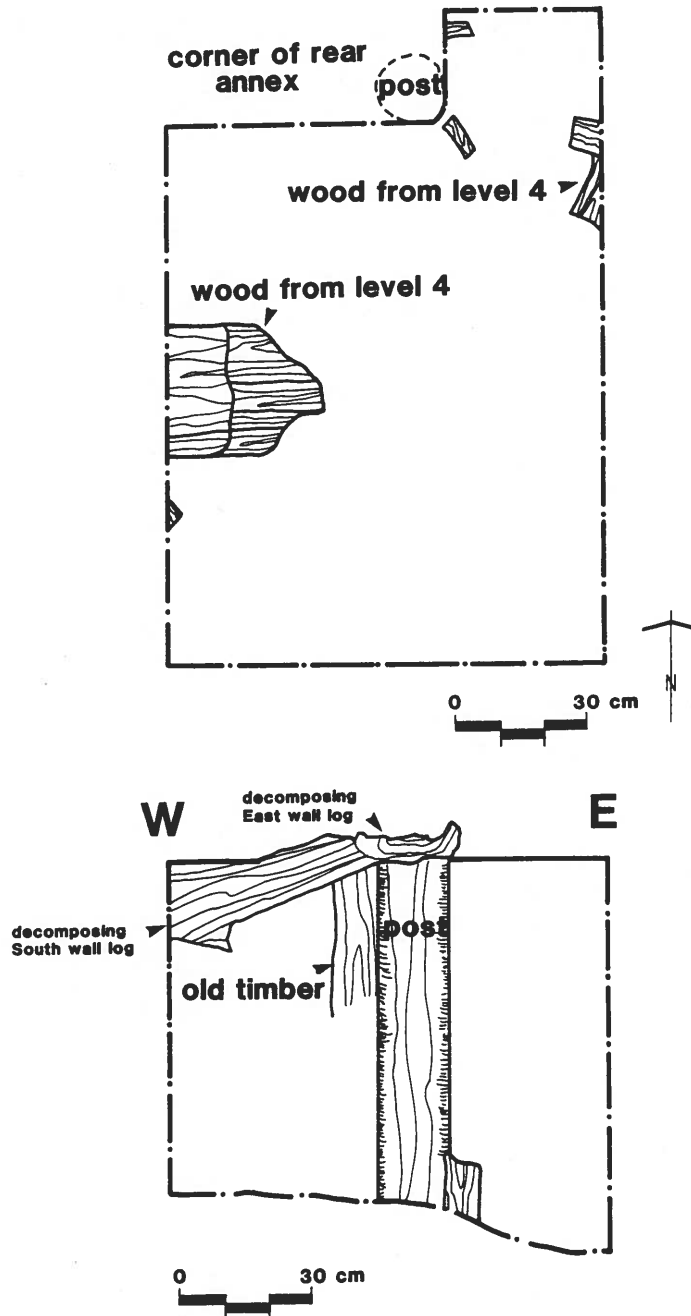


Figure 2.10. 1Y911E07, planview and north profile. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

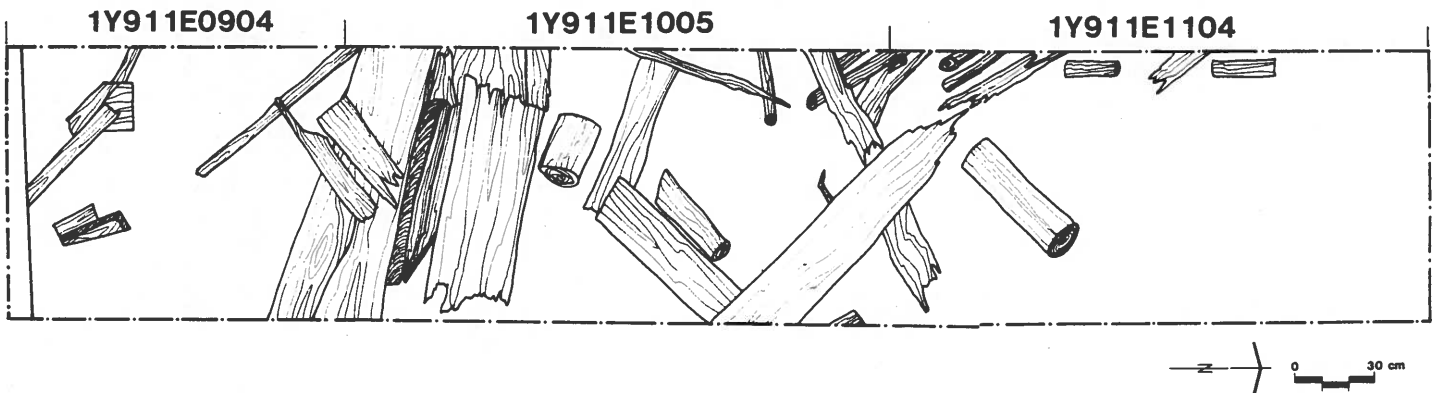


Figure 2.11. 1Y911E09 to 1Y911E11, planview. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

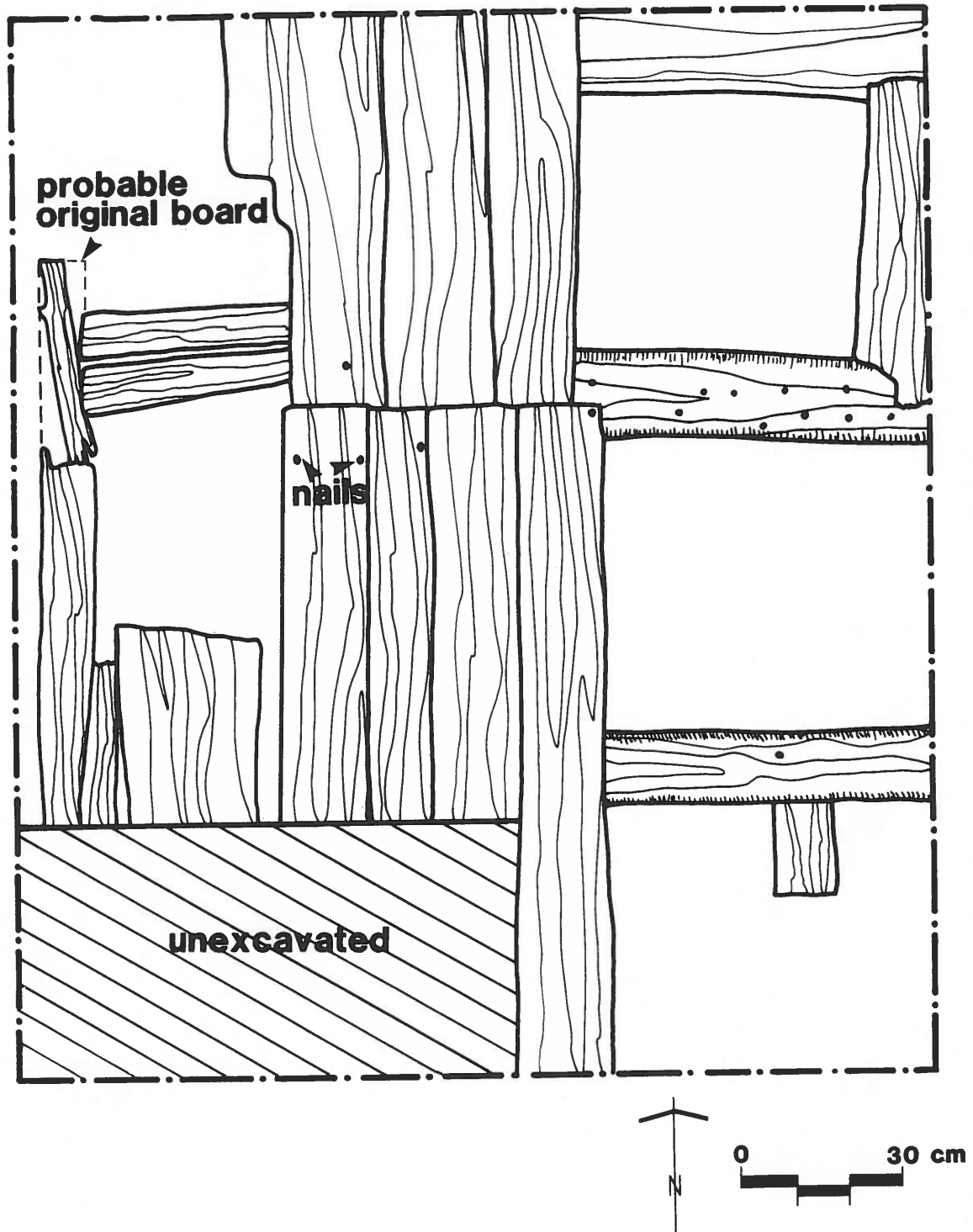


Figure 2.12. 1Y911F02, planview of flooring. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

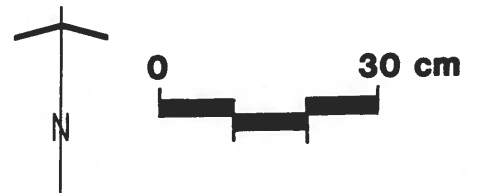
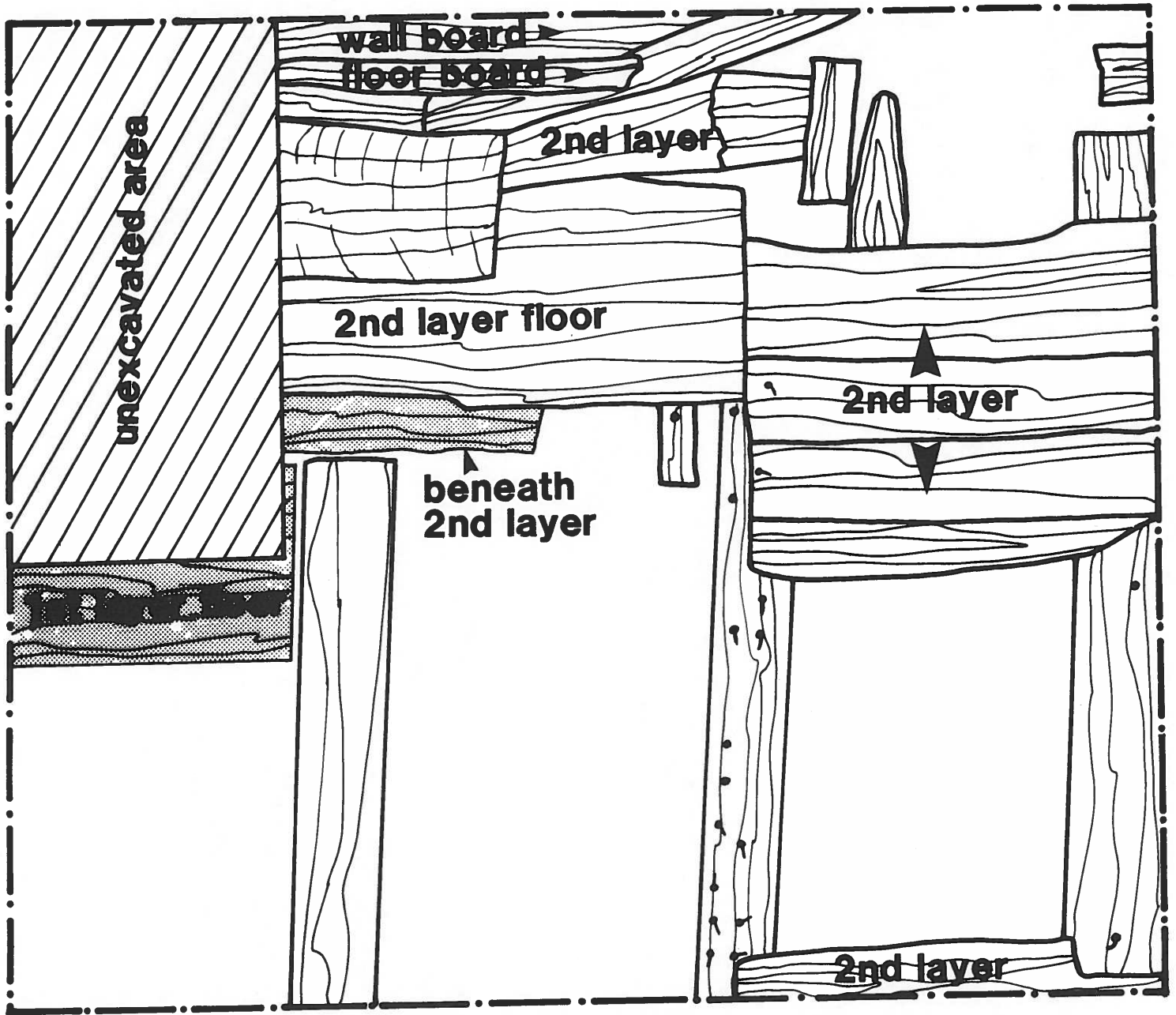


Figure 2.13. 1Y911F02, planview. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

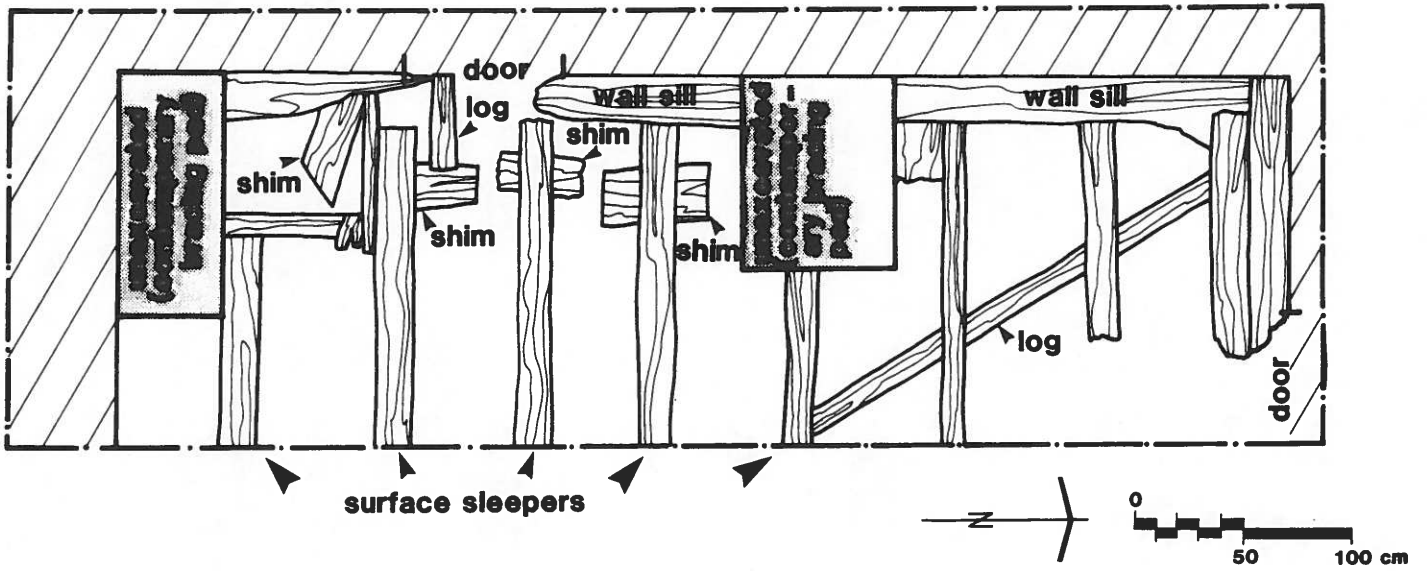


Figure 2.14. 1Y911F01, 1Y911F05, 1Y911F02; planview.
(Drawn by D. Elrick.)

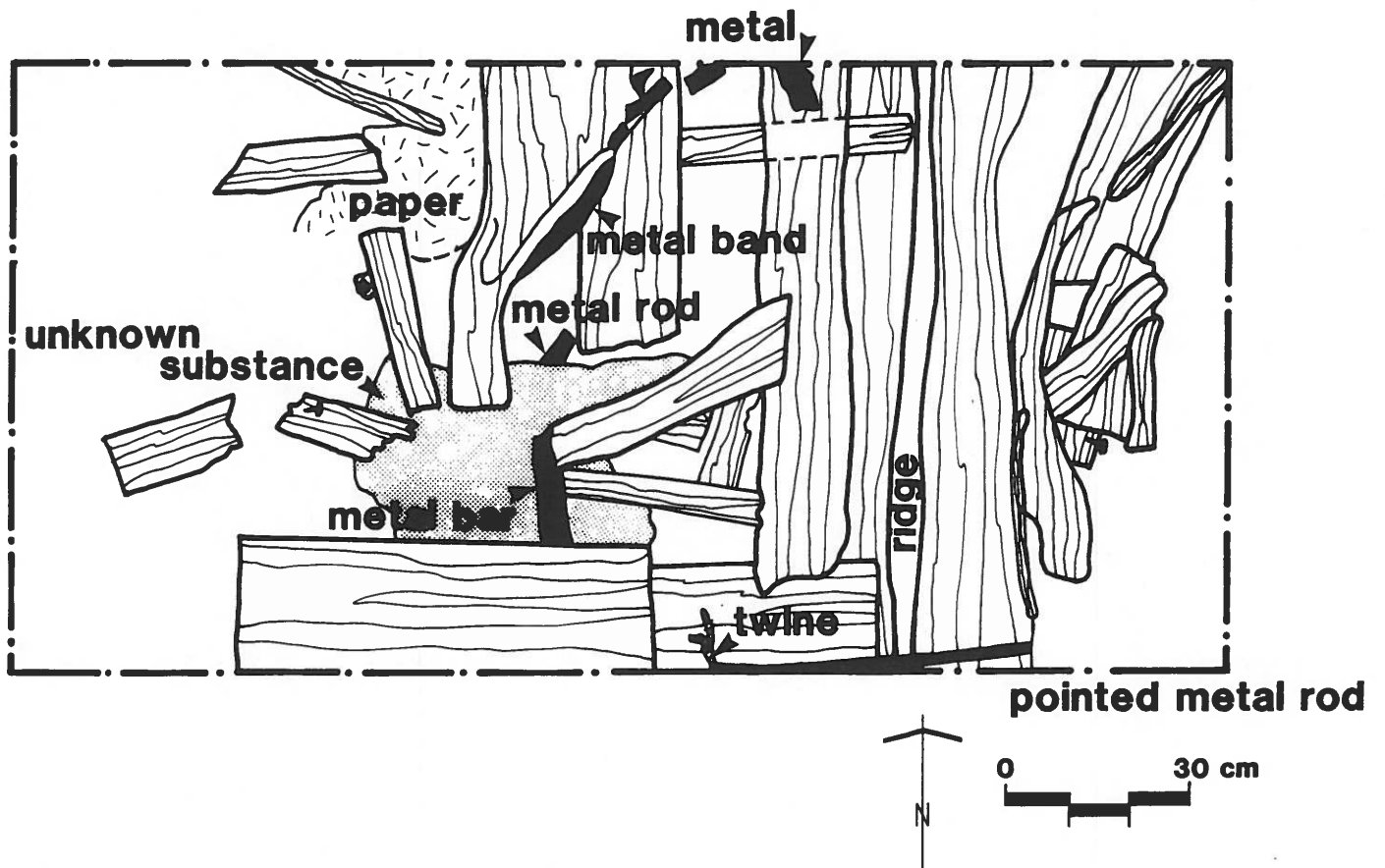


Figure 2.16. 1Y911F03, planview. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

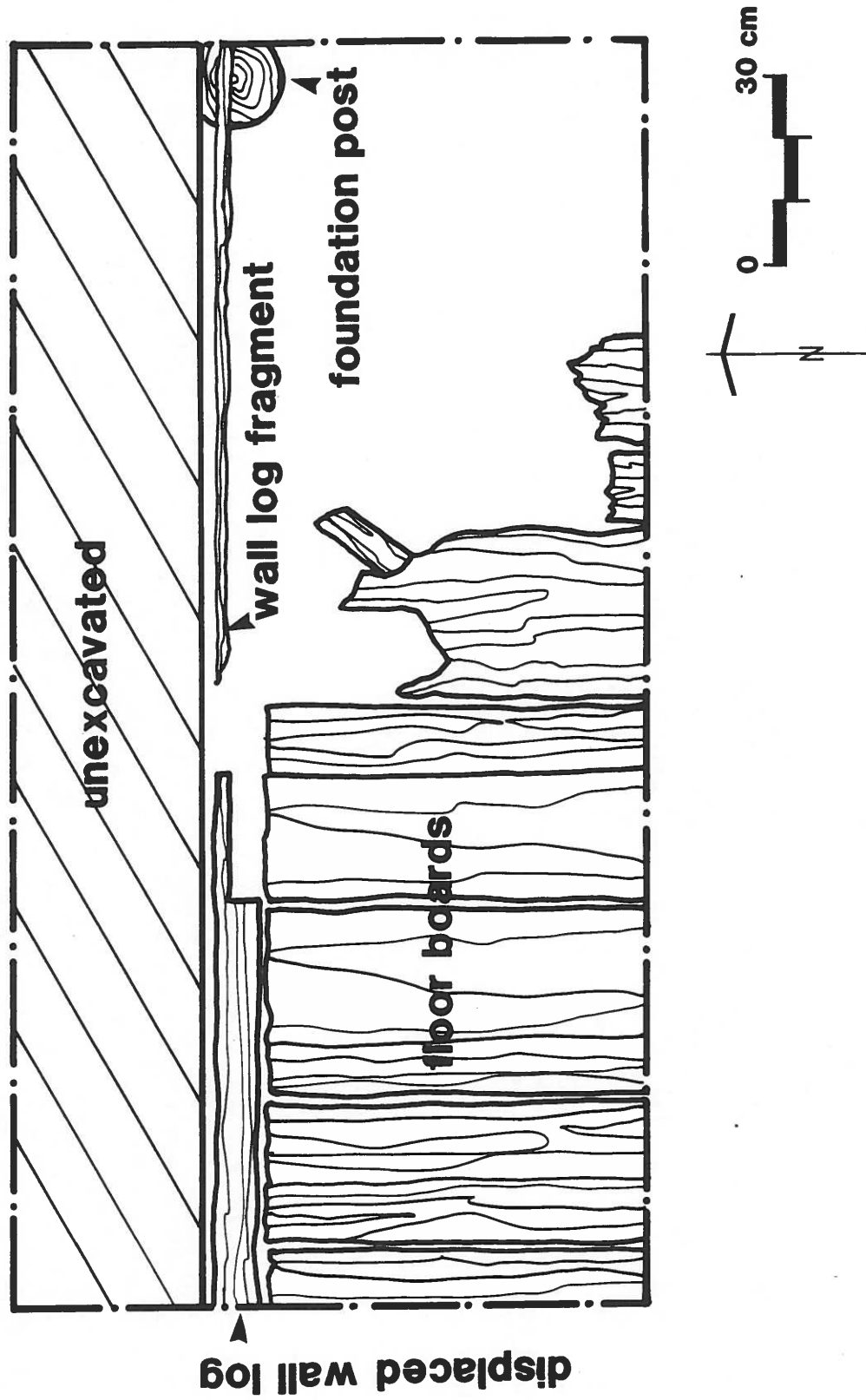


Figure 2.17. 1Y911F04, planview. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

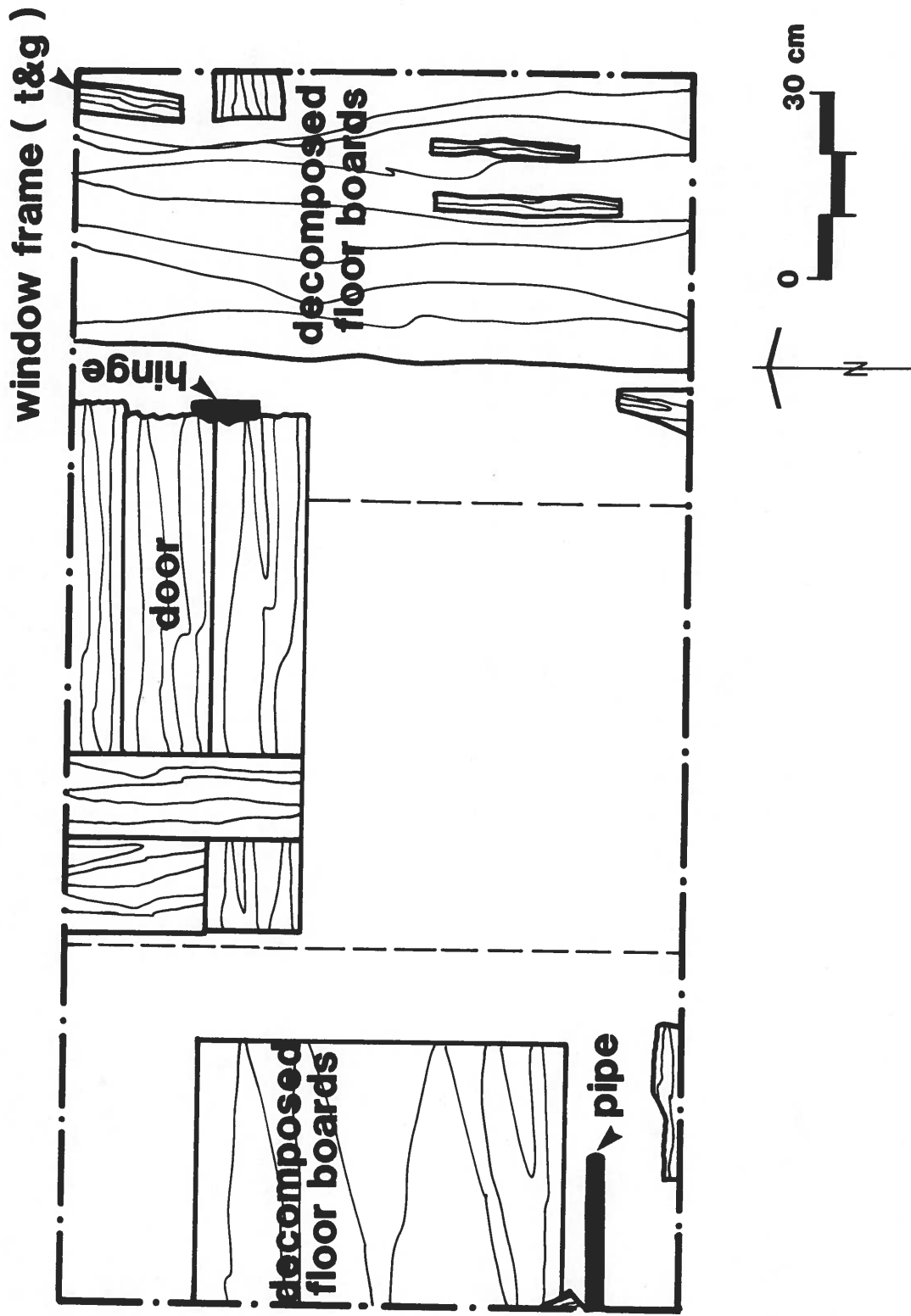


Figure 2.18. 1Y911F06, planview. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

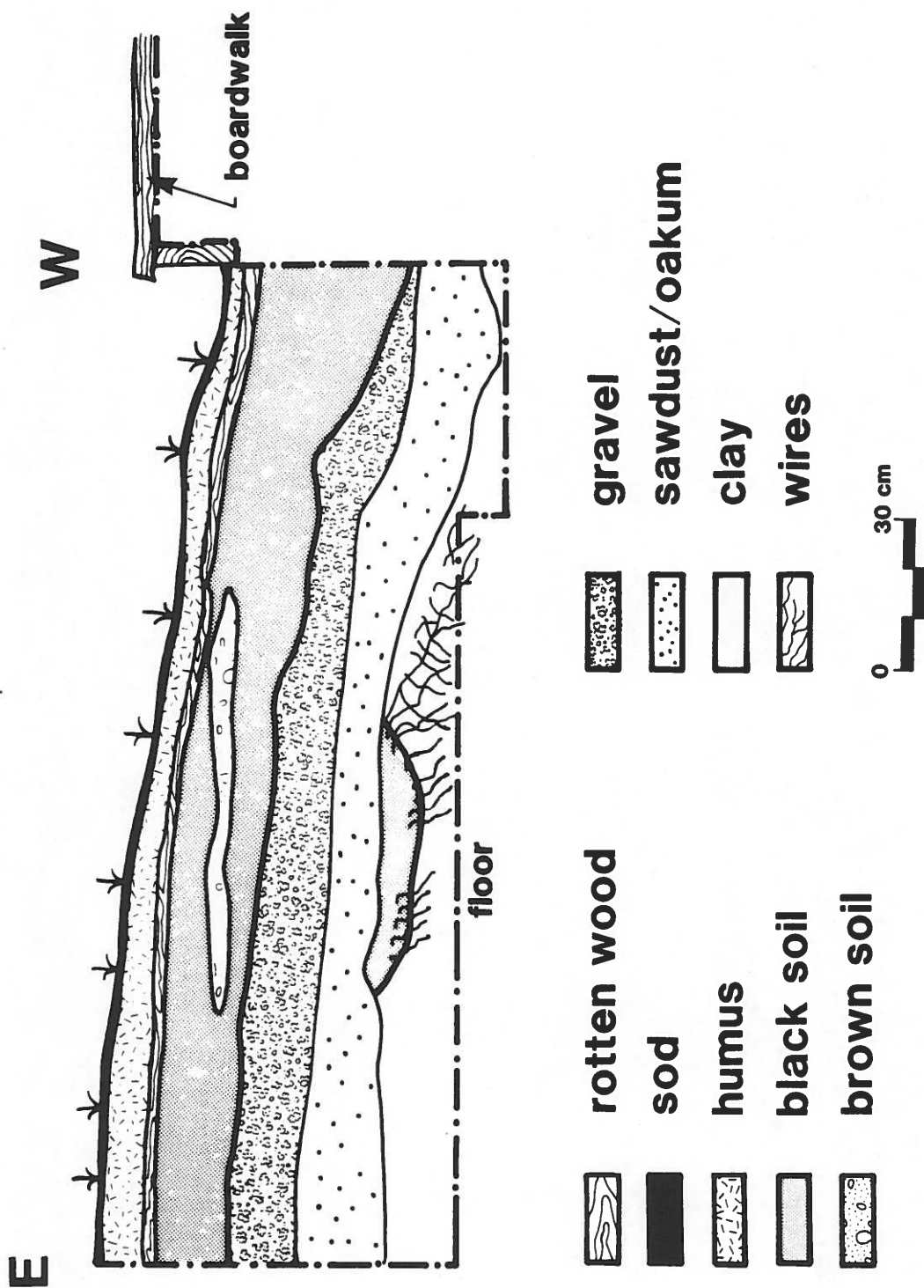


Figure 2.19. 1Y911E01, south profile. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

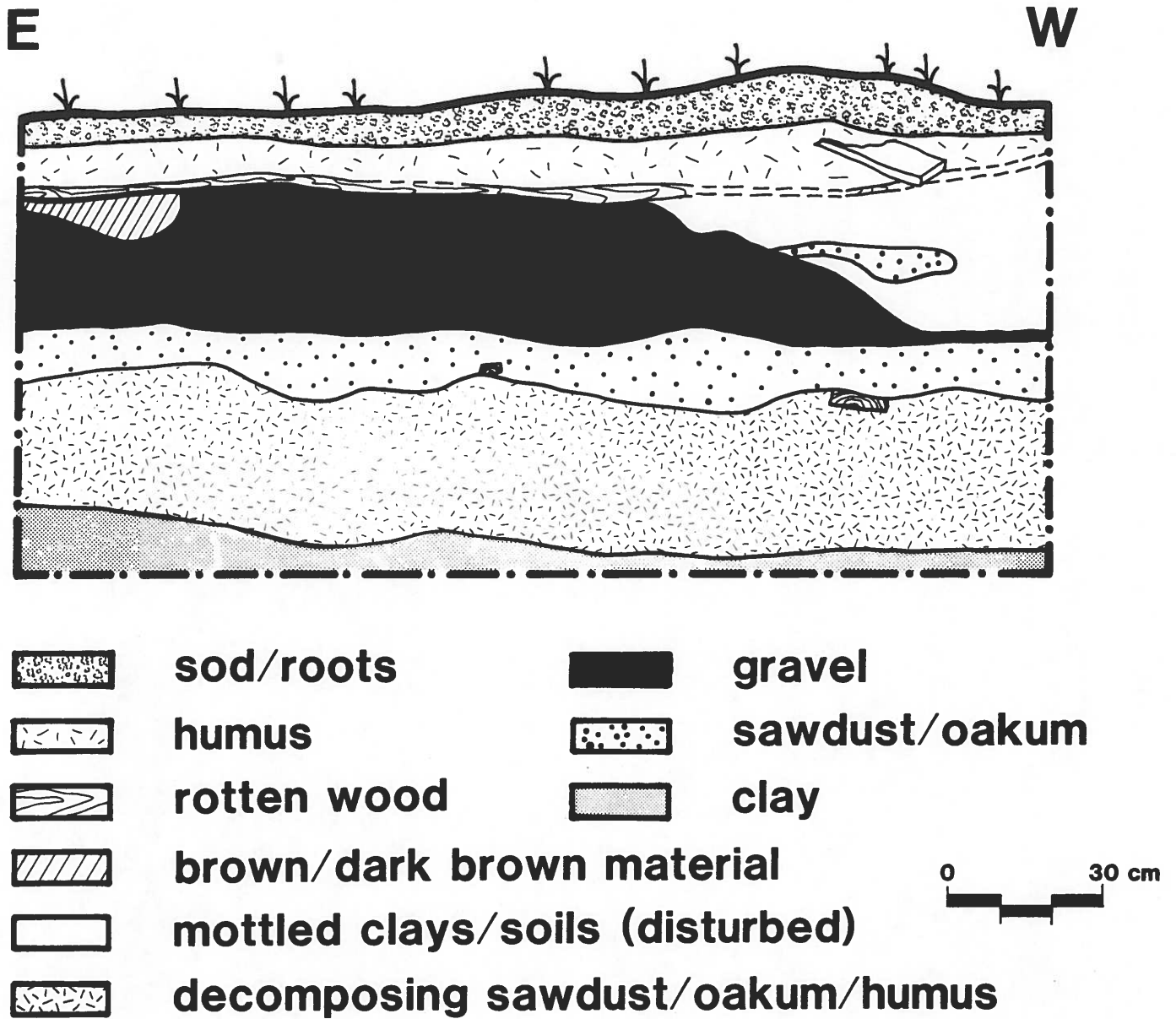


Figure 2.20. 1Y911E05, south profile. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

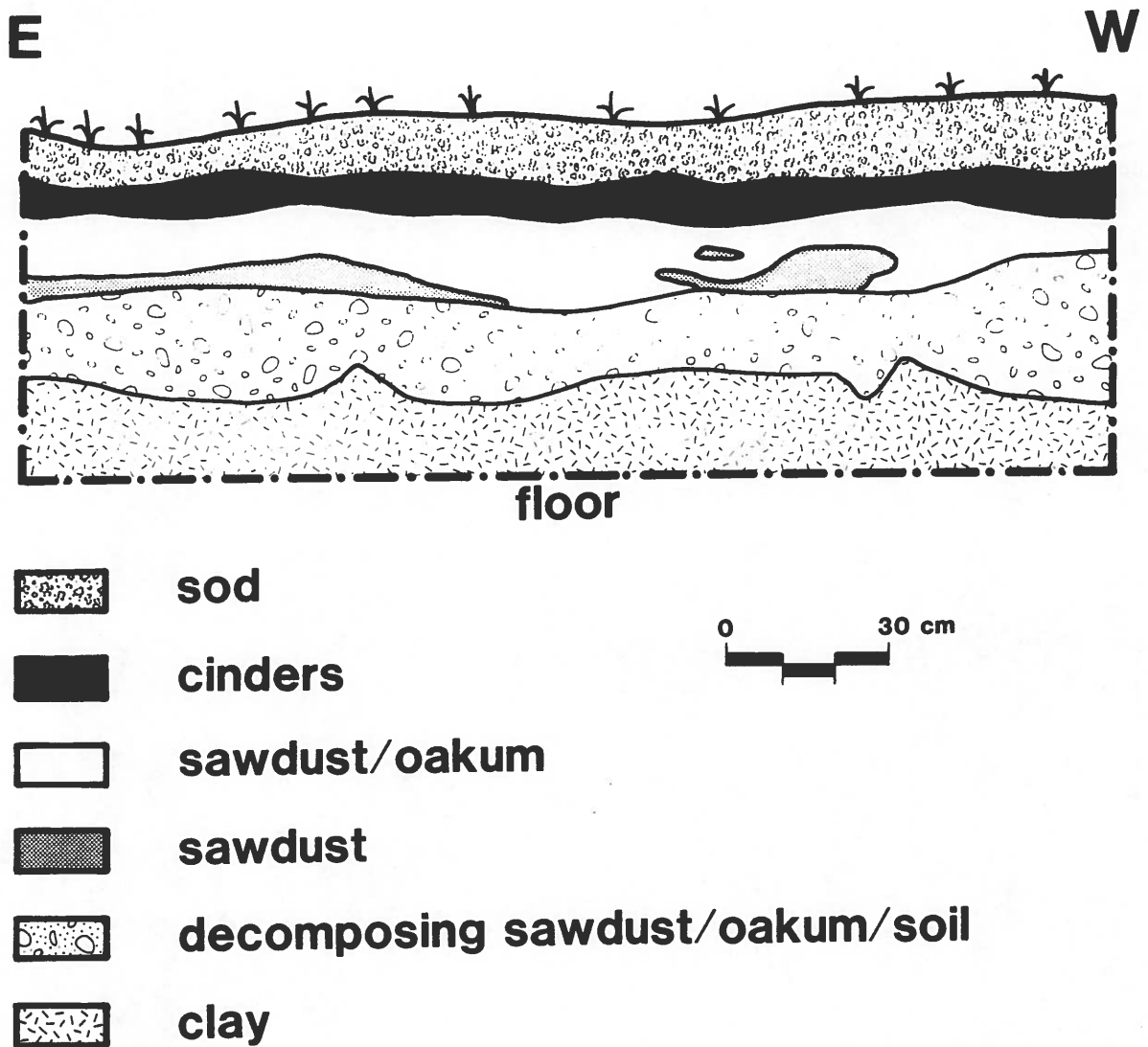


Figure 2.21. 1Y911E08, south profile. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

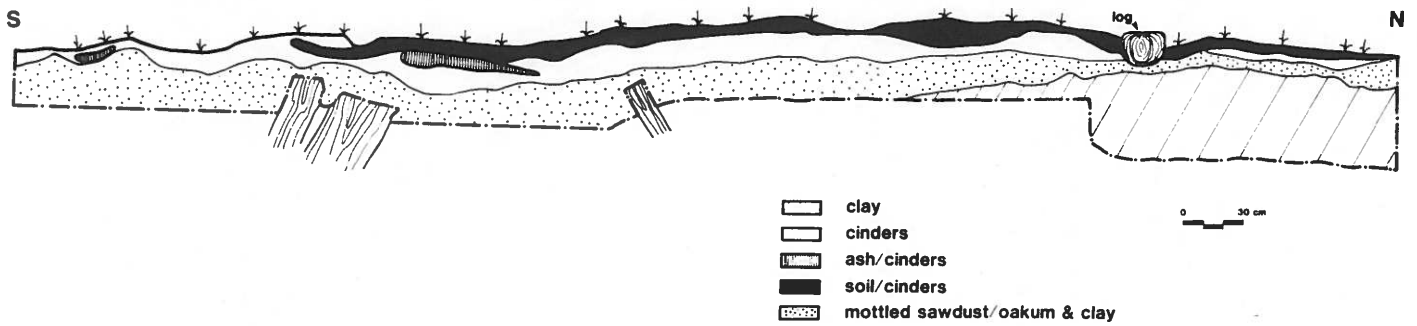


Figure 2.22. 1Y911E09 to 1Y911E12, west profile. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

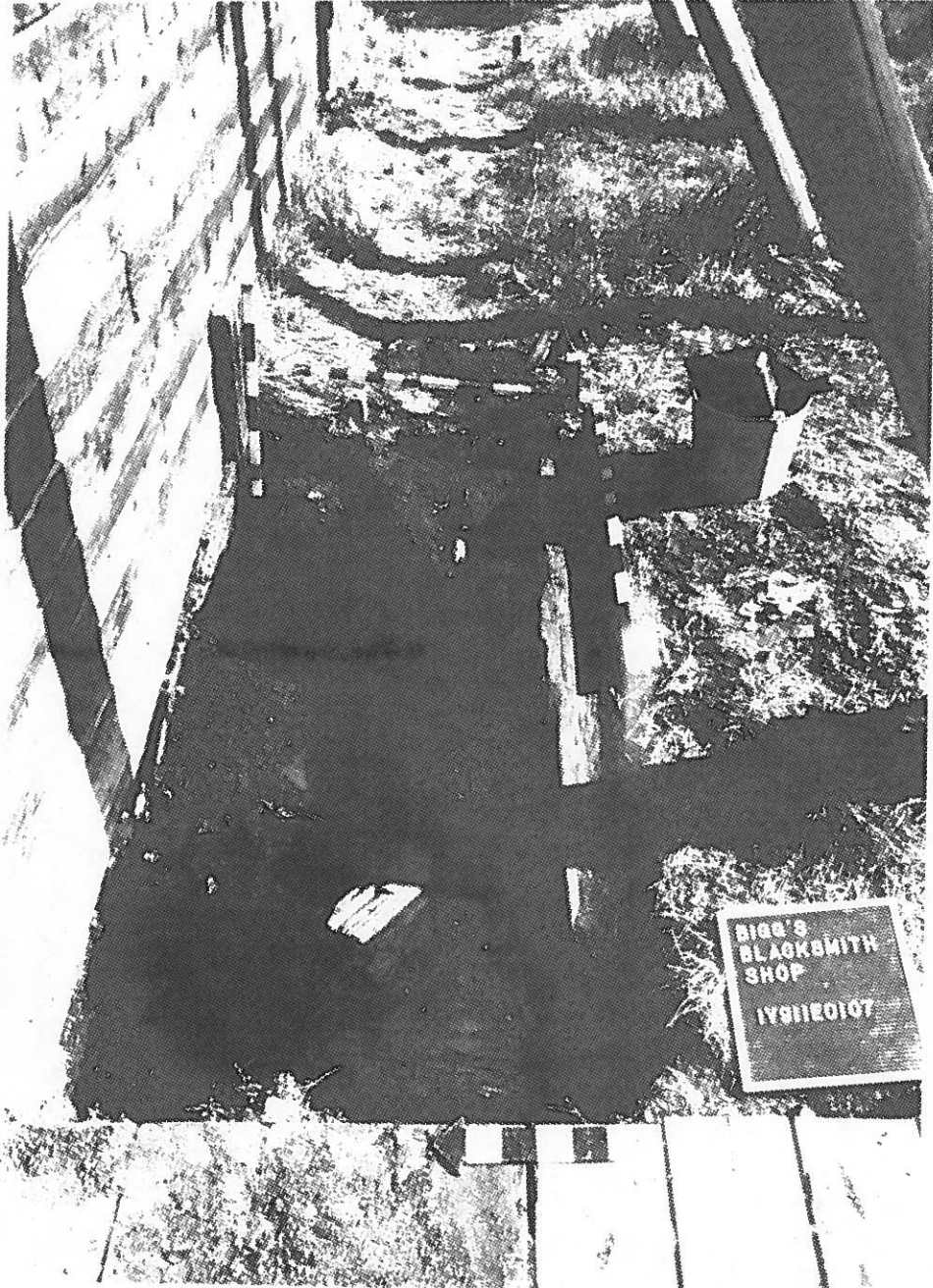


Figure 2.23. 1Y911E01, boardwalk plank. (Photo by B. Ross.)

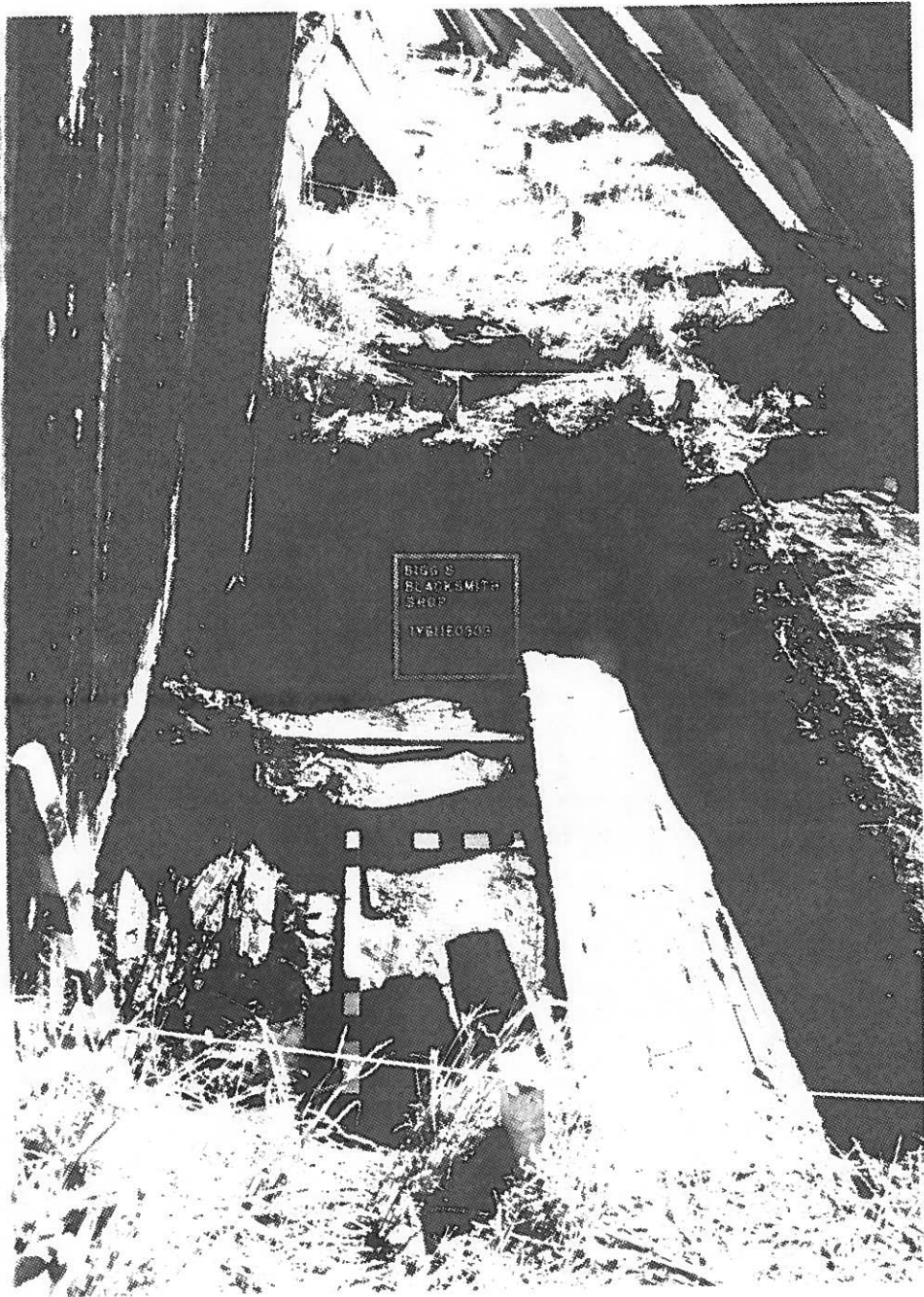


Figure 2.24. 1Y911E02 (identification board is incorrect), boardwalk plank. (Photo by B. Ross.)



Figure 2.25. 1Y911E03, scattered stones and brick. (Photo by B. Ross.)

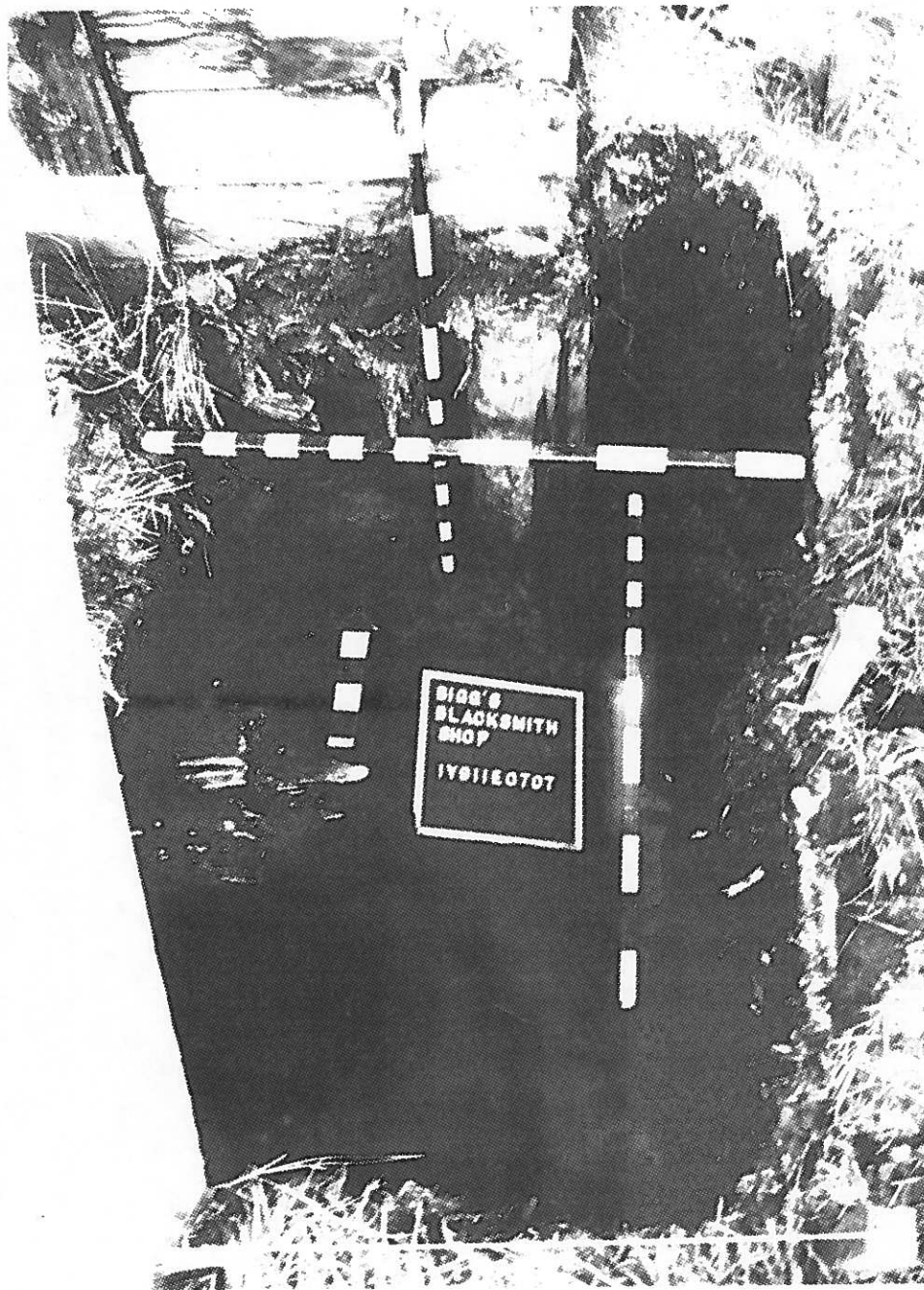


Figure 2.26. 1Y911E07, footing post at southeast corner of third annex. (Photo by B. Ross.)

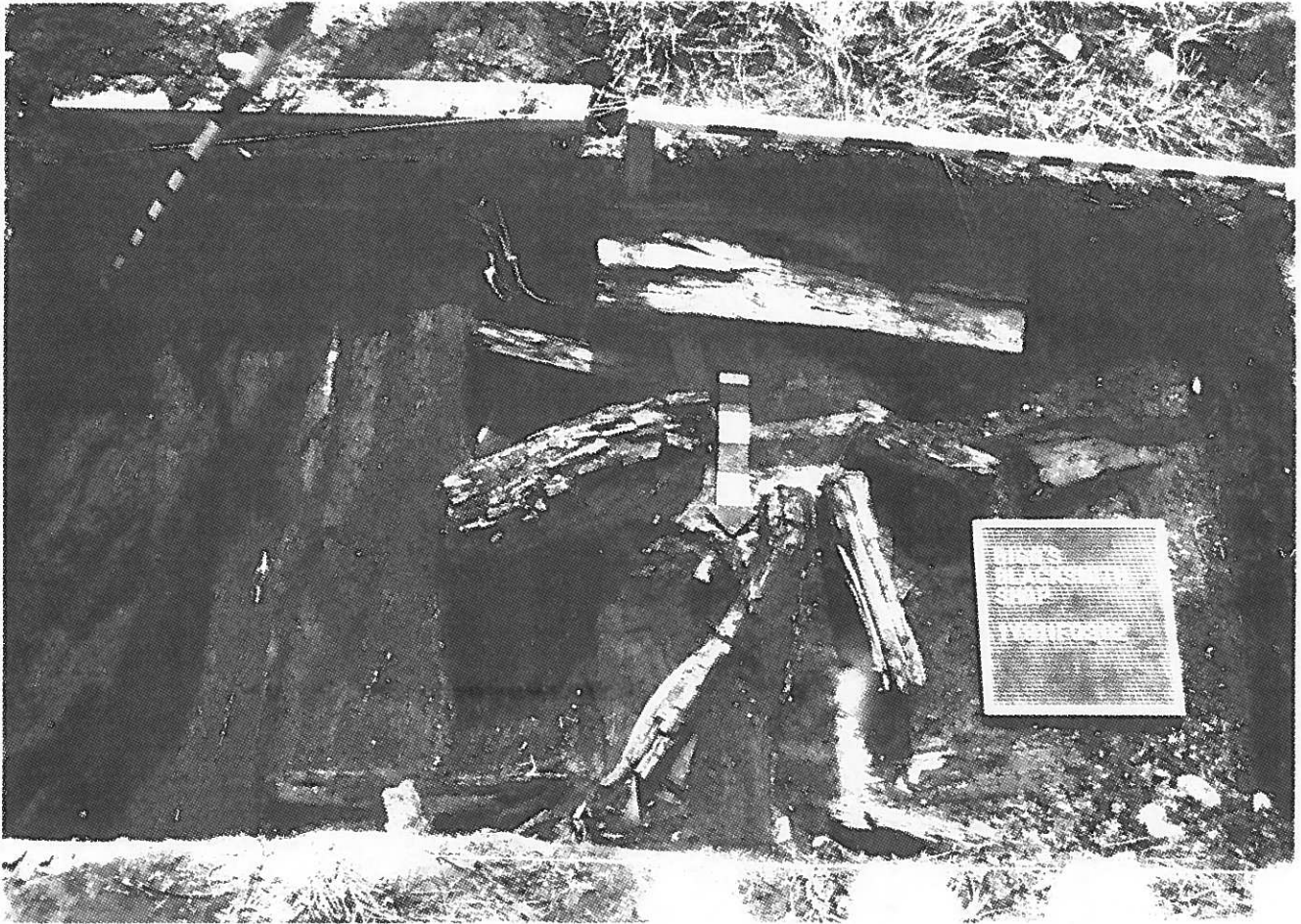


Figure 2.27. 1Y911F03, structural (possible flooring) and scattered wood remains.

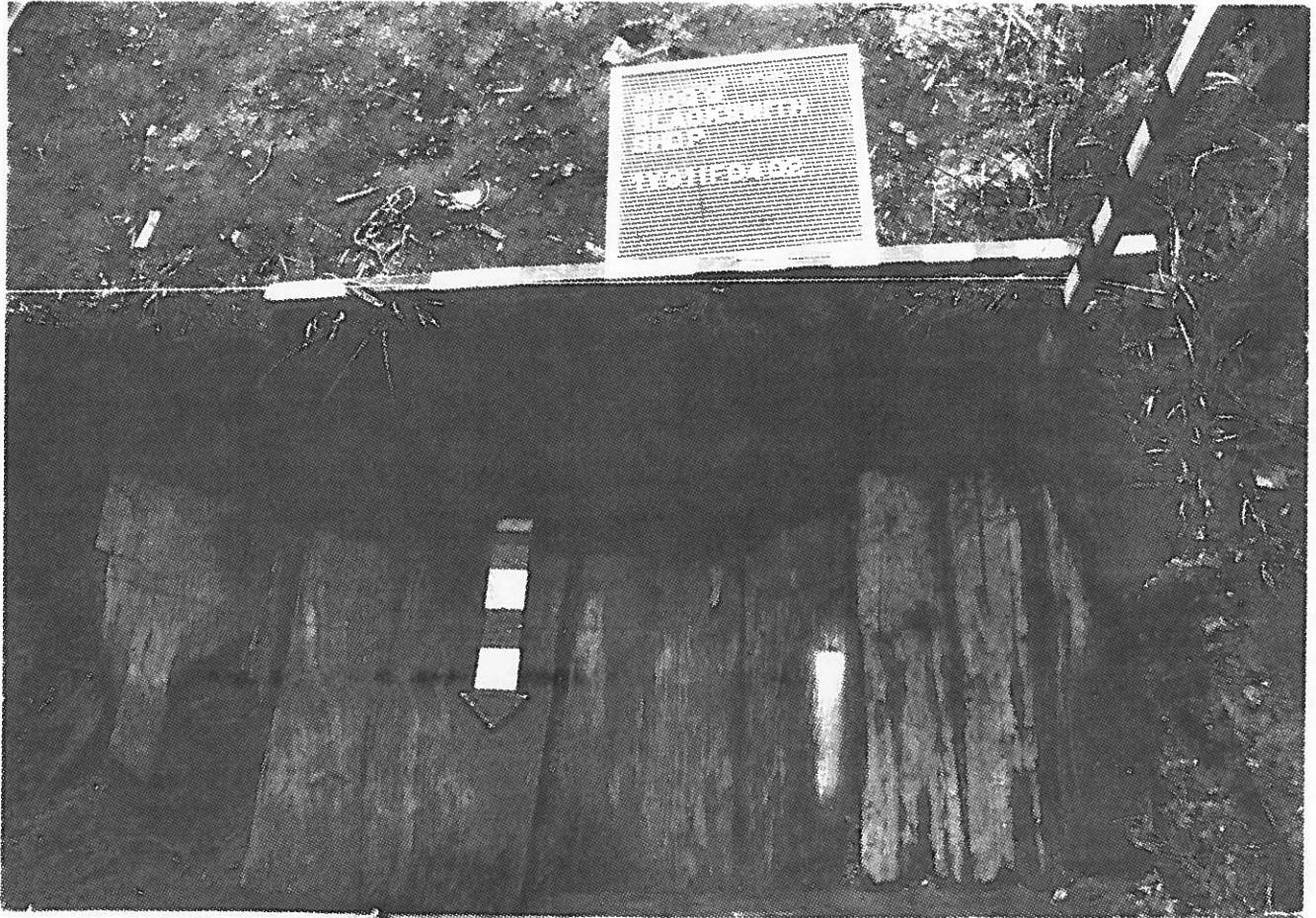


Figure 2.28. 1Y911F04, planking/possible flooring.

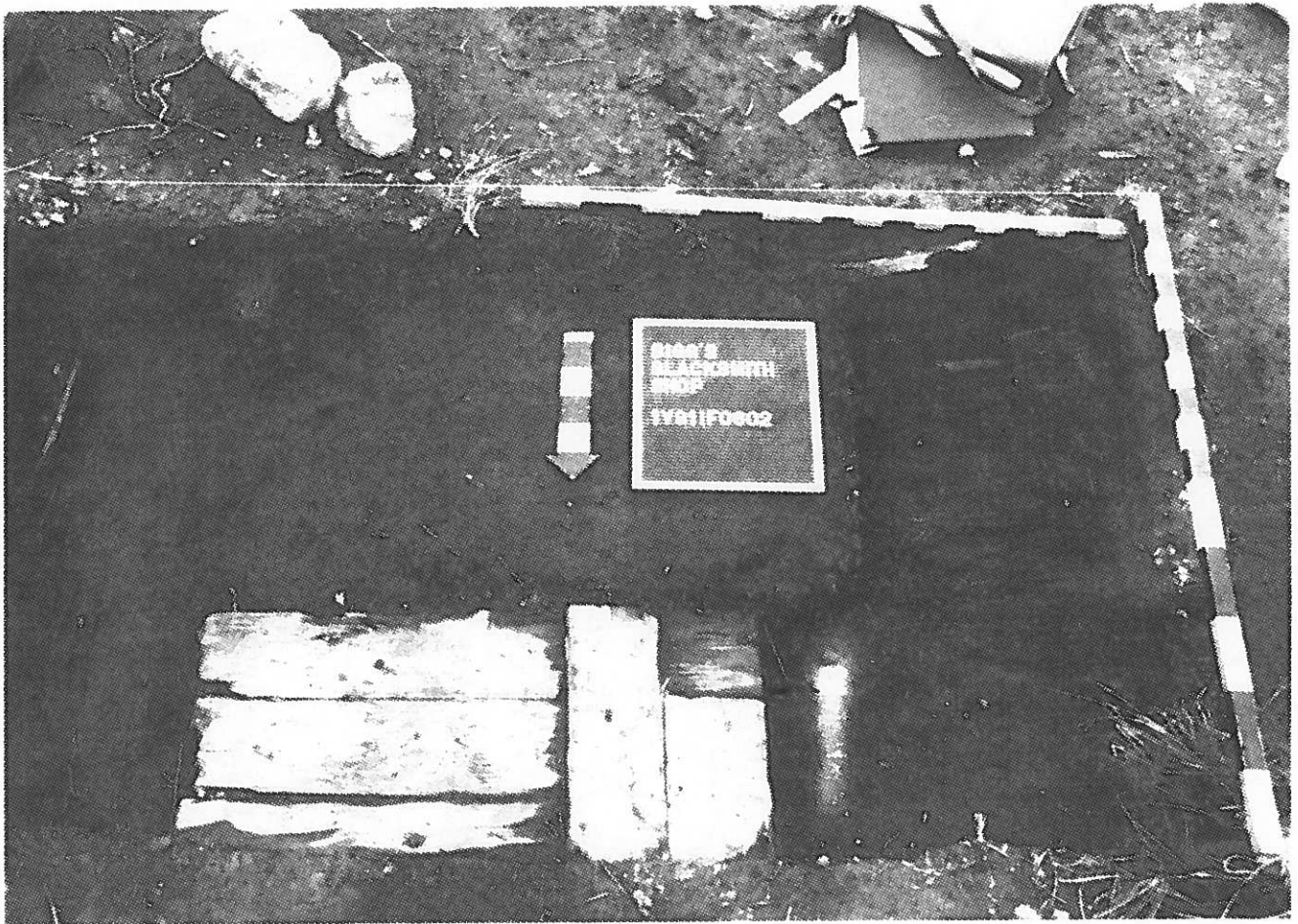


Figure 2.29. 1Y911F06; planking remains in different directions and elevations, possibly representing a number of different structural features.

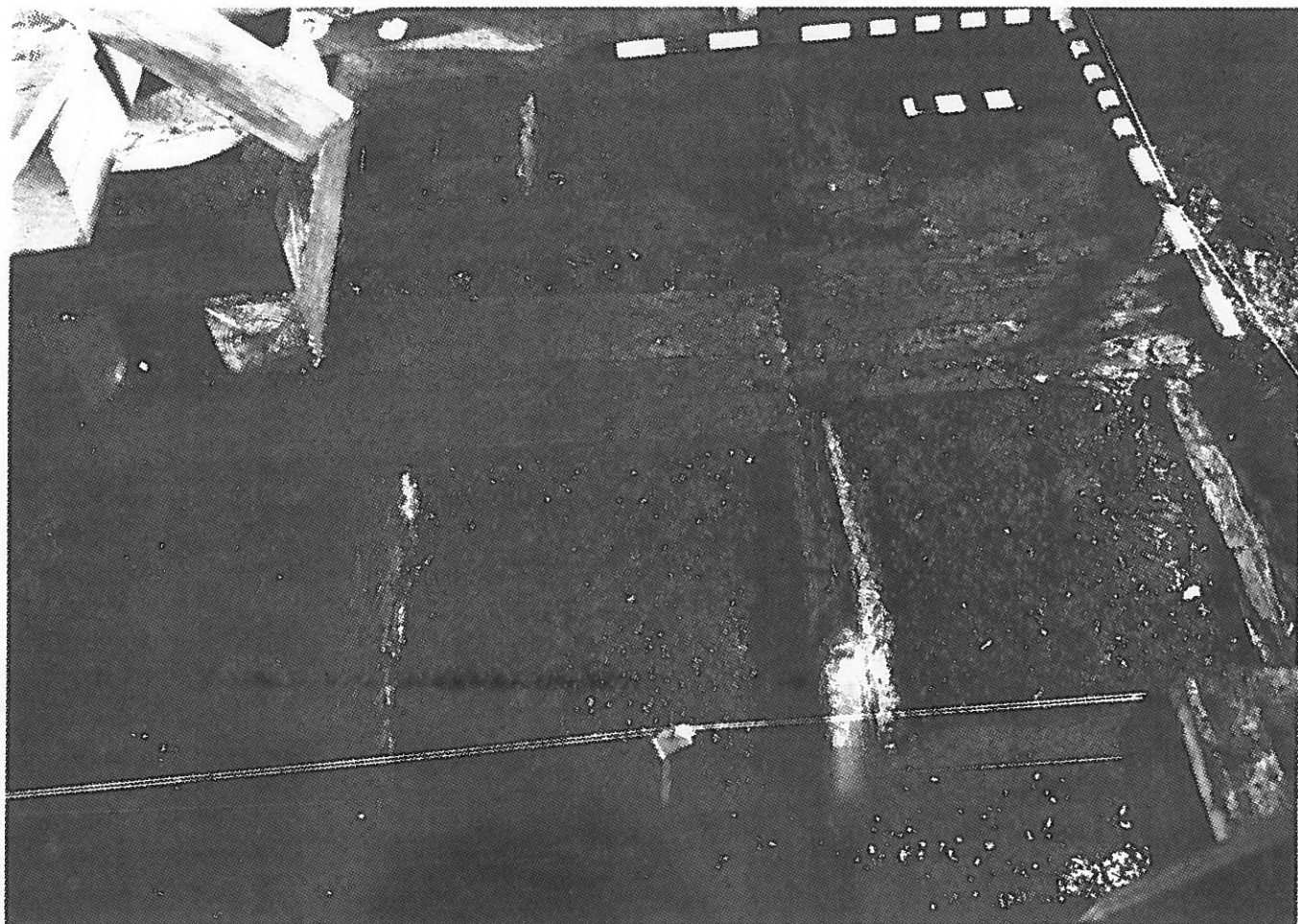


Figure 2.30. 1Y911F02, floor remains (planks and joists).
(Photo by S. McNalley.)

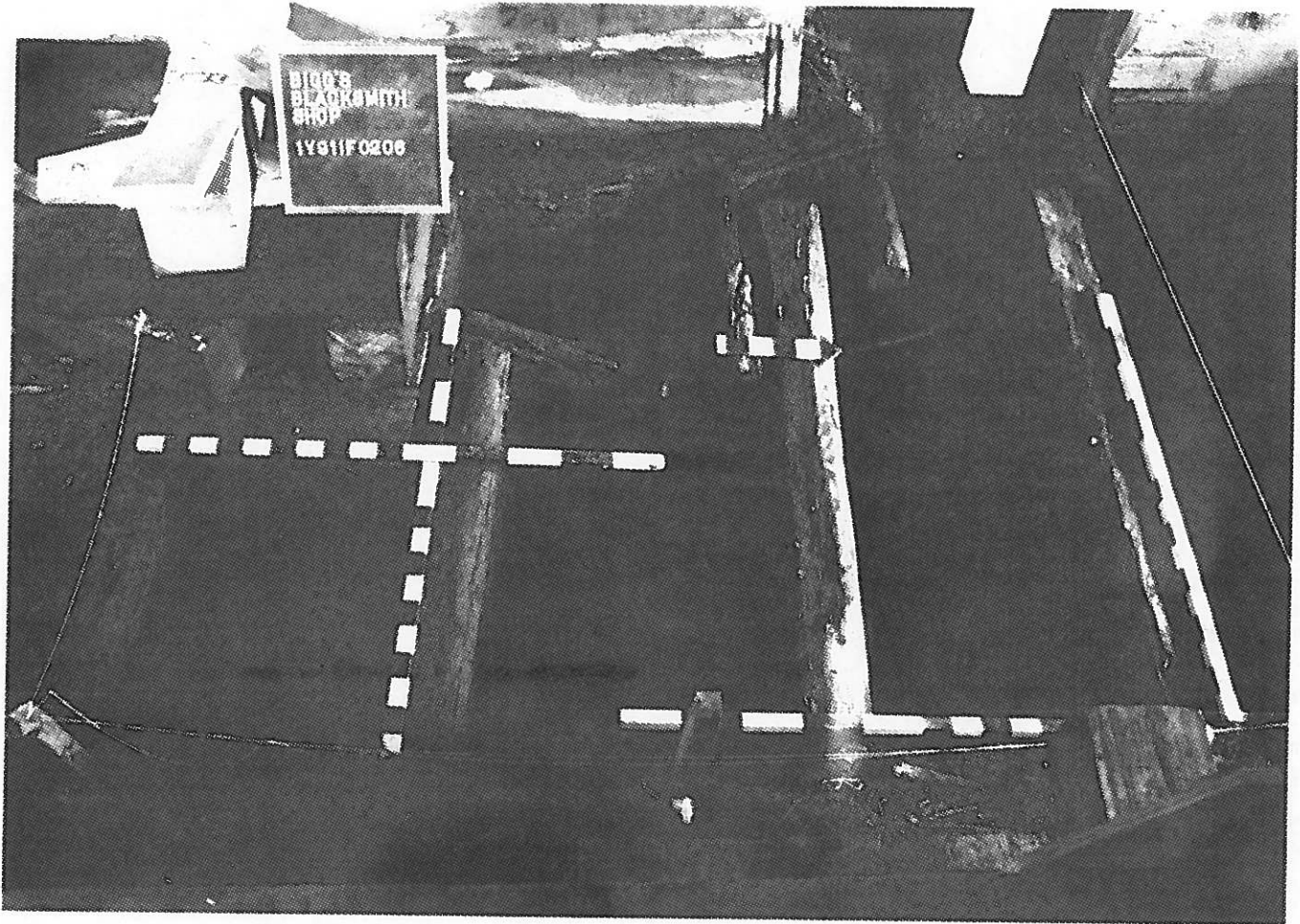


Figure 2.31. 1Y911F02; joists, after removal of floor planks; note how upper end of one joist has been extended.

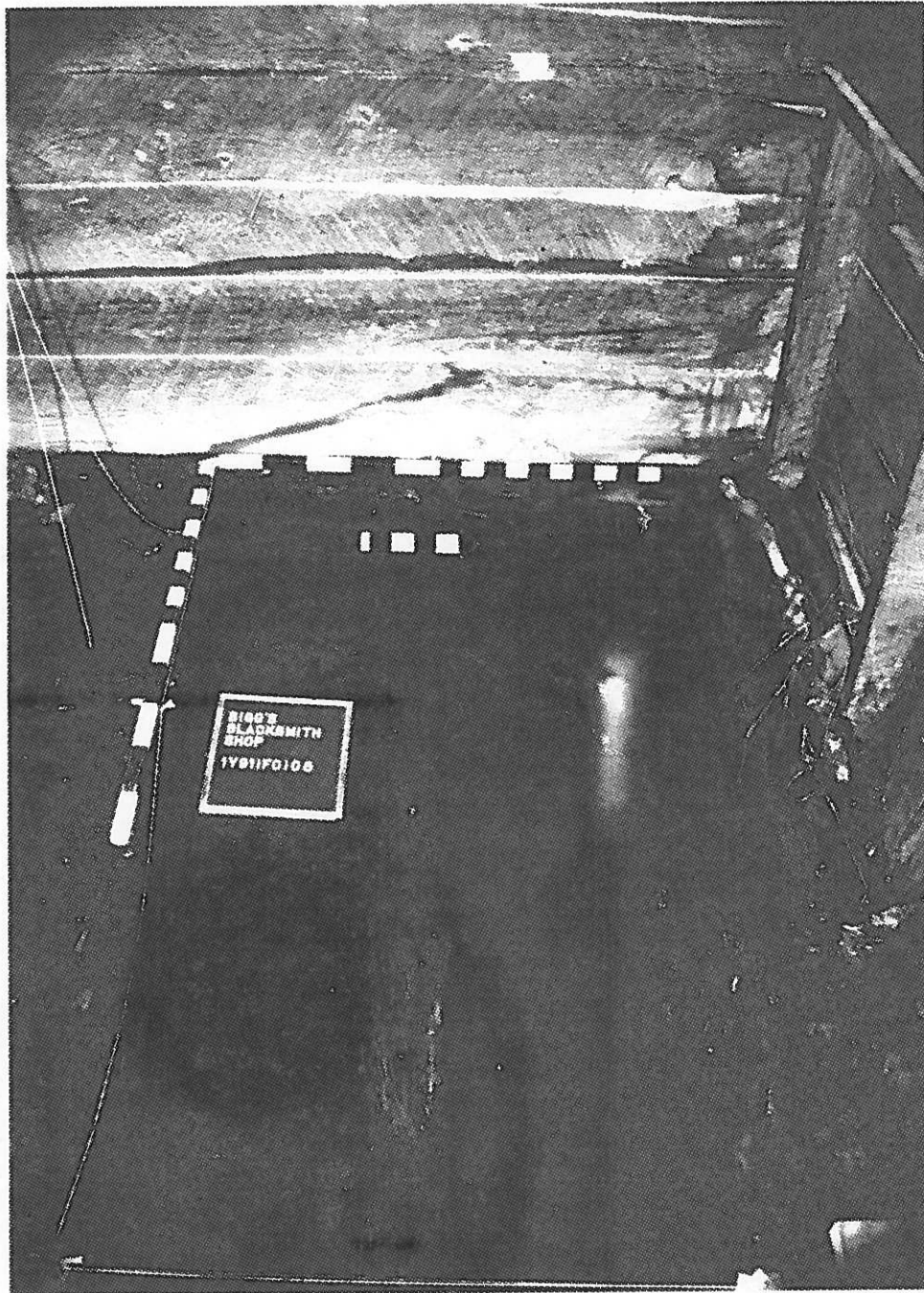


Figure 2.32. 1Y911F01, joist in northwest corner of first annex. (Photo by M. Gagnon.)

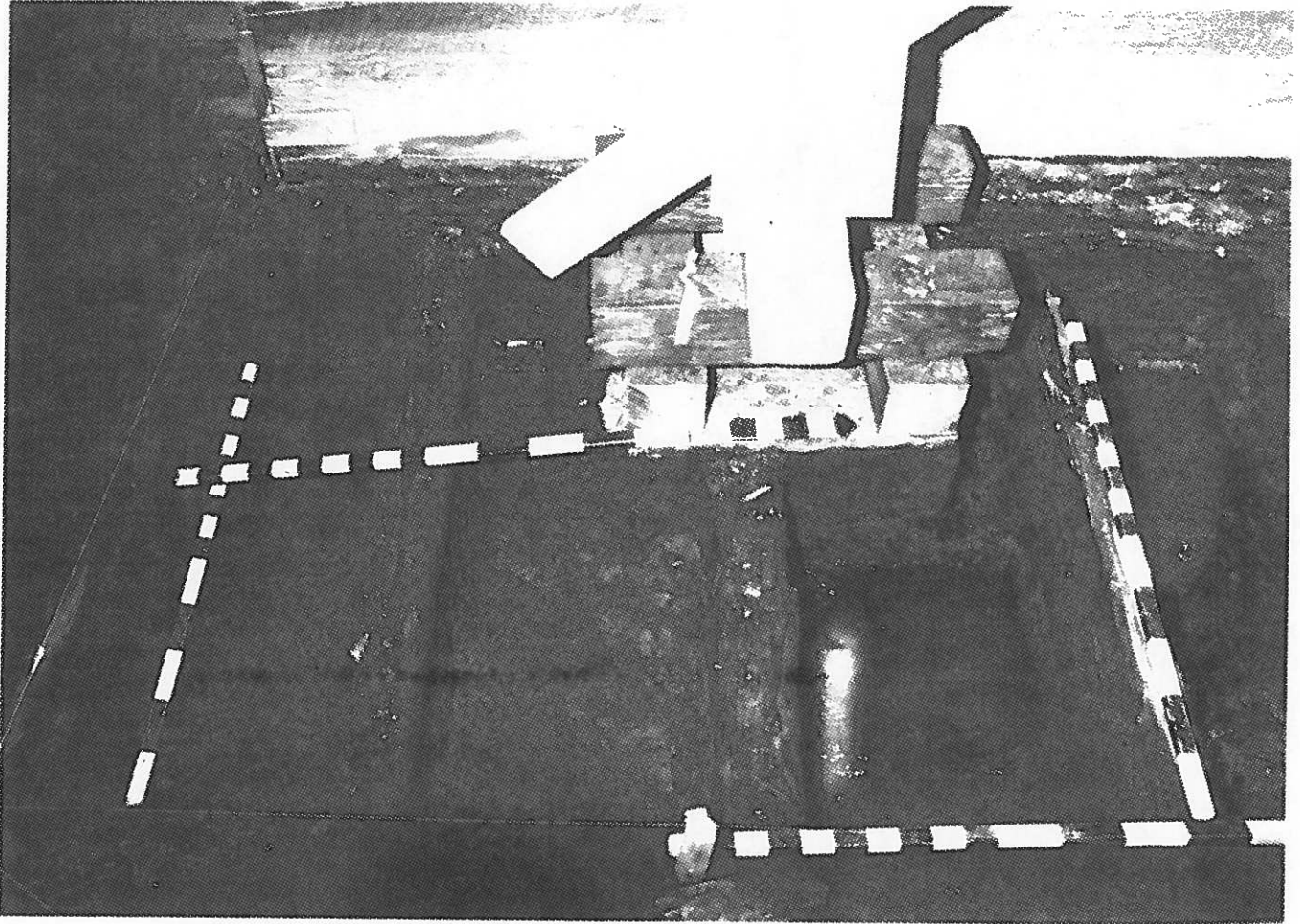


Figure 2.33. 1Y911F05, joists along west side of first annex.

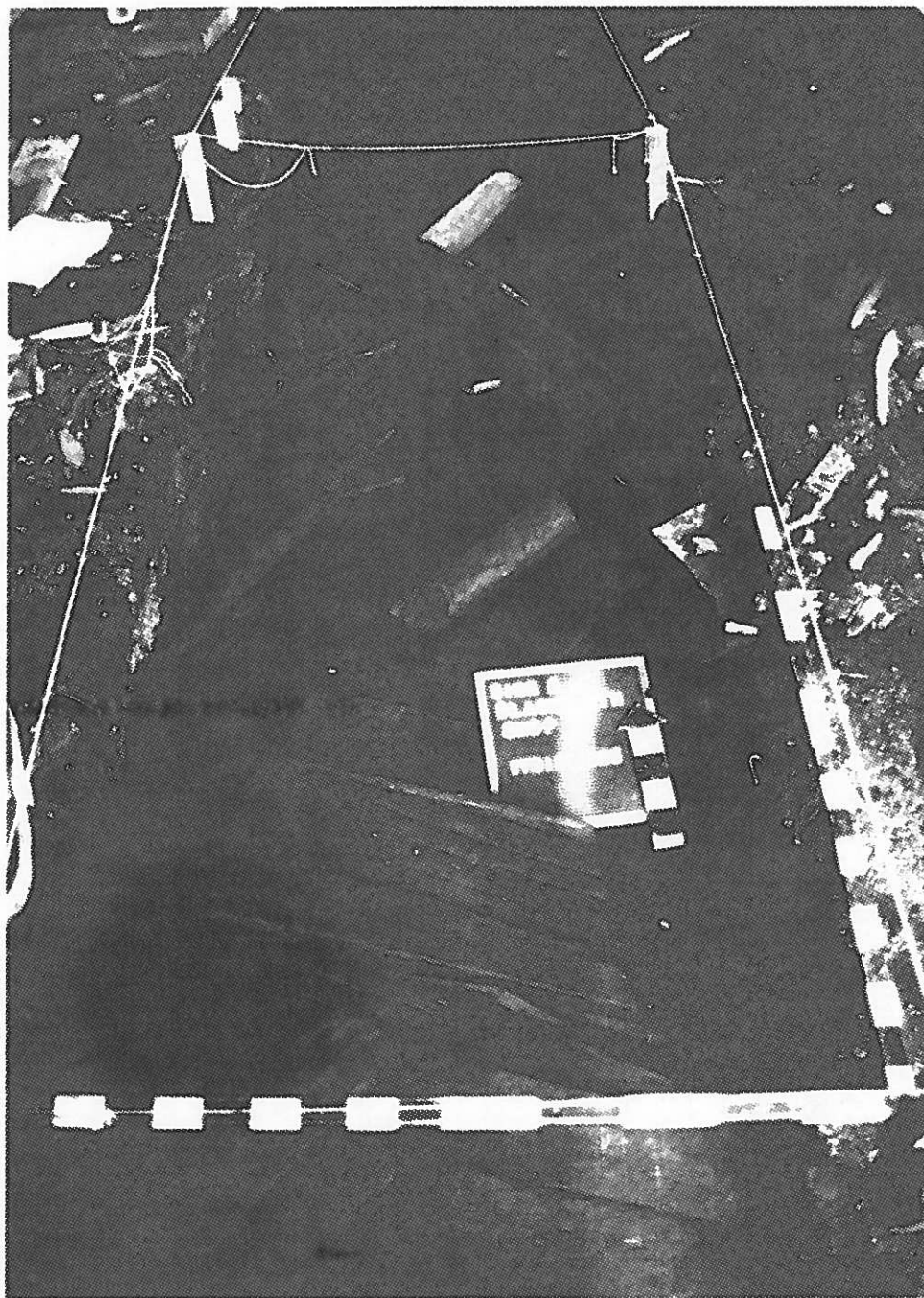


Figure 2.34. 1Y911E10, wooden debris belows floor of third annex. (Photo by S. McNalley.)

Part 3 Excavations at Brown's Harness Shop (1978, 1980)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Brown's Harness Shop was located on the west side of Third Avenue, next to West's Machine Shop and near the intersection of Third and Princess. Its origin is poorly known beyond that it was constructed very early in the 20th century, at least by 1903. Its subsequent history is equally vague; its operation as a harness shop continued until at least 1918 (summary derived from Ross 1980b). From available photographs it can be established that the building had either two storeys (with flat or shed roof) or was only a single storey with false front. The latter appears more probable. West's Machine Shop stood on its north side and the south side seems to have been mostly an empty lot - at least at the times that the available photographs were taken (Burley and Ross 1979: Fig. 11; Ross 1980b: Fig.4). At the beginning of archaeological investigations, the property consisted of an empty lot with a series of short footing posts protruding from the ground and two wood-lined pits located toward the back of the lot (in an area considered to have been occupied by an annex or addition to the harness shop) (Fig.3.3).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Excavations were undertaken in 1978 and 1980. The work was initiated as a result of plans to develop the southwest corner of Third and Princess into a visitor reception centre. This would have included the Red Feather Saloon, Third Avenue blacksmith shop, West's Machine Shop and the Brown's Harness Shop property. The 1978 excavations were concentrated in the eastern end of the lot, in an area considered to have been occupied by a main or original harness shop, and included a test trench across the boardwalk area and into the street (Burley 1979). In 1980 the excavations were in the western portion of the lot, in an area considered to have been occupied by an annex or extension to the shop and including the two wood-lined pits (Ross 1980b) (Fig. 3.2). The differentiation between main shop and annex was based on apparent variation in pattern of remaining footing posts and information provided by a project engineer (Ross 1978). This report is a statement on all of the excavations and consequently combines previously reported data from the 1978 season (Burley and Ross 1979: 26-36) with data from the previously unreported 1980 excavations (Ross 1980a) (unreported other than in a brief preliminary statement [1980b]).

Excavation Methods

The area of investigation was divided into a meter grid with the east-west lines designated as operation numbers (1Y70 to 1Y78) and the north-south lines designated as sub-operation letters (A to Y, excluding I and O) (Fig. 32.). Every meter square could then be identified by an operation and sub-operation designation. Since the entire area was not investigated, the sequence of proveniences used is not continuous (1Y76A may not necessarily follow 1Y76B).

The 1978 excavations were comprised of 28 units (sub-operations), primarily as a simple random sample with a few units added to provide a complete north to south cross section. The area of investigation extended from the assumed front of the building to just outside the assumed back wall of the original building (sub-operation L). Vertical control was through excavation in two lots per unit. The first lot was either an arbitrary 5 cm. thick layer or to the first level of flooring (usually the latter) and the second lot was from below the floor remains to some point in the sterile or non-cultural stratigraphy (depth of excavation into sterile may have varied from one unit to the next). In some instances excavation was terminated due to the presence of permafrost.

These excavations were preceded by a surface collection (1Y46), taking in the entire Third Avenue complex (Red Feather Saloon to Brown's Harness Shop), and intended to provide a more extensive material culture sample for interpretation. Since this process did not specifically investigate structural remains it will not be a component of subsequent descriptions and discussions.

The 1980 excavations were located behind the assumed original building in the area of an annex or addition and were intended to provide structural information on relationships to structures to the north (behind West's Machine Shop) and information on several features. Nine

sub-operations were excavated (excluding units within the machine shop property). Vertical control was largely with arbitrary 10.0 cm levels and excavation extended into sterile, non-cultural deposits, sometimes terminated due to the presence of permafrost.

EXCAVATION RESULTS

The recovered structural information is concerned with construction up to the level of the floor. There does not appear to be any indication of the superstructure in the archaeological remains. Discussion of structural data is divided into the original building (1978 excavations), the annex or addition (1980 excavations) and other features (1978 and 1980 excavations). Information from excavations in adjacent areas (machine shop and boardwalk) is not included here.

Building Phases

Excavations in 1978 began with the position that the structure being investigated had been built in two separate components - an original, main building on the east end of the lot and a later annex or addition on the west end of the lot. This point of view provided the basis for positioning the first season's test excavations.

Support for this position is provided by a ca. 1902 photographic panorama showing the back of the buildings along the west side of Third Avenue (Fig 23). The harness shop appears as a building of about the same length as the adjacent machine shop with a lean-to across most of its west wall. Although this configuration can not be readily disputed, except through the suggestion that the photograph has been altered, it can not be easily matched to the remaining structural components. The differentiation into

two buildings will be retained for the following descriptions and be re-examined after the structural remains have been discussed. For the moment the west end of the main building will be taken to be the row of posts in sub-operation M, the remainder to the west will be treated as the annex.

Main Building

Footings

The extent of this structure was defined by a series of footings arranged in five north-south rows with each row originally having five round posts (Fig. 3.3). The posts were approximately 20 cm in diameter and extended into permafrost. In one instance, a post was excavated to a depth of 1.27 m below surface without reaching its lower end (at that point being approximately 30 cm into permafrost). The rows of posts were set roughly 3 m apart and within each row the spacing varied roughly between 1.5 m and 2.3 m. This type of footing, consisting of posts set directly into permafrost rather than set on supporting logs is considered unusual by Burley and Ross (1979: 28).

The above system of posts appears to have been supplemented, at least in 1Y72K, with a shorter, squared post set on a plank. This post was 14 cm by 11 cm in cross section and 32 cm long, set on an 18 cm by 3.5 cm plank. A second squared post, in 1Y77H, was 13.6 cm by 10 cm in cross section and was 35 cm long.

The first squared post is roughly in the expected position of a round post and may have been installed to replace or supplement an original post. The second squared post is positioned near the line of a sill but nowhere near

the expected position of an original round post. It may have been installed to provide additional support for the southernmost sill of the building.

Sub-Floor Support (Fig. 3.5)

The building's floor was supported by two layers of timber; a set of sills oriented east-west and resting on the footing posts, and a set of joists oriented north-south and resting on the sills (Fig. 3.5). The sills, where measurable, were 20 cm by 15 cm in cross section. Two of the joist fragments measured 15 cm by 4 cm, one was 25 cm by 4.5 cm and another was 4 to 5 cm thick. The joist spacing was 65 cm, in one instance where it could be measured.

In addition to resting on the footing posts, the sills were supported at a number of locations by additional short sections of horizontal plank or log, which apparently rested on the ground (Fig. 3.18). This was the case for 1Y70J, 1Y77F and 1Y77H. For the latter, there were two pieces of plank or beam. The joists appear to have been similarly supported, although with sections of plank beside rather than underneath them. This was the case for 1Y76G and 1Y77A. The manner in which such an arrangement could provide support for a joist cannot be stated here.

Flooring (Figs. 3.4, 3.8, 3.12-3.15)

The floor was extensively deteriorated and fragmentary but enough remained to indicate two layers of planking (Figs. 3.4, 3.15). Unfortunately orientation of the planking remains was not consistent but with joists oriented north-south it is unlikely if not impossible to have the first layer of floor planks also oriented north-south. However, in a number of instances, planking remains con-

sisted of an east-west orientation overlying a north-south orientation. Orientation of planking in some of the units is irregular and it may also be that some of the planking is disturbed flooring or sub-floor support.

The floor consisted of a double layer of edge butted planks (Fig. 3.15), probably an initial layer oriented east-west and a second layer oriented north-south. According to remains in 1Y76H, the planks were laid with their end joints alternating on a joist - every second joint appeared on the same joist - and each plank was nailed down on each joist with two 8.5 cm nails. The bottom layer consisted of planks measuring 19 cm wide and roughly 3.4 cm thick (length was not determined for these planks). The upper layer planks were 10.2 cm wide and 2.1 cm thick. Elsewhere there were planks up to 27 cm wide and 5 cm thick. Variations in width would not be an inconvenience but any variation in thickness would result in an uneven surface. Variations in perceived thickness may be the result of deterioration and difficulties in obtaining accurate measurements. The planking was machine sawn.

The double flooring may have been an original installation but its fragmentary nature as excavated may indicate repairs and reinforcement some time after initial construction. There may not have been a double floor throughout the building.

Crawlspace

The space between the underside of the floor and the ground surface has been estimated to have been 48 to 58.5 cm (Burley and Ross 1979: 30). This distance would have been taken up primarily by the sills and joists with a minor part being the post ends protruding from the ground. This

relatively small dimension and the presence of structural components means that although the floor was raised off the ground the area under the building would not have been readily accessible.

Superstructure

None of the excavated structural components provided an indication of the nature of the superstructure. Information on this is likely to come from documentary or iconographic sources.

Size

Size of the harness shop can be estimated from the footings, resulting in a length of approximately 11.9 m and width of approximately 7 m. These differ from the figures indicated by Burley and Ross (1979: 31) and relate to the question of location of the west wall.

Annex

Excavations in the annex area were concerned largely with specific features and thus less information on the structure itself was obtained. The following discussions do not include excavations undertaken at the same time as these on the harness shop annex, but which were associated specifically with the adjacent machine shop.

Footings

Similar to the original building, the annex was supported on a set of wooden posts set into the ground (Fig. 3.3). These were arranged into four rows (north-south) with four posts in each row. Spacing between the rows ranges from 2.1 m to 2.6 m; spacing between posts in a row ranged from 2.2 m to 2.7 m but clustered around 2.3 m. Allowing for deterioration and shifting, the posts appear to have been arranged in a square pattern. Since none of the posts appear in an excavation, it is not known whether they were set into the ground or rested on wooden supports.

Sub-Floor Support

Remaining surface wood tends to run east-west and be aligned with the footing posts, suggesting it to be the remains of sills which rested on the posts. Such a "line" of wooden remains appears in 1Y70, 1Y72, 1Y75 and 1Y77; often with evidence of some part of the line having been displaced (Figs. 3.3, 3.5).

A 16 cm square timber in 1Y76X (Figs. 3.16, 3.17), oriented north-south, is more likely a section of a joist. This timber rested on a short square post; 10 cm by 5 cm in cross section and 27 cm long (a short "2 by 4"). The arrangement is similar to that found in some parts of the main building.

Flooring

There is no conclusive evidence for the floor other than the fact of its existence suggested by the footings and the possible sills and joists. If the joists were oriented north-south, the flooring was presumably oriented east-west, as in the main building.

Crawlspace

The existence of a space between the floor and the ground can be assumed but its size can not be estimated because of lack of measurements on the sills and joists.

Size

Assuming that the annex extended to sub-operation M, it would have been about 9.5 m long and about 7.2 m wide.

Feature Number 1 (Figs. 3.3, 3.7, 3.19-3.22)

This feature is a wooden box set into the ground in the northwest corner of the annex (Fig. 3.3). Excavations were made within the feature, to clean out accumulated debris, and adjacent to it, to determine details of construction and size (Fig. 3.2). Since the feature was not removed for a more complete examination and recording, it can not be described here in total detail.

The feature appears to be a double-walled wooden box (Figs. 3.7, 3.19), probably assembled above ground and then set into a pit. Its remains now appear only below the probable annex floor level but the original height and relationship to the floor is not known.

The sides and ends are constructed of one inch thick boards (2 or 2.5 cm thick) nailed to "2 by 4" (10 cm by 5 cm) uprights. Both layers of the floor are composed of tongue and groove boards (at least the upper layer is 2.5 cm thick) nailed to "2 by 4" and "2 by 6" planks (10 cm by 5 cm and 15.5 cm by 5 cm) (Figs. 3.7, 3.23). The tongue and groove boards are blind nailed; thereby providing an indication of assembly prior to installation (the bottom layer of flooring could not have been blind nailed once the box was in place in the ground).

The bottom, both sides and the west end of the box were double, being two layers of boards separated by 2 by 4s or 2 by 6s (Figs. 3.7, 3.19, 3.22). The east end was a double layer of boards (laminated) attached on the inside of the 2 by 4s (Figs. 3.7, 3.21, 3.22). For the north and south sides and the west end the boards were attached to the edges of the 2 by 4s, the two layers being thus separated by the width of the 2 by 4 (10 cm) (Figs. 3.7, 3.19). The floorboards were attached to the faces of the 2 by 4s and 2 by 6s, thus separating the layers by the thickness of a 2 by 4 (5 cm) (Figs. 3.7, 3.23).

The east end boards were attached to two uprights as well as being attached to the easternmost upright of the north and south sides (Fig. 3.7). The west wall had three uprights, one at either end and one in between (not equidistant from each end of the wall) (Fig. 3.7). The north and south walls each had four uprights, one at the east end, one near the west end and two in between (Fig. 3.7). Spacing of uprights for the north and south walls was irregular for each wall but generally the same for both walls. The flooring was attached to three 2 by 4s, one at either end, and two 2 by 6s, spaced irregularly (Fig. 3.7). It was not recorded how the floor was attached to the walls of the box, if at all. A seemingly unusual feature was that the outside layer of both the north and south walls extended only slightly beyond the upright at this end of the wall rather than extending to the end wall (Fig. 3.7). The outside layer of the west wall also extended beyond the end uprights (Fig. 3.7). Although this arrangement may have served some purpose, none can be suggested here. At the east end, the uprights attached to the east wall may also have been attached to the floor joist at this point.

Boards for the walls were either 2 or 2.5 cm thick. For the west wall both layers were 2.5 cm thick. For the remaining walls, regardless of the fact that the east wall

was constructed differently than the north and south walls, the inner layer was 2.5 cm thick and the outer layer was 2 cm thick. Board width varied somewhat, ranging from 10 cm to 16.5 cm with most of them appearing to be 15.5 cm. The boards in the upper layer of flooring were 2.5 cm thick and consistently 9.4 cm wide. Boards in the bottom layer of flooring were approximately 15 cm wide.

Spaces between the two layers of wall boards were partially filled with wood chips and small fragments of board. Possibly these spaces were originally completely filled with such material.

As recorded, this box measured 1.25 m wide and 2.4 m long. Depth noted during excavation was in excess of 64 cm. Original depth cannot be suggested because of deterioration of the upper portions and incomplete excavation.

The question of function cannot be readily answered. Location and design of the feature suggest a specific function, probably related to other activities in the vicinity. Its upper parts are no longer present but some access from within the building must be assumed. Identification of activities within the building would possibly provide some suggestion of possible use. Can it be assumed that the annex was an extension of the harness shop and used for similar or related activities? The fact that another similar pit apparently existed in the area but outside of the annex is probably a significant fact. Possibly they could be used either inside or outside or one was used in summer and the other in winter.

Feature Number 2

Another similar wood-lined pit was situated just west of the supposed southwest corner of the annex. It was investigated only briefly so a detailed comparison between the two cannot be made. However, in general they were very

similar if not identical. The second pit was also of a double-wall construction using 2 by 4s for uprights and 2 cm thick boards. The east wall may, however, have been truly double with a space between an inside and outside layer. At the east end the box measured 1.22 m wide and 80 cm below ground level.

Building Phases Reconsidered

The early 20th century photographic panorama (Fig. 3.1) provides the evidence for a harness shop building of approximately the same length as the machine shop immediately to the north. The harness shop also has a lean-to across most of its west end. Considering the date of the photograph, this is likely the original configuration for the harness shop. However, the archaeological remains do not suggest this configuration. The archaeological remains by themselves, in fact, suggest a single structure with some variation in arrangement of footing posts.

The presence of flooring remnants and partial sills suggest a continuity of structure from sub-operation A to sub-operation M (the area discussed above as the main building). There is, however, also a suggestion of continuity of sills from 1Y72K to 1Y72Q and from 1Y77M to 1Y77X (Fig 2); in other words, from within the main building into the annex if not to the end of the annex.

The arrangement of footing posts also provides some confusion. The first four rows (sub-operations A, D, F and K) appear to have had five posts each whereas the fifth row (sub-operation M), as well as all other rows to the west, had only four posts. The format for the rows seems to have changed within the limits of the main building.

For an addition there should be an extra set of footing posts close to the west wall of the main building to support the east ends of a new set of sills. New sills

could not readily be set on existing posts because these would already have been in use for the main building sills.

The absence of flooring remains west of 1Y77M is probably not significant because of the small number of excavation units in this area of the property.

A possible explanation for the construction of the harness shop may be that the original annex was removed to allow for expansion of the main building and that this expansion involved the removal of part of the west end of the structure. Removal of part of the floor would have allowed new sills to be joined to the ends of old sills, thereby forming a continuous line from the front of the original building to the back of the new building without adding another row of posts at or near sub-operation M. The square post in 1Y72K could have been installed at that time, to support the west end of an old joist.

The result of such alterations would have been a new main building approximately 21.5 m long and 7.2 m wide. Evidence of the original, shorter structure would have been sufficiently obliterated to make its existence unrecognizable strictly on the basis of archaeological remains. Interpreting the remains as representing a single structure would not have been incorrect, only incomplete.

One question remaining is whether the existence of feature number 2 is an indication of a building continuing beyond sub-operation X. Identification of function for this feature would be of considerable help, especially if it was established that such a function could not be carried on out-of-doors in any season.

Drain (Figs. 3.9-3.11, 3.14, 3.21)

Excavations along the north side of the harness shop property (1Y70D, 1Y70T) (Figs. 3.9-3.11) exposed sections of a wooden drain, oriented east-west. Remains of a

similar drain were also exposed by excavations of the boardwalk in front of the harness and machine shops. At its western end, the drain appears to have ended before 1Y70Y.

The drain was rectangular in cross section and was constructed of boards (Fig. 3.10). There is no record of having encountered any framework during the excavations so it appears that the drain was constructed by nailing the boards to each other along their edges. The boards were 2 cm thick and approximately 15 cm wide. In 1Y70D (Fig. 3.9) the drain was noted as being 15 cm wide whereas in 1Y70T (Figs. 3.10, 3.11) it was recorded as 30 cm wide. The drain may have varied in width or been subject to shifting and deformation. Board remains in 1Y70T indicate that the drain was probably closed on top.

The drain passed under a joist for the harness shop floor. The excavations did not note any evidence of the drain being set into the ground and it appears reasonable to suggest that it was installed under the floor but on or above ground level. Its purpose could have been to provide drainage for water coming off the roof of both the harness and machine shops. It could also have been connected to drains inside the harness shop and annex if there was need for such a connection. Excavations in the area of the boardwalk established the presence of a similar drain, connecting to another drain oriented north-south. In the area of the boardwalk the drain was closed on top and measured 16 cm wide and 12 cm high (Burley and Ross 1979: 34).

A metal grate associated with flooring remains in 1Y71A (Fig. 3.14) may be associated with the wooden sub-floor conduits. The southeast corner of the building may have contained the means of dumping waste water into a general drainage system.

Stratigraphy

Stratigraphy throughout the building lot was fairly uniform. The upper layers were a combination of cultural materials and post-occupation natural accumulation and the lower levels were mainly pre-cultural, natural deposits (Fig. 3.6). The extent of the latter was not investigated. In the area of the main shop the presence of flooring provided the main basis for vertical control and the stratigraphy is recorded in terms of materials either above or below the floor level. The uppermost deposits consisted primarily of humus, in some areas being rather bog-like and sometimes including clay, silt or sand. This is likely material which has accumulated after the building was gone and the remaining floor had largely deteriorated and collapsed. Similar soils continued below the flooring level, eventually giving way to natural silts and clay containing no cultural materials. Areas along the north property line also contained more evident layers of sawdust, possibly associated with insulation in the harness shop north wall or the machine shop south wall.

Stratigraphy in the annex area was a similar progression from humus to natural silts and clay. The presence of sawdust was more evident and seemed to be associated with the two features (wood-lined pits).

Artifacts

A detailed inventory of artifacts has not been created for this report. A more general review of the artifacts, as noted during the excavations, was made, however, to see if any relatively simple interpretations could be made.

The artifacts span a wide range of materials and functions. Building materials include nails, nuts, bolts and washers, pane glass, tin sheeting, roofing and tarpaper. Building function is adequately indicated by the

presence of a variety of harness-related items such as leather fragments, rings, buckles, hooks, rivets, a number of hames (Fig. 3.16) and other items noted simply as harness hardware. Harness shop activities were not as readily apparent in the few tools located. Machinery parts were noted for a few units but more specific identifications were not made. Activities within the shop may also be indicated by the distribution of harness-related items. For the structure initially described as the main or original building, leather fragments, harness parts and harness hardware occurred only in the "back half" of the building; that is, generally in sub-operation H and west of it. Some leather fragments also appeared in 1Y77F, which is near the building's south wall, and 1Y78D, which is outside of the building. Similar harness-related items appeared throughout the excavations in the annex area. All of the hames were apparently in the annex area. The original shop appears to have had a work area in the back and presumably a sales area in the front.



Figure 3.1. Detail from Dawson Panorama, probably dating from the late summer of 1902. 1) Brown's Harness Shop, 2) Great Northern Hotel. (National Archives of Canada, C-22350)

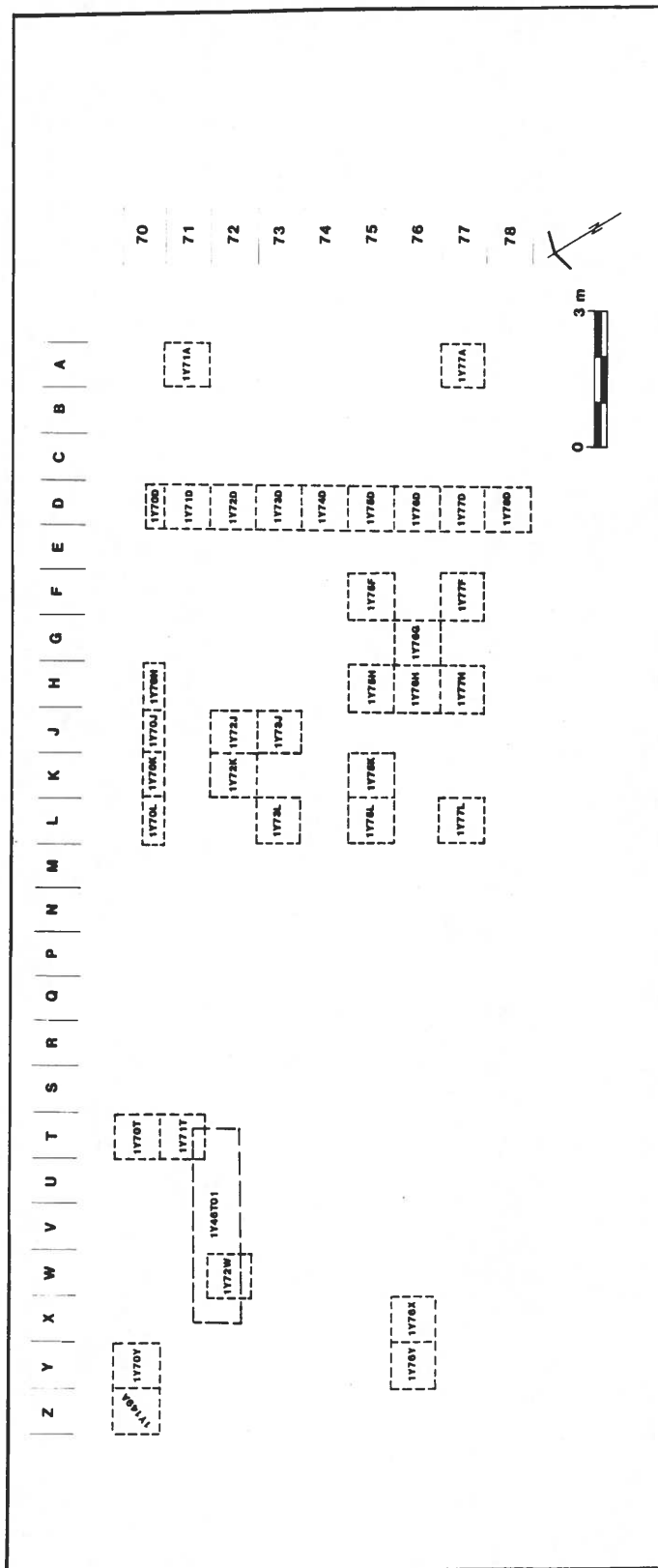


Figure 3.2. Location and identification of excavation units. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

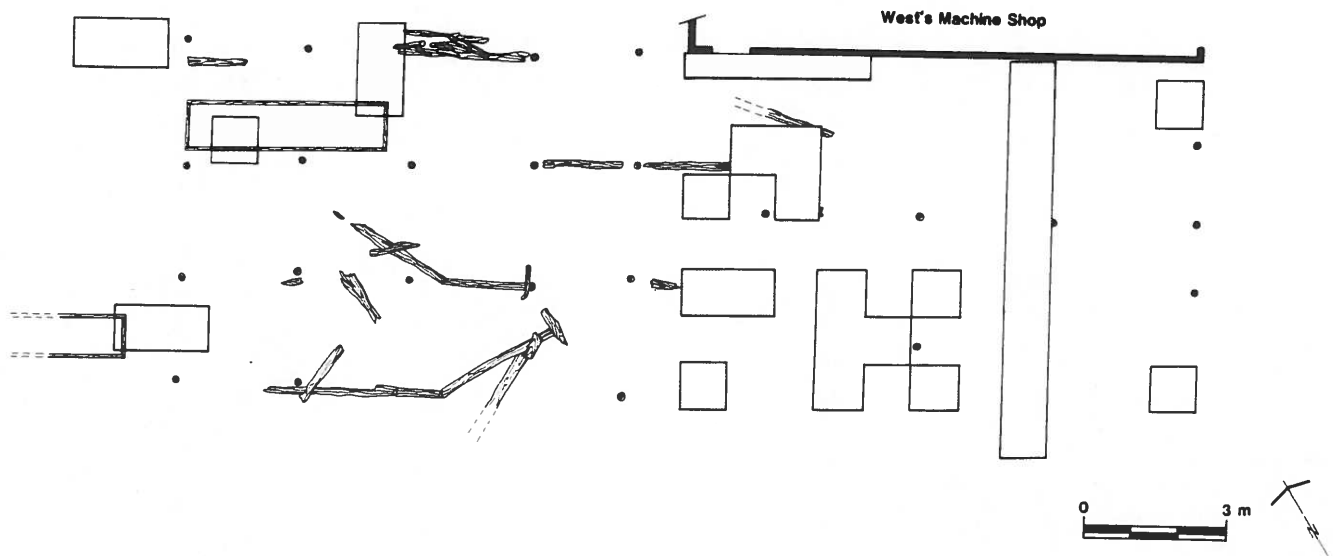


Figure 3.3. Surface structural remains. (Drawn by D. Elrick)

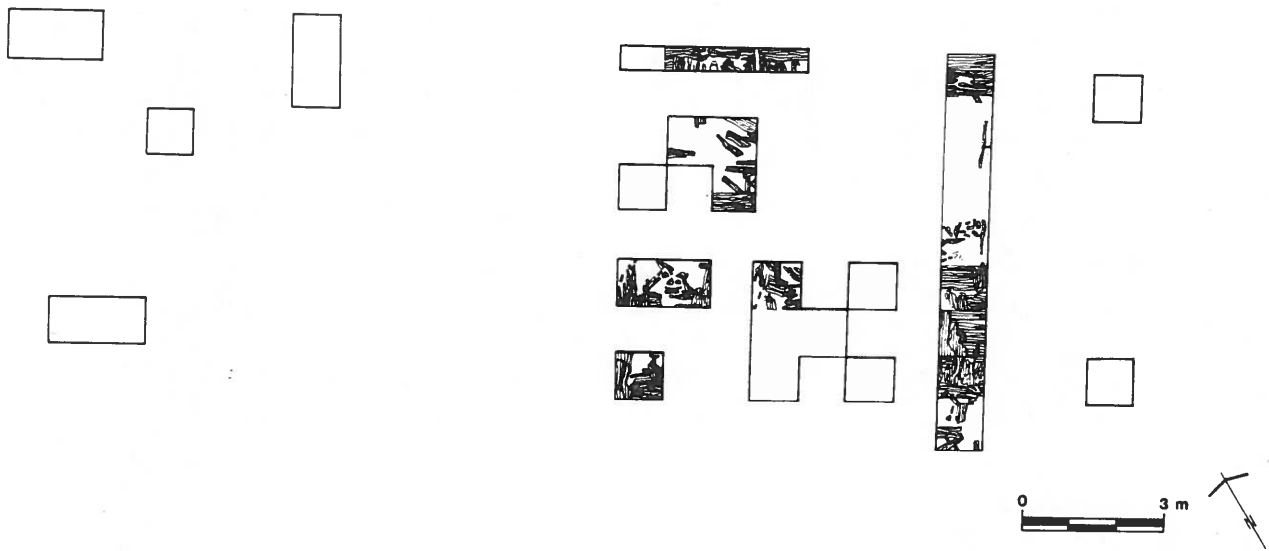


Figure 3.4. Flooring remains. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

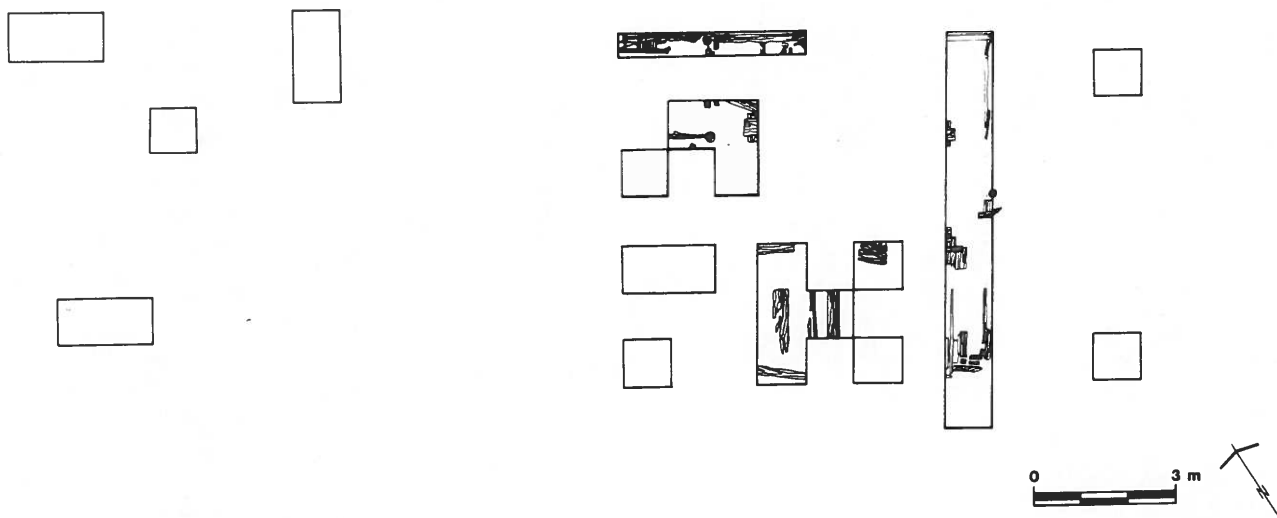


Figure 3.5. Sub-floor structural remains, surface and excavated. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

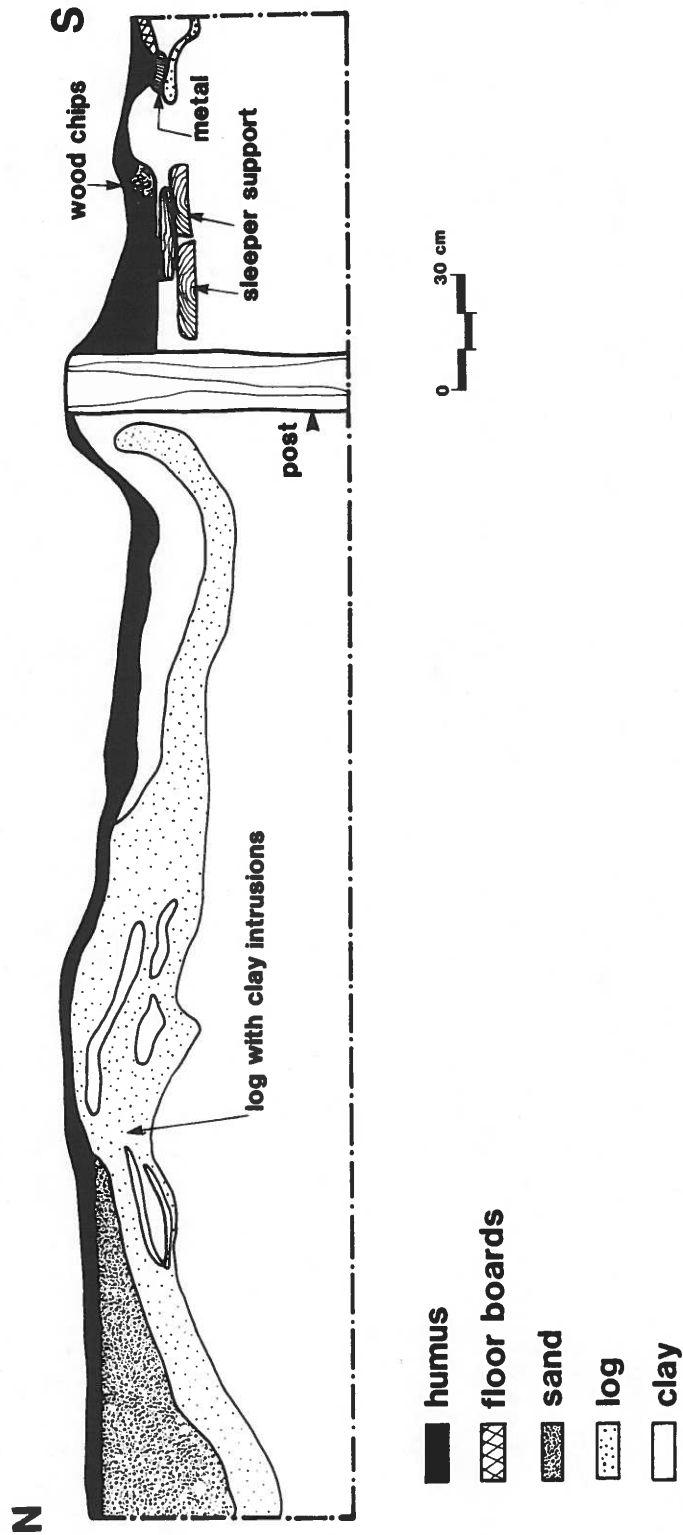


Figure 3.6. 1Y71D to 1Y78D, east profile. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

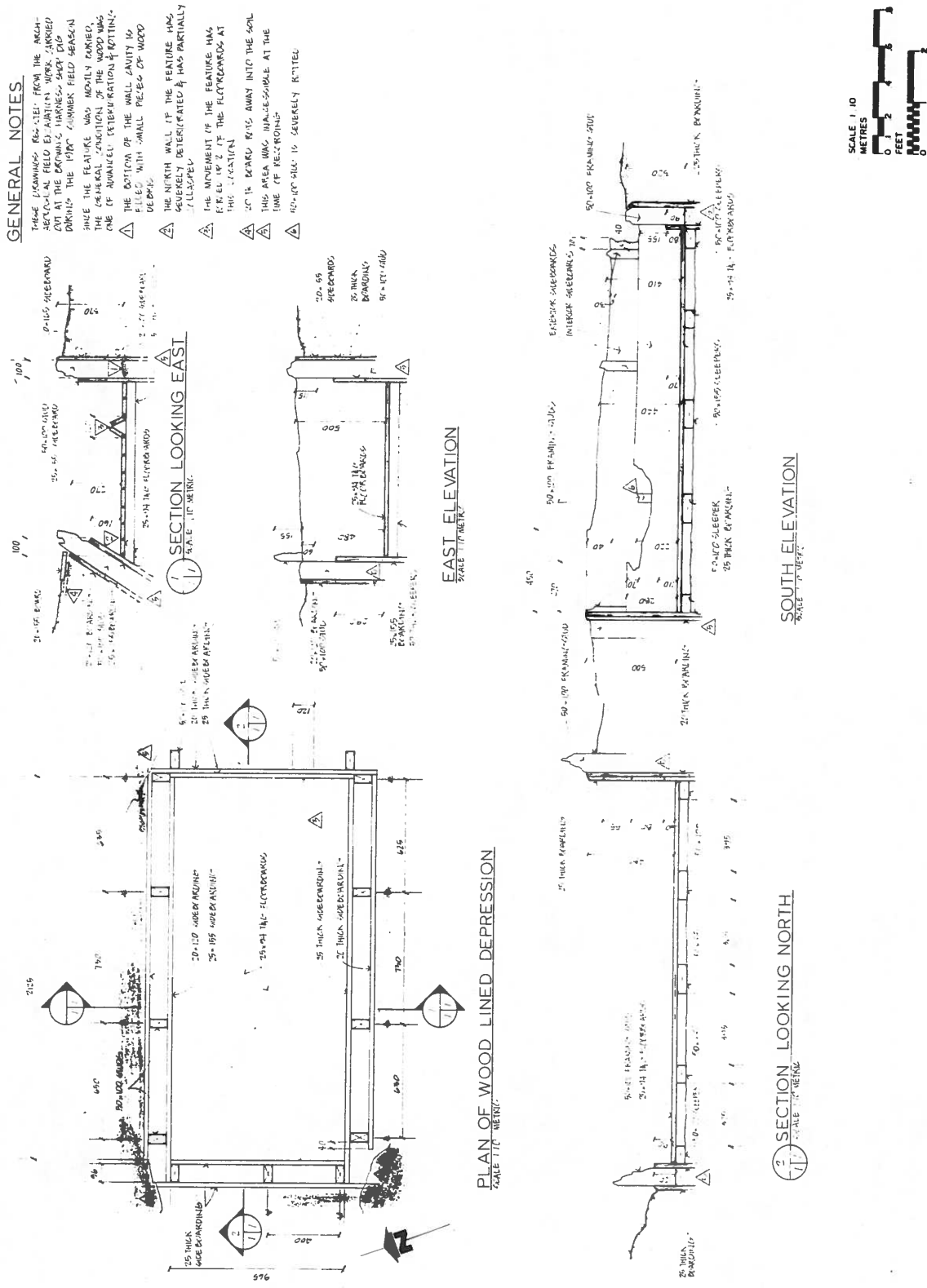


Figure 3.7. Plan, sections and elevations of wood-lined pit (feature No. 1). (Drawn by G. Menzies.)

Figure 3.8.

1Y70H1-1Y70L1, flooring remains in east-west test trench adjacent to south wall of West's Machine Shop. (Photo by B. Ross.)

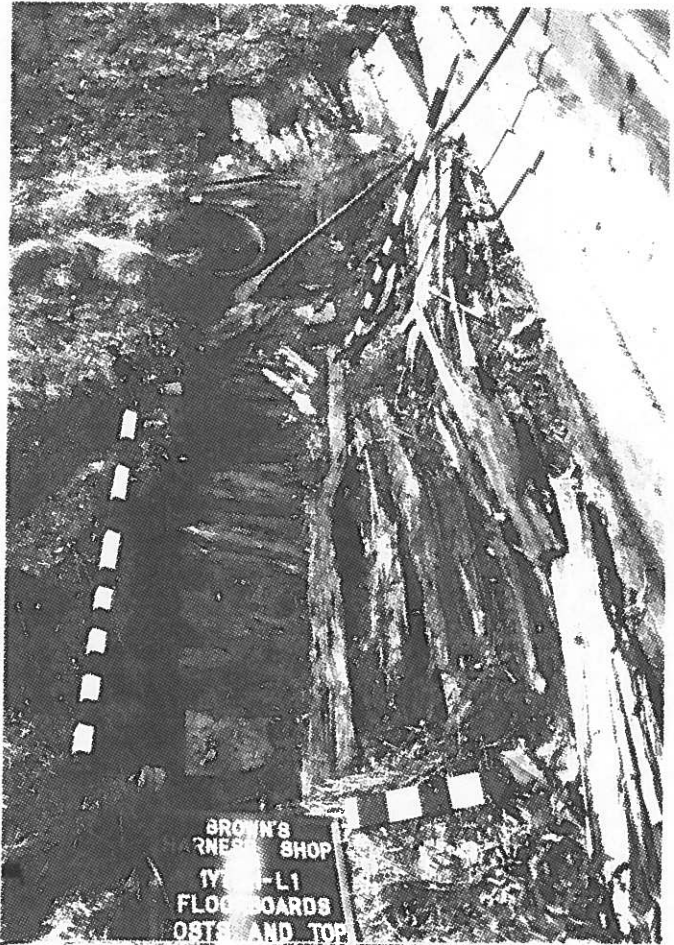


Figure 3.9. 1Y70D2; remains of wooden drain, sill and joist (beam across top belongs to West's Machine Shop in next lot). (Photo by B. Ross.)

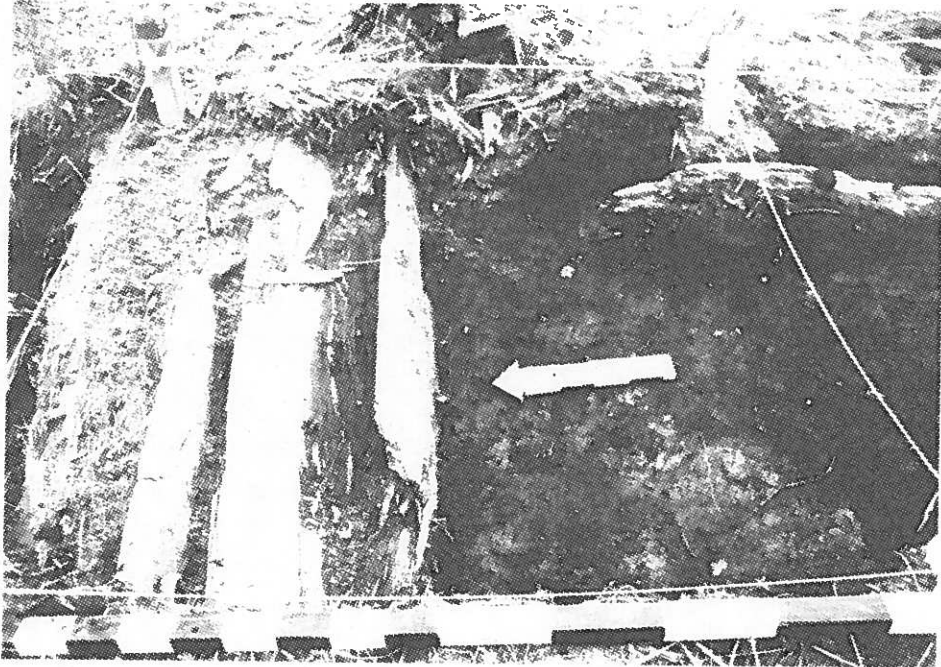


Figure 3.10. 1Y70T2, section of wooden drain. (Photo by B. Ross.)

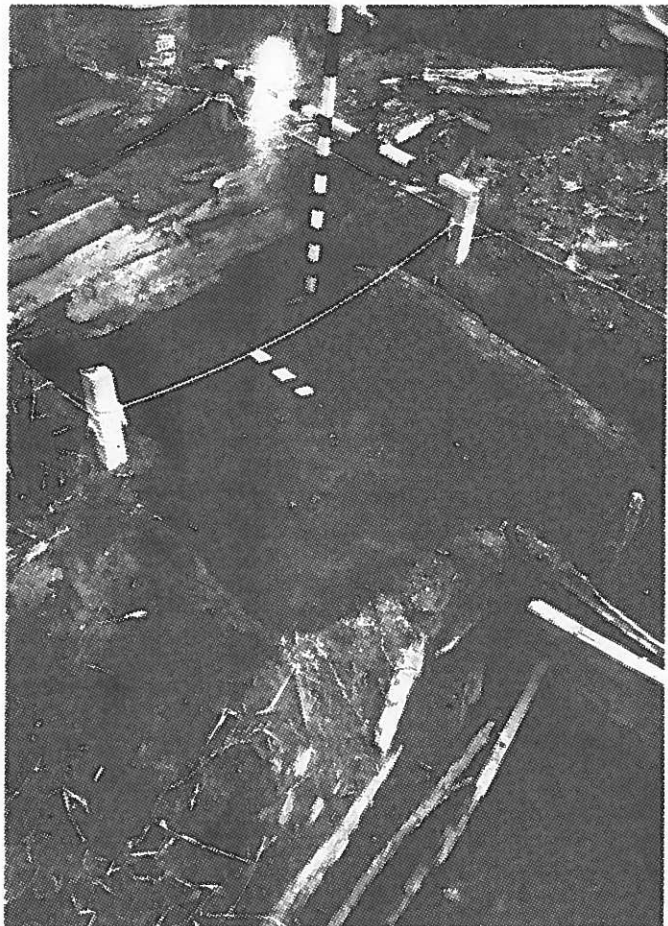


Figure 3.11.

1Y70T3, section of wooden gutter and fragments of floor joists. (Photo by B. Ross.)



Figure 3.12. 1Y70Y1; planview of bottom of first lot, showing single plank and scattered artifacts. (Photo by S. Keen.)

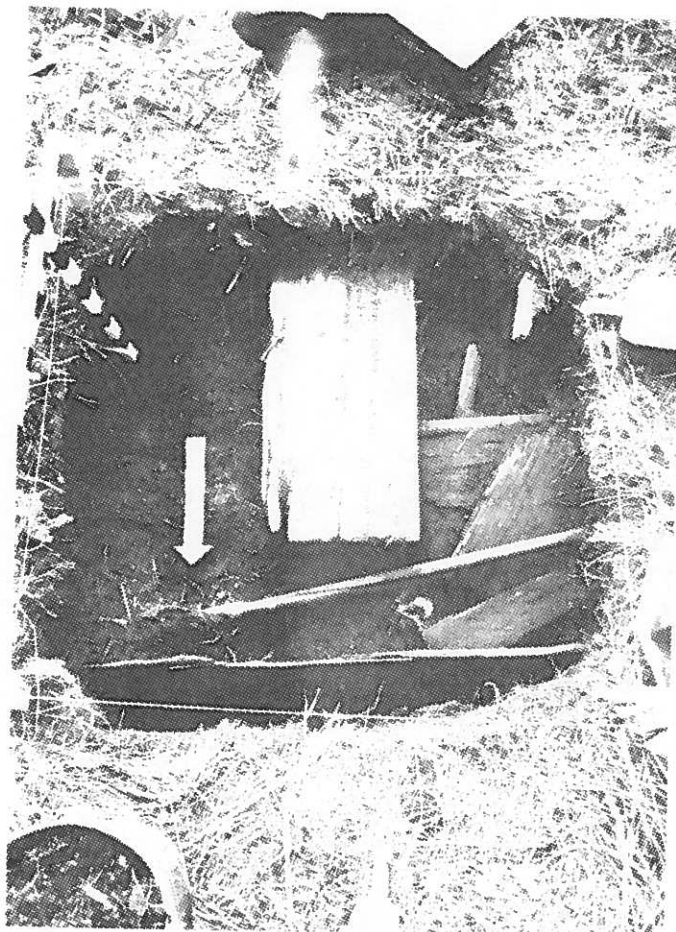


Figure 3.13.
1Y70Y2, planview of wooden remains. (Photo by B. Ross.)

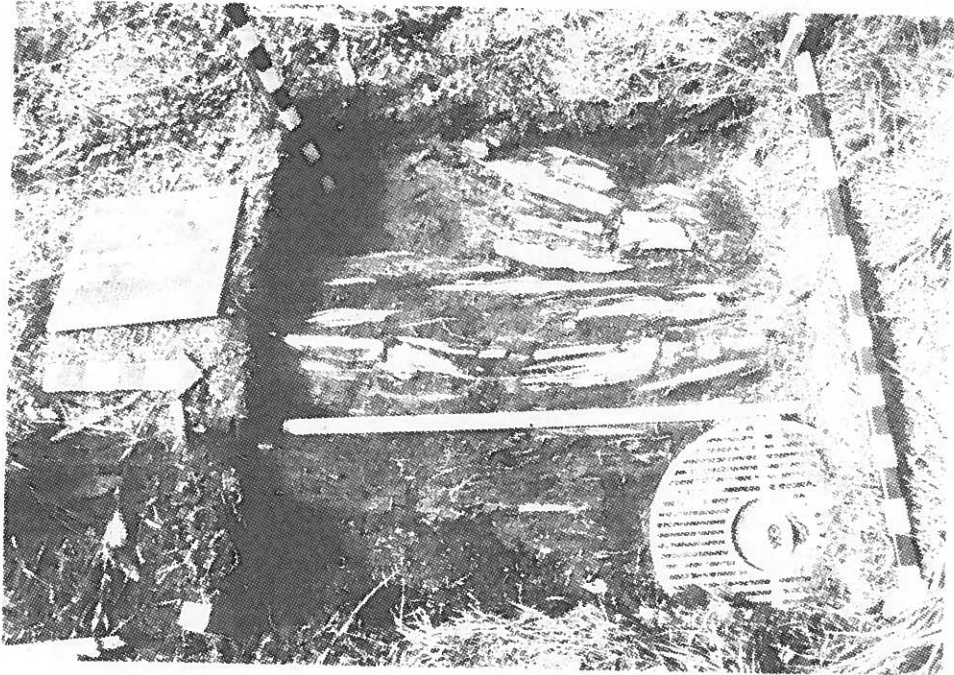


Figure 3.14. 1Y71A1, flooring remains and probable floor grate near northeast corner of building. (Photo by B. Ross.)



Figure 3.15.

1Y76D1, 1Y77D1; section of double flooring with upper layer extensively deteriorated. (Photo by B. Ross.)

Figure 3.16.

1Y76X4, 1Y76Y4; planview
 showing squared post,
 sill and in situ hames.
 (Photo by B. Ross.)

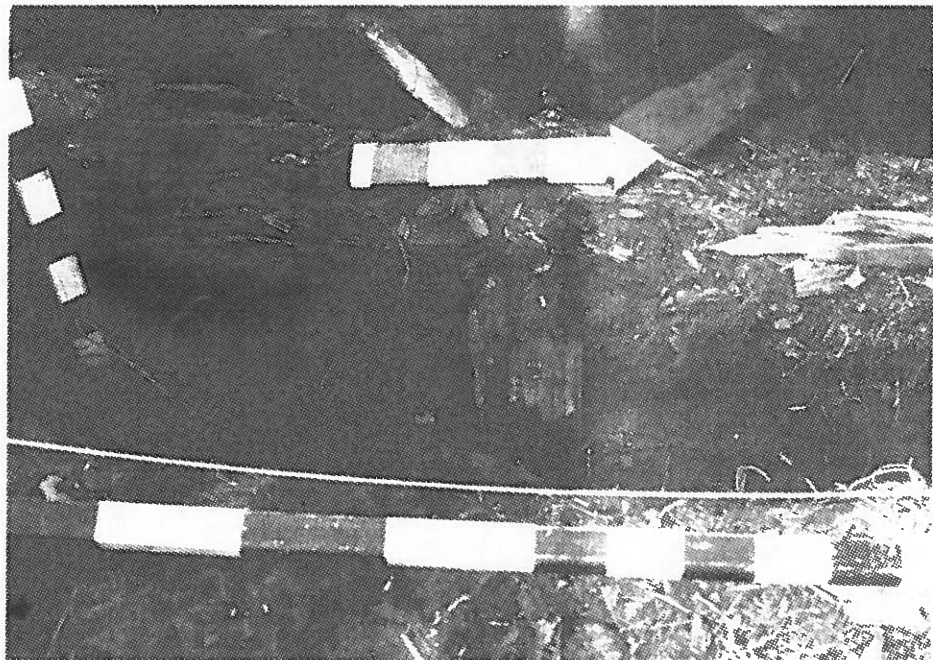
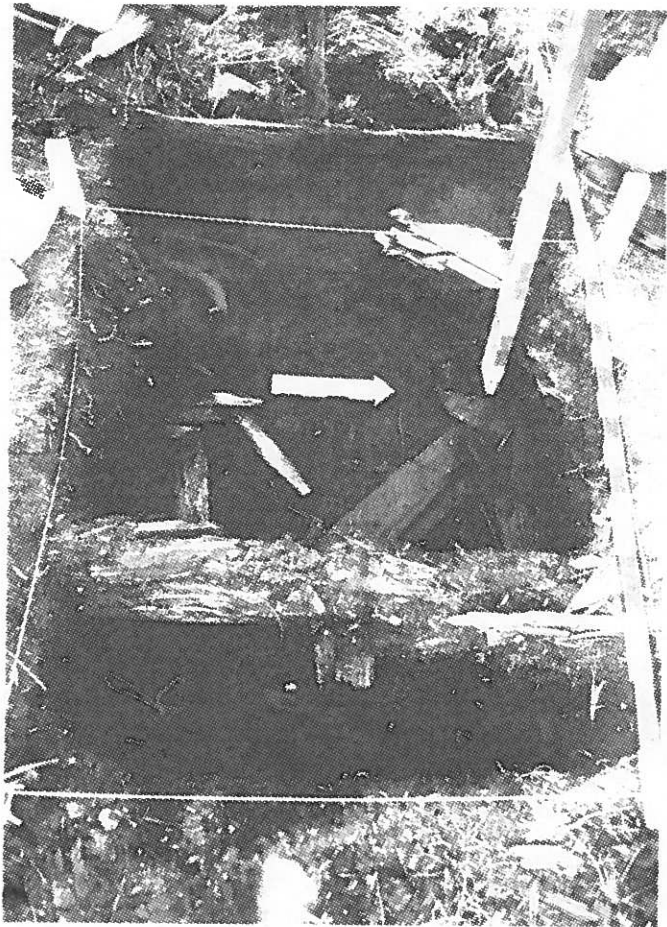


Figure 3.17. 1Y76X5, squared foundation post and section
 of sill above it. (Photo by B. Ross.)

Figure 3.18.

1Y75D2-1Y78D2; view along trench across structure, showing various support planks. (Photo by B. Ross.)

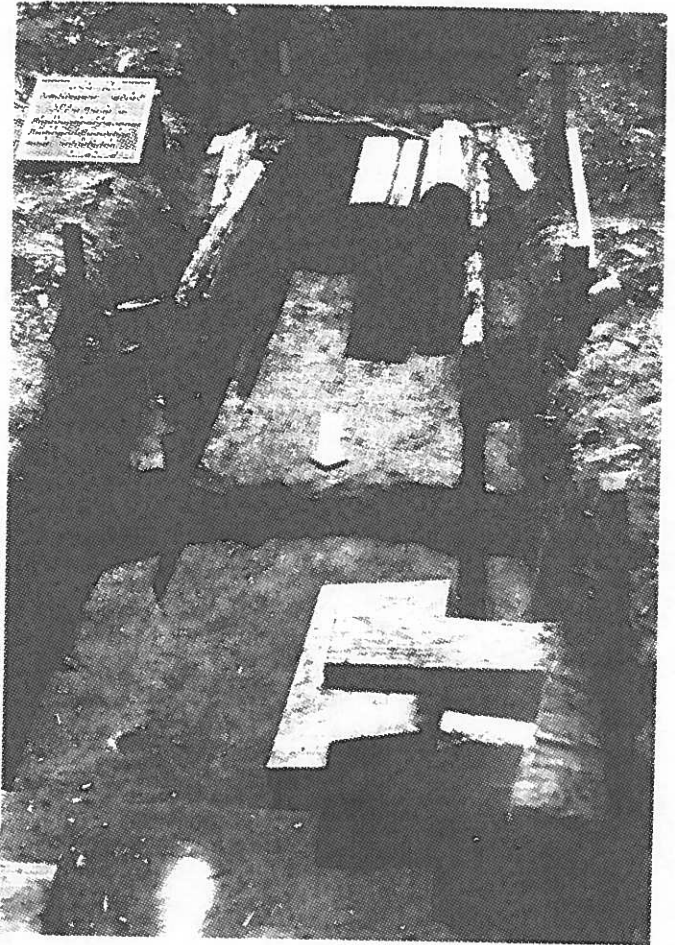


Figure 3.19.

1Y46T1, general view of wood-lined pit (feature No. 1) after removal of fill. (Photo by B. Ross.)

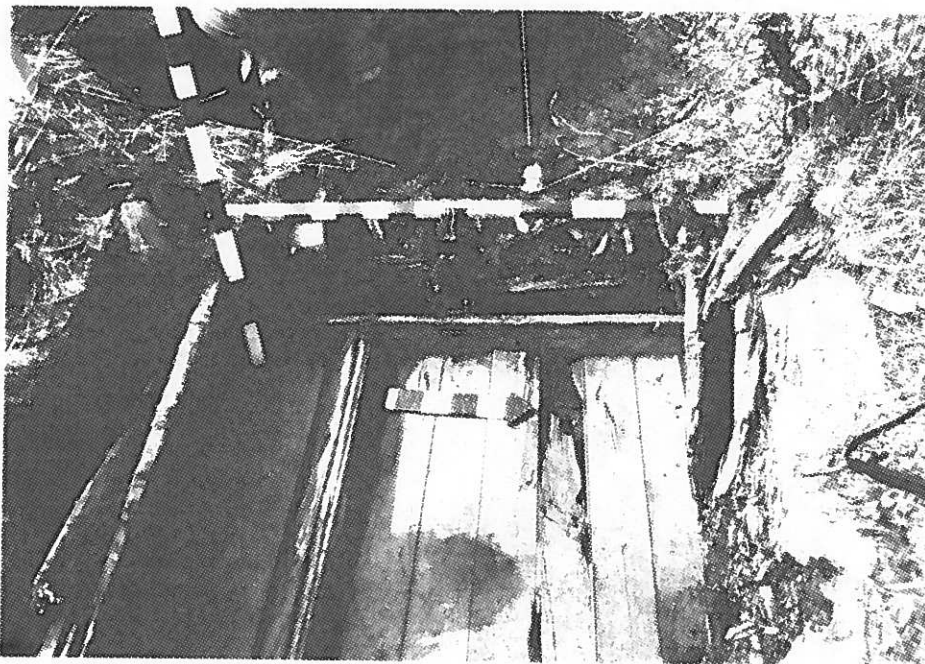


Figure 3.20. 1Y46T1, west end of wood-lined pit (feature No. 1), providing some construction detail of north, south and west walls. (Photo by B. Ross.)

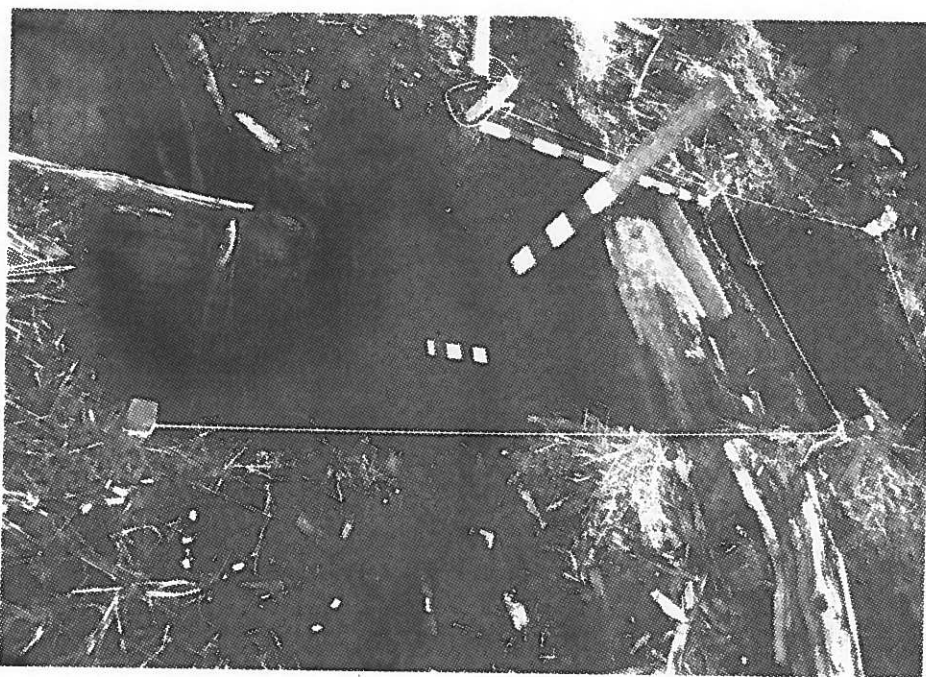


Figure 3.21. 1Y69T-1Y71T, test trench extending from wood-lined pit (feature No. 1) across wooden drain. (Photo by B. Ross.)

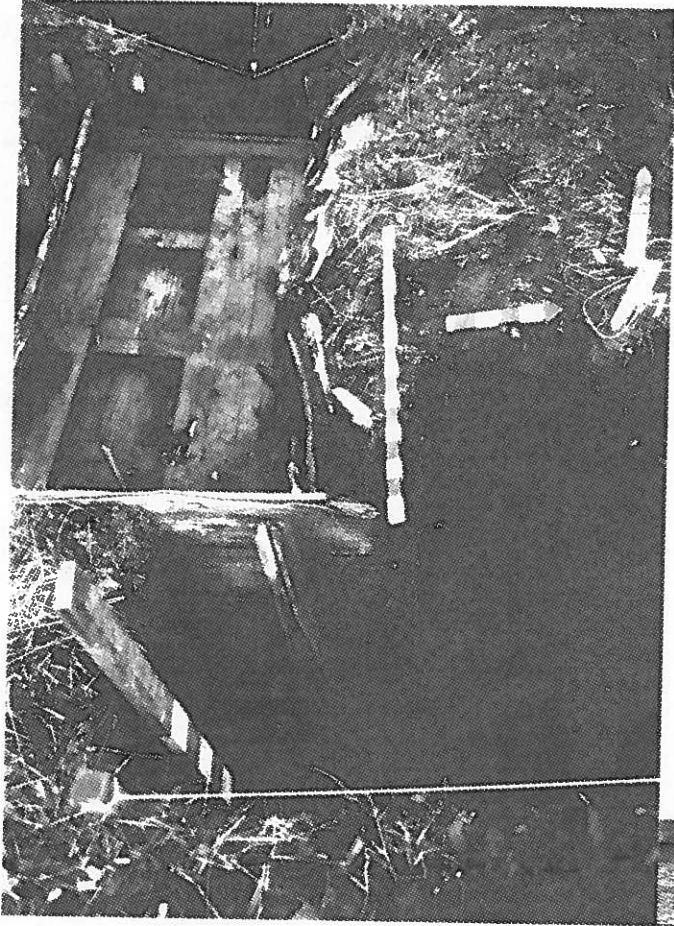


Figure 3.22.

1Y46T1, 1Y71T7, detail of northeast corner and floor of wood-lined pit (feature No. 1). (Photo by B. Ross.)

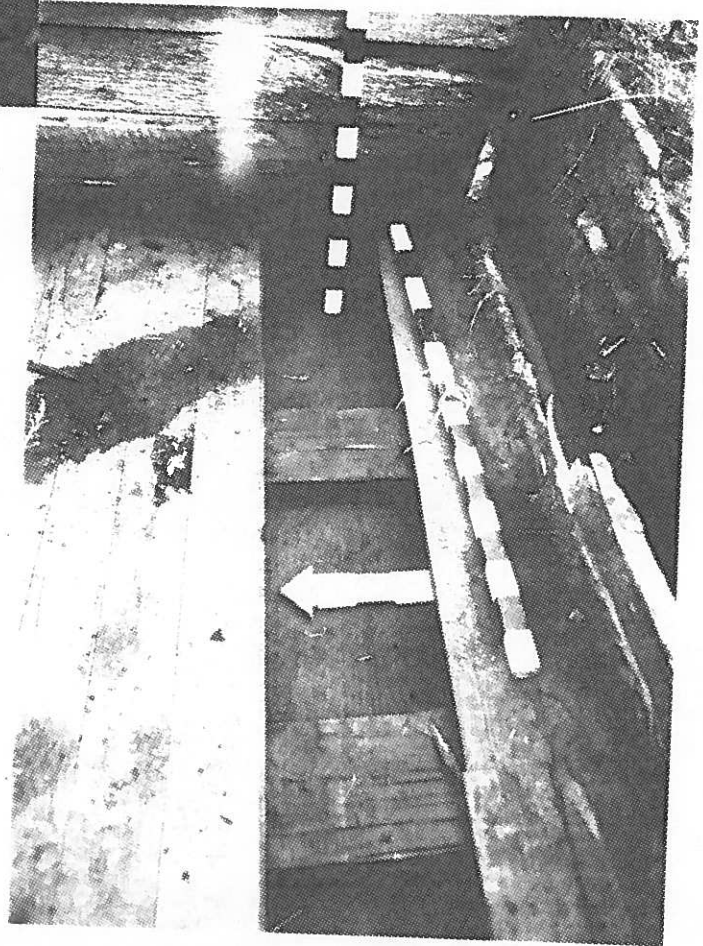


Figure 3.23.

1Y46T1, interior of wood-lined pit (feature No. 1), after removal of several floor boards to show detail of construction. (Photo by B. Ross.)

Part 4 Excavations at the Fort Herchmer Stables
(1978, 1981, 1982)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Development of the gold rush brought with it a need for law and order and resulted in the establishment of a Northwest Mounted Police post, Fort Herchmer, in 1897. The rapid expansion of mining activities and the community of Dawson City saw a major expansion of the post in 1898. Expansion continued during the next few years and in 1903 new construction included a major stable for horses with some space for cows. During subsequent years the role of the police developed and changed as Dawson City developed and changed and by 1914 a number of the early buildings at Fort Herchmer had been removed. By 1925 the stable had been altered to its present configuration (Fig. 4.1) by removal of a portion of its east end (40%). This involved removal of the cow stalls and a few horse stalls and destruction of the building's original symmetry.

The stable has been characterized as

a typical example of the type of institutional...stables constructed from architectural drawings and written specifications during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The elongated centre alley plan, gable roof with large ventilators, high windows, and attached harness room are some of the distinguishing architectural features (Bouse 1982).

The harness room was originally almost centrally located along one side, giving the building a T-shape. Two ventilators were located along the ridge towards either end of the roof. The 1920s changes destroyed this symmetry and left only one ventilator. The walls were stud framed with cove siding on the exterior and horizontal boarding on the

interior. Original plans and estimates of material indicate footings consisting of short posts, on mudsills, supporting a system of sills and joists. Early in the 1980s the building was judged to be "in fair to very bad condition" with major components in possible danger of collapse because of extensive deterioration of supporting elements and shifting of other elements (Bouse 1982).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Initial investigations, in 1978, were intended to establish the potential of the stable area for archaeology. These investigations consisted of two metre-square units outside the west door and a single metre-square unit west of the building and established that considerable structural remains were present adjacent to the building (Ross 1979). Subsequent work, in 1981 and 1982 (Ross 1982; 1983), centred on plans to stabilize the structure and attempted to collect additional information on the structure prior to disturbance of the area by activities related to stabilization (Fig. 4.2). In 1981 (excavations designated as 7Y901D) the line of the north wall and part of the east wall of the now non-extant east end of the building were investigated. In 1982 (excavations designated 7Y901E) a metre wide north south trench was excavated through the stable and harness room. Surface artifacts were also collected.

Methodology

Excavation was in terms of metre wide units, either one or two metres in length. Vertical control was largely maintained through excavation in arbitrary levels, usually 5 or 10 cm, assigned after removal of most or all of the remaining floor fragments. The 1978 excavations used cultural levels in the area outside the west door, based on presence of flooring from the ramp. The harness room area

was also divided into quarters for surface collecting. Depth of excavation was sometimes determined by the presence of permafrost.

EXCAVATION RESULTS

The excavated structural remains relate primarily to the lower part of the building - the floor and below. These remains will be discussed in reference to the original construction plans since a number of differences are apparent.

The original design along with the estimate of materials and costs has been reproduced by Bush (1972: 117-8, Fig. 16)(Fig. 4.12). The building was intended to rest on a series of short posts set on 3 by 10 inch mudsills. The plan does not indicate a length for the posts but the scale of the drawing suggests a length of slightly over three feet. With 450 linear feet of posts in the estimate of materials, there would have been slightly less than 150 posts (128 3-1/2 foot posts). There were to be 4 longitudinal rows of posts plus another shorter row under the harness room's north wall; a total length of 384 feet of posts. Assuming that there was no waste and that 128 posts would have been used, spacing between posts would have been slightly less than three feet. A three foot spacing may have been the objective since joist spacing was specified as 18 inches - every other joist would then rest directly over a post. Each row of posts was to support a 6 by 8 inch sill. The total length of sills and mudsills in the estimate is 490 lineal ft. The actual length required (four - 90 foot lengths and another 24 feet for the harness room) is 384 feet. The estimate seems to allow for more than 20 percent waste and also suggests that the mudsills would run the full length of each row of posts rather than

being in short lengths to support each post separately. The latter arrangement would require less length of mud sill and with posts spaced at three feet it would be illogical to support each post separately. The sills would support 2 by 10 inch joists spanning the width of the building (28 ft.) on 18 inch centres (specified 60 28 foot joists for a 90 foot building [as well as smaller quantities of 12 and 14 foot joists - for the harness room and elsewhere]).

From excavation of a small portion of the structure, it appears that much of the above design was not executed. There is no evidence of a system of posts and mudsills and limited evidence for joists resting on longitudinal sills. Bouse (1982), however, suggests that the original design was used but removed by subsequent repairs and alterations. This may be theoretically possible but would require a tremendous amount of work since the orientation of the floor joists appears to have been changed.

Unfortunately the archaeological record offers only a limited view of the building's structural detail and development. This is largely due to the limited area of investigation but in part is also due to difficulties in relating structural remains in one area to remains in another. Recording of the excavations did not always pay adequate attention to the structural remains. They were not recorded in sufficient detail and relationships with remains in other units or to previous or subsequent structural remains within the same unit were not always noted.

Sub-Floor Support System

The excavations did not uncover any conclusive evidence for a system of mudsills, posts and sills. Excavations on the non-extant portion of the structure (original east end)

being in short lengths to support each post separately. The latter arrangement would require less length of mud sill and with posts spaced at three feet it would be illogical to support each post separately. The sills would support 2 by 10 inch joists spanning the width of the building (28 ft.) on 18 inch centres (specified 60 28 foot joists for a 90 foot building [as well as smaller quantities of 12 and 14 foot joists - for the harness room and elsewhere]).

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Sub-Floor Support System

The excavations did not uncover any conclusive evidence for a system of mudsills, posts and sills. Excavations on the non-extant portion of the structure (original east end)

(Fig. 4.19) indicated the general absence of sills and uncovered the remains of construction using joists supported directly by stacked footings or short sleepers (or bearing pads) oriented perpendicular to the joist (Figs. 4.11, 4.19-4.22, 4.24, 4.25). The east wall had a sill, supported on short perpendicular sleepers which, in turn, supported the ends of the east west oriented joists with a header attached across the ends of the joists (Figs. 4.24, 4.25) .

Evidence from the east end of the original structure, however, seems to conflict with evidence uncovered by an analysis of the extant portion of the structure conducted in 1981 by Engineering and Architecture from Ottawa. This analysis included a number of non-archaeological excavations at strategic locations on the building's exterior to obtain information on footings (Bouse 1982). The conclusion reached by these investigations is that the original plans were more or less followed from the sill level upwards. The building was set on four major sills, oriented east-west or parallel to the long axis of the building, with one sill under each of the long outside walls and one sill under each row of posts on either side of the main aisle. The sills, rather than being supported on posts and mudsills, rested on bearing pads. Evidence for existence of north-south oriented joists across this set of sills was not conclusive.

East-west oriented sills are also present in the the archaeological test trench across the middle of the stable and through the harness room (Figs. 4.26, 4.27). A sill was present under the north walls of the stable and harness room. Sills were also present on either side of the aisle (Figs. 4.33-4.36) to provide footing for the posts. However, these interior sills appeared to be resting on a layer of flooring (Figs. 4.34, 4.36). The situation is further confused by the presence of two sills, one above the other, under the north wall of the harness room. The

latter may indicate renovations - an explanation supported by the existence of an abnormally narrow lower rail in the harness room north door (at the north end of the test trench). Rail width would have been reduced substantially by the introduction of a second sill (the bottom of the door would have been cut off to allow the door to fit into a shorter opening - the same result could have been achieved by cutting off the top of the door).

The final structural element below the flooring are the joists to which the floorboards are attached. In the case of a stable it is more practical to have floorboards oriented parallel to a stall so that the floor of any one stall can be repaired or replaced without interference from stall partitions. Removing and replacing planks which run under a partition is an awkward undertaking. The joists for such a floor should then run parallel to the length of the building (perpendicular to the line of the stalls). This was not the original design. A further requirement of a stable floor is drainage, achieved by having the stall floor sloping down towards the back of a stall. In the original design this was to be accomplished by a second set of joists at right angles to the lower joists in the areas of the stalls. These joists would have the required orientation and by being of different thicknesses would provide the required slope in the stall floor. The original or lower joists could be used for attaching the aisle planking parallel to the length of the building, where such an orientation would not be inconvenient.

The archaeological test trench across the stable established the presence of joists parallel to the building under both stall areas (Fig. 4.31). The north stall area in this instance was in fact the walkway from the harness room to the stable aisle and therefore may not be typical of a stall. On the north side (walkway) a set of east-west joists were found situated on an earlier layer of flooring (Figs. 4.6, 4.7, 4.31) which in turn appears to have been

placed on another set of joists, also oriented east-west. The lower joists, for which the evidence was more fragmentary, do not appear to be set on any sub-joist supports (joists at right angles) as initially proposed but rest on and in the ground, possibly stabilized with the use of rocks (Fig. 4.32). Evidence for the south side - the area of an actual stall - is similar but with less substantial evidence for the second set of joists (Fig. 4.10). Rather than install a complete set of joists, the stall may have been renovated by providing only sufficient joists for adequate attachment of the flooring and to achieve the required slope. Again, the lower joists did not appear to rest on any other joists but were in the ground.

Excavations across the aisle did not encounter any evidence of flooring or joists. With the joists originally designed to be on 18 inch centres, it is not possible to miss them with a metre wide trench.

The joists found under the walkway and stall are consistent with those uncovered at the stables' original east end. This suggests that the original intention of having north-south joists supporting additional joists or continuous blocking for the attachment of stall floors was not carried out.

During excavation of the east end of the non-extant portion of the north wall it was initially noted that the structural remains consisted of two horizontal planks, on edge and separated by a stud (Fig. 4.23). This was seen as a section of the stud wall with remnants of both the interior and exterior planking. This configuration does not appear in illustrations of the completed excavation (Figs. 4.19, 4.24). This initial perception may have been in error and it is unlikely to have been part of the wall. The plank appears at the same level as floor joists elsewhere and rests on timber blocks or shims.

Flooring

Remains of flooring were present in the extant structure but the excavations on the non-extant east end did not uncover any such remains. The walkway and stall areas both had the remains of two layers of flooring, separated by a partial or complete set of joists (Figs. 4.5, 4.7-4.9, 4.30, 4.31, 4.33-4.38). Planks for the floor were generally 5 cm thick and up to 30 cm wide. Plank width did not appear to be regular; the original specifications only listed plank thickness (2 inch or 5 cm.). The alley did not contain any flooring remains although a convex floor was included in the original design and a wooden floor would have been an advantage to provide some degree of comfort for both animals and people. Neither the original design nor the archaeology included any indication of a gutter. Drainage of liquid waste would presumably be provided by the sloping stall floors and an arched alley floor. Lack of a gutter would have been a further reason for needing a wooden floor. Removal of liquid waste would have been through absorption by straw litter and primarily by drainage between the floorboards and into the ground underneath. Unfortunately such an arrangement would have contributed to deterioration of a wooden floor by keeping it constantly wet and would have resulted in a unpleasant odor from the urine soaked ground under the floor. The original design may have been modified to remove a wooden alley floor once its disadvantages were recognized through use.

Harness Room

Investigation of the harness room, on the north side of the stable, provided evidence of multiple layers of flooring (Figs. 4.3, 4.4, 4.28, 4.29) and a set of north-south oriented joists. The floor joists, one of which measured

23 cm by 5 cm, were supported at their north end in a groove cut into the upper edge of the wall sill. The sill measured 15 cm by 19 cm. The upper or last layer of flooring, oriented north-south, was tongue and groove (or matched) planking, as listed in the original specifications. The next to last layer of flooring was oriented east-west and was comprised of 3 cm thick square-edge planking of varying width, up to 27 cm wide.

During the excavations it was noted that the harness room may have had as many as five layers of flooring. However, the recorded evidence does not indicate more than a single set of joists and a double layer of flooring. The joists in the excavated trench had sagged over time, indicating that the floor and joists had originally been above ground level.

Approximately in the centre of the room there was a rectangular, three-layered, sheet metal patch on the floor (Figs. 4.3, 4.28). The bottom two layers were of similar size and the top layer was considerably larger. Together they probably formed a stove base. The building analysis also notes other evidence for presence of a stove.

Ramps

Excavations outside the west door and along the non-extant portion of the north wall located remains of ramps. The latter instance, by its presence, provided evidence for the existence, location and size of a doorway as well as confirming that the original building layout had been rotated 180° for execution (the cow stalls moved from the west end to the east end).

North Door Ramp

The north-side ramp (Figs. 4.19, 4.39-4.42) consisted of a series of planks perpendicular to the building (Figs. 4.39, 4.40), attached at their building end to a composite sill adjacent to the building wall. The sill was composed of a partially squared log, with a 24 cm by 28 cm cross section, and a 10 cm by 5 cm (2 by 4) plank attached along its upper surface (Figs. 4.39-4.41). The latter plank would have provided a more level surface to which the ramp planks would have been attached. The log sill had a non-functioning tenon at each end (Fig. 4.42), indicating a design change or reuse of a log. The attached plank was in two sections, each roughly 1.5 m long (Fig. 4.40).

The ramp planks were 5 cm thick and generally 19 cm wide. The north end of the ramp was not excavated so plank length (ramp width) and presence of other joists or sills was not established. There did not appear to be any slope to the ramp.

The excavated north wall ramp had less than half of its planking intact (Figs. 4.19, 4.39). Most of the west side was intact; the east side retained only a single fragmentary plank (Fig. 4.41). The total ramp width was noted as being 3.15 m.

As presented in the original design, the ramp location and consequently the door location straddles the dividing wall between horse stable and cow stable. Although this was a double door, one side of the door presumably would have led into the horse stable and the other half into the cow stable - the original design did not include an interior passage between the two. A number of features of the north wall ramp suggest that the east end of the stable may have been dismantled in stages separated by a relatively lengthy time period. The suggestion is that the cow stable portion was removed first and at a latter date the horse stable was shortened by removing a portion of its east end. A major reason for considering this possibility

is the fact that one side of the ramp is virtually intact whereas the other side is almost completely gone. The intact portion corresponds to the door leading to the horse stable. Removal of only the cow stable could have included removal of its associated portion of ramp to eliminate an obstruction from underfoot.

Stratigraphy in the vicinity of the ramp also suggests a differentiation between the two parts of the ramp and the existence of a number of events. Stratigraphy outside of the stable generally is largely a hard packed gravel (Figs. 4.44, 4.45), the remains of a parade square or exercise yard. In the area of the ramp much of this gravel is white. In the area of the non-extant portion ramp the gravel is substantially thicker (Fig. 4.39). There is virtually no white gravel over the section of ramp with extant planks. A possible explanation is that the white gravel was deposited after part of the ramp was removed and distribution of the gravel was affected by the part of the ramp which remained. Removal of the ramp would eliminate the possibility of access to the cow stable - the original design shows only a single access to it. Removal of part of the ramp could have been in conjunction with removal of part of the associated structure - the cow stable.

The nature of the ramp, as excavated, could also be due to other causes, such as more extensive deterioration due to more extensive use. Since the cow stable apparently had only a single entrance, the associated ramp would have experienced all of the traffic. The horse stable, however, had two entrances and the west door, being wider, may have been preferred.

West Door Ramp

The west door ramp was examined within a 1 m by 2 m excavation (Fig. 4.43) so that its complete extent cannot be

specified. In contrast to the north ramp, this one was composed of planks oriented parallel to the end wall and set on joists which were perpendicular to the wall. The joists or other aspects of the ramp may have been supported by posts. A post was uncovered protruding through the ramp planking. This post is also adjacent to a joist and may at one time have served as a joist footing.

Door

Excavations along the non-extant north wall exposed portions of a probable board and batten door, with two strap hinges attached (Figs. 4.14, 4.20, 4.22). The boards used were tongue and groove. There were also extensive remains of red paint on the wood. Stratigraphically, however, this item was in the uppermost or most recent deposits and probably not related to the original stable or removal of its east end. The extent of remaining paint also suggests that this is a relatively recent feature.

Posts

Two posts were present immediately outside the non-extant north wall (7Y901D01, 7Y901D05) (Figs. 4.20, 4.22), about 1.6 m apart and 15 cm in diameter. There is no indication that these are part of the wall or footings. They are more likely part of some feature immediately adjacent to the north wall. A fence may be a possibility but having posts immediately next to a building may not make any sense - the wall already forms a barrier. Since these posts are next to the north wall ramp leading to the horse stable section of the building, it is more likely that they were part of a hitching rail.

Water Lines

Excavations on the south side of the extant stables, south of the central aisle, exposed a section of water pipes enclosed in a wooden box (Figs. 4.35, 4.36). This feature was located in the stall area, on the stall side of the row of support posts (adjacent to the aisle) and resting on the stall floor. The feature extended to either side of the excavation but its total extent, if known, was not recorded.

The idea of enclosing one or more pipes in a wooden housing is not particularly noteworthy. Such an arrangement could, for instance, have provided some insulation and protection. However, the feature appears to be misplaced. It was likely not used where it was located by archaeology. The box would have projected above the level of the stall floor and thus rendered the south stalls unusable. The box would have been underfoot and, in a short time, been kicked apart by any horse using the stall.

The box of pipes, because of its probable length, also could not have been brought into the stall area for storage because it would not have been possible to move it to the inside of the line of support posts. The box and contents were more likely assembled in the area where they were found. Two options can be suggested: either the pipes and box were used where they were found or they were positioned elsewhere. If the feature was used at floor level, the south side stalls would have become unusable for stabling horses. To retain use of the stalls it would have been necessary to install the feature overhead, at the level of the attic joists, to eliminate any form of obstruction. It is assumed that these pipes were used in the stable, probably to provide a water supply to the individual stalls. Other records of the stable do not mention such an installation.

A RECONSIDERATION OF STABLE CONSTRUCTION

The remains of the east end of the original building may provide a better indication of original construction. It does not have major east-west oriented sills whereas the extant portion of the building has four east-west oriented sills. The non-extant east end has east-west oriented joists (smaller in cross section and spaced closer together than sills would be). None of these features are supported by posts. Rather, there are some planks used as bearing pads and some stacked timbers used as footings. In the extant structure the presence of apparent floors under some of the sills and a double layer of sills for one wall indicates renovation or repair (work after original construction). Joists are present in several locations and in all cases they are parallel to the length of the building (east-west). There is no indication of north-south joists under the excavated joists, beyond a suggestion of their presence from the non-archaeological investigations.

In general, the stable was laid out as indicated in the original design. A major variation was that the original design was rotated 180 degrees - the cow stable was located at the east end rather than the west end. The harness room, however, was not relocated from the north to the south side. Construction seems to have varied somewhat from what was originally proposed. There does not appear to have been a complete set of footing posts although sills were apparently used under the two long walls and the row of posts along either side of the main aisle of the horse stable. It also appears likely that joists rested on or

near the ground, parallel to the sills rather than across them. This arrangement means that the sills served only to support the walls and roof. The excavations also did not provide good evidence for a wooden floor in the central aisle.

The construction suggested above would have posed some difficulty for survival of the structure. The lack of a gutter would have put moisture onto and under the floor and would have contributed to deterioration of the floor. The lack of a wooden floor in the central aisle may also have been a problem with moisture continually present.

The stable as seen by the Parks architects (Fig. 4.13) and archaeologists may not have been the same building as originally constructed. The architectural building assessment (Bouse 1982) assumes that the original design was executed and that the later building configuration was the result of repairs and alterations. However, excavations conducted for the building assessment and by archaeology did not provide conclusive evidence of the original design or subsequent modifications.

A possible explanation for a difference between the horse and cow stable footings is that it is the result of intentional design. For whatever reason, the footing requirement for the horse stable was seen to be greater than that for the cow stable. The available plans, however, show only the intentions for the horse stable. Such an explanation does not take into consideration the fact that the horse stable also does not appear to have been constructed as planned - sills were used but not for support of the floor joists and the sills do not appear to be supported in a regular system of posts and mudsills.



Figure 4.1. East end of extant stable and harness room.
(Photo by B. Ross)

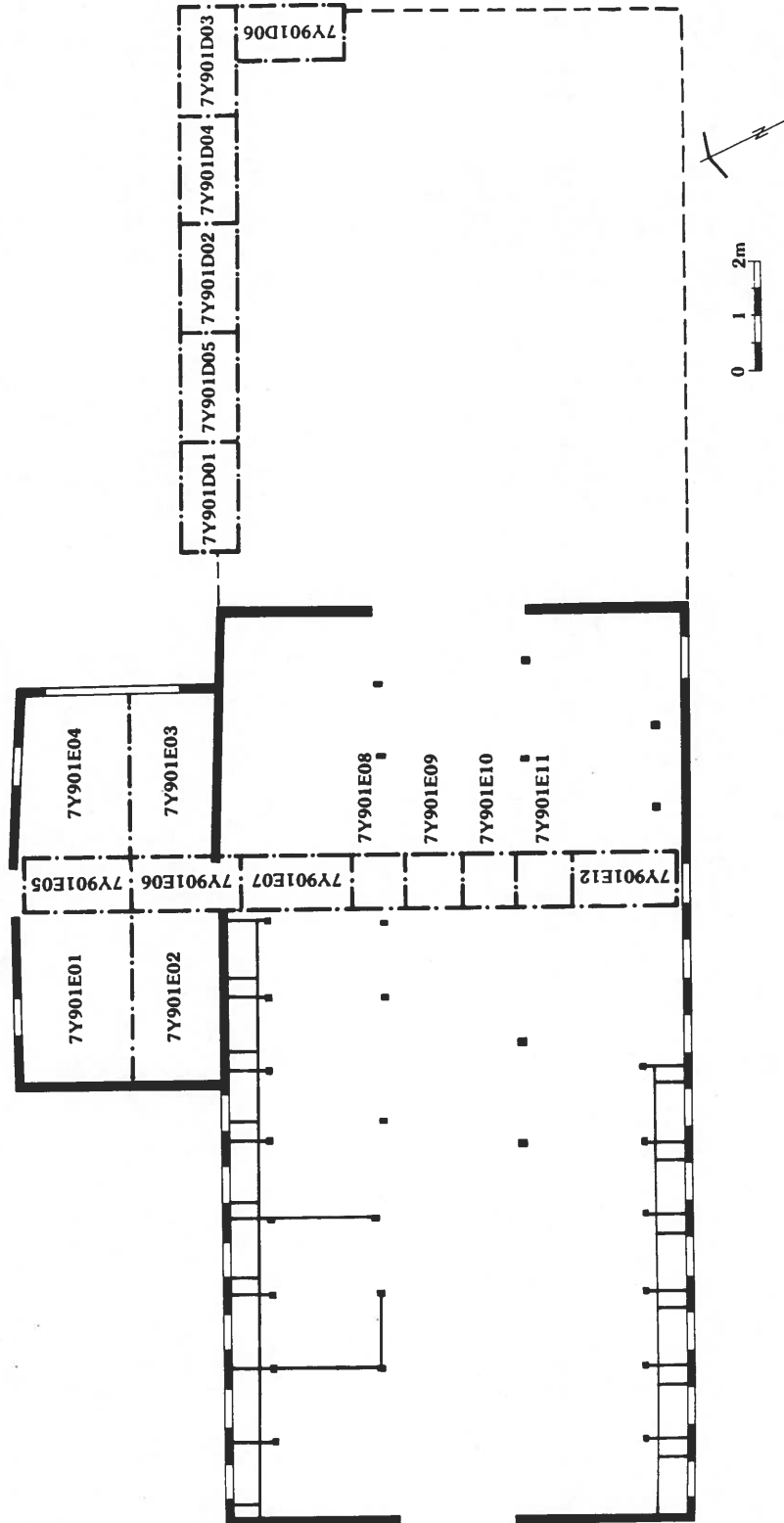


Figure 4.2. Location and identification of excavation units. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

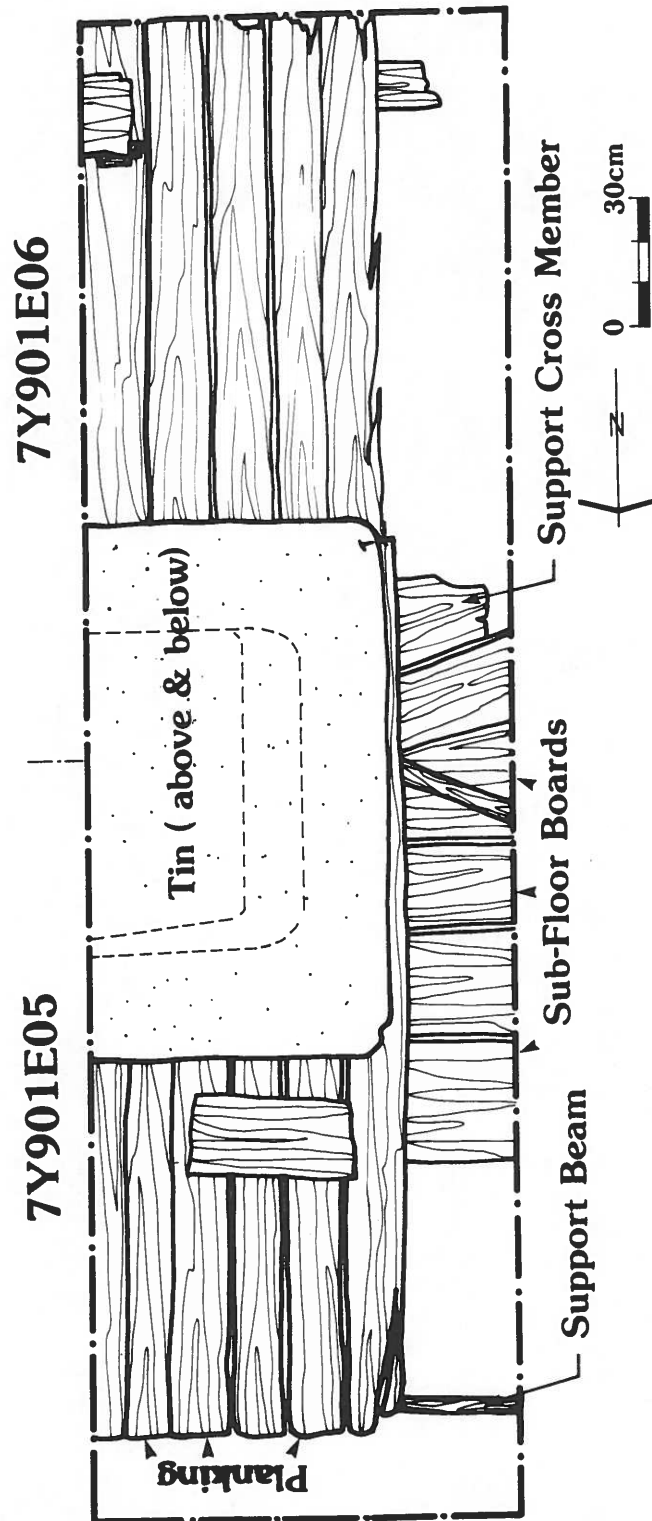


Figure 4.3. Harness room, plan of top layer of flooring.
(Drawn by D. Elrick.)

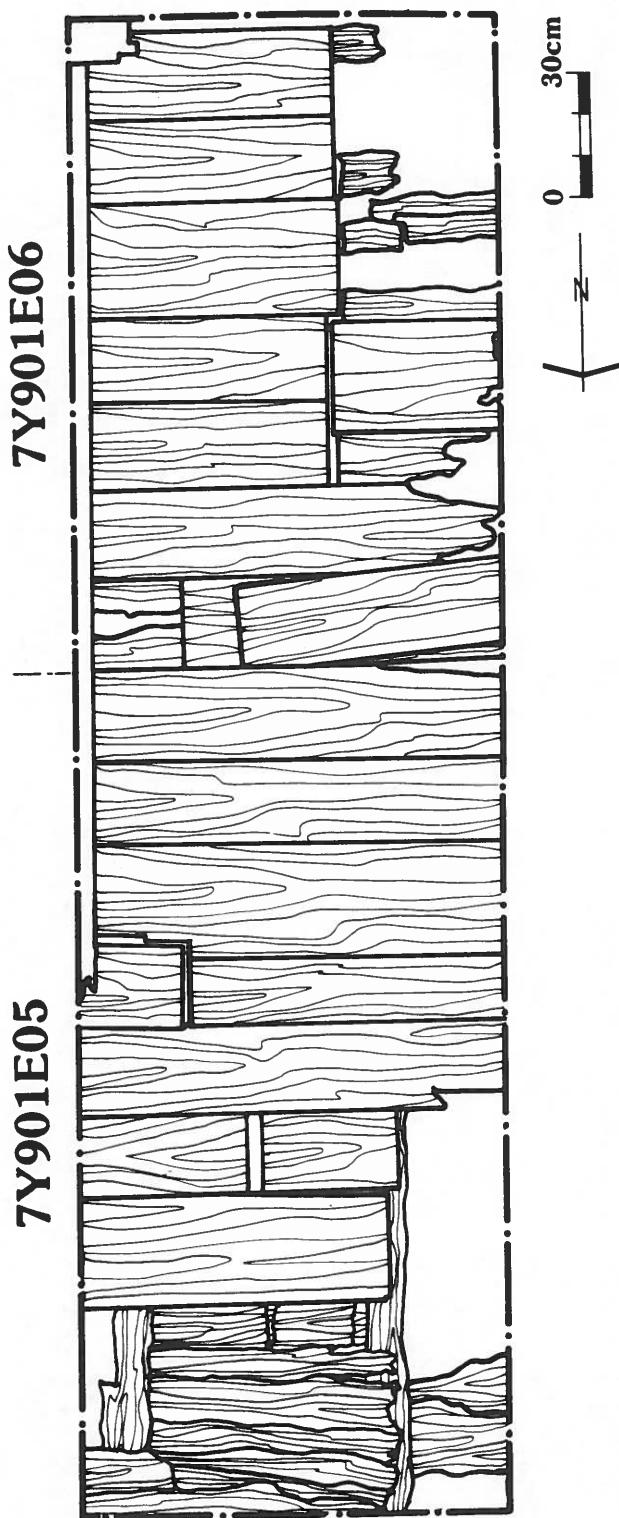


Figure 4.4. Harness room, plan of second layer of flooring. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

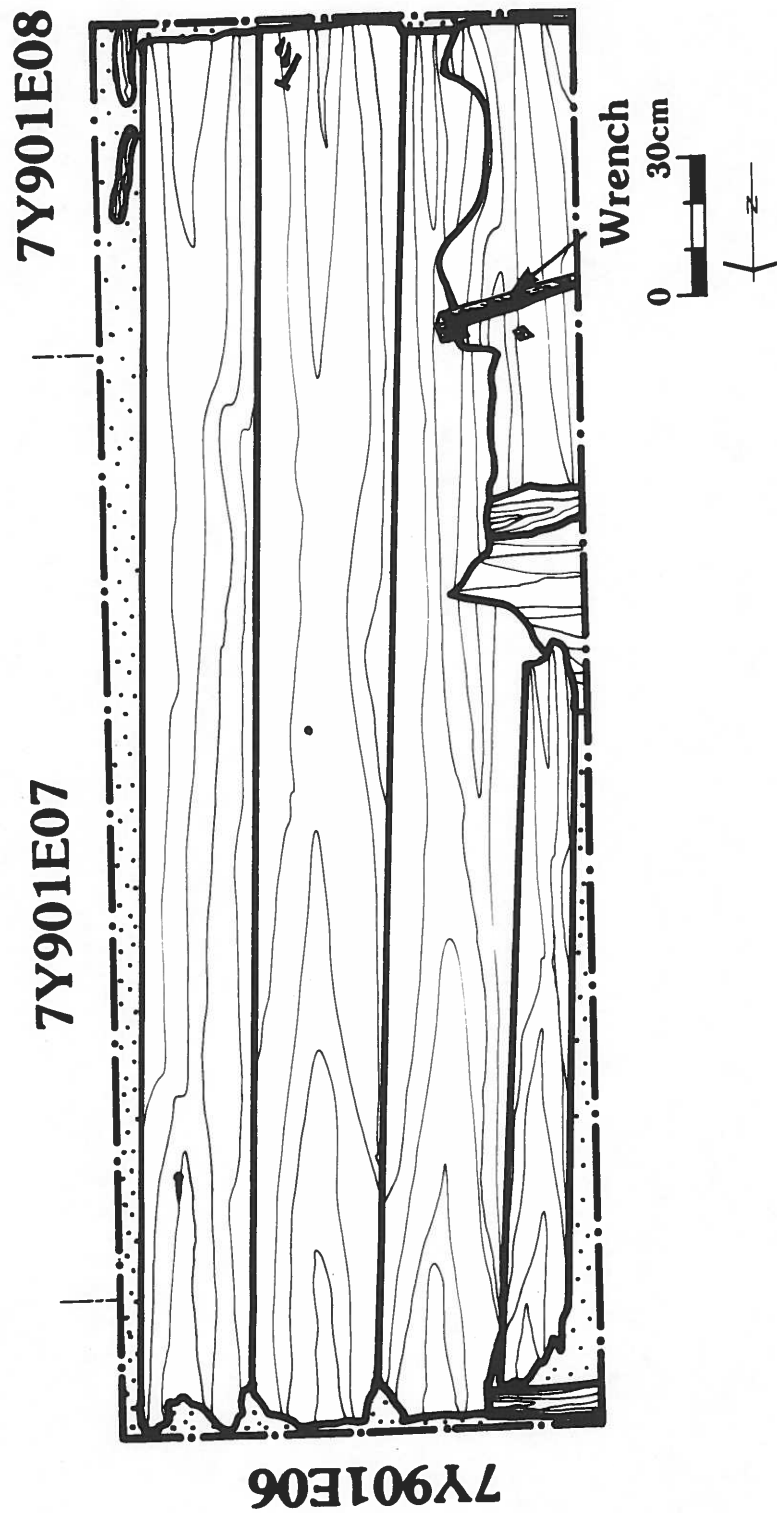


Figure 4.5. Walkway to harness room, plan of top layer of flooring. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

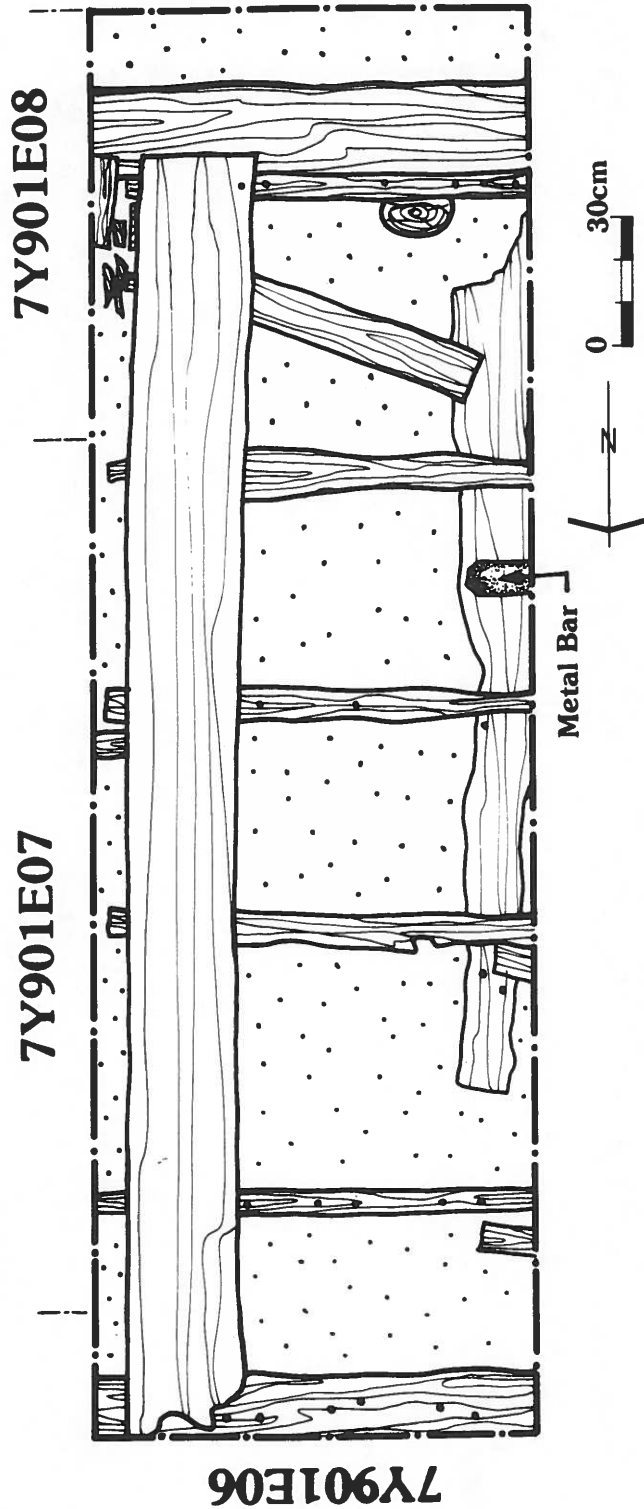


Figure 4.6. Walkway to harness room, plan of joists for top layer of flooring. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

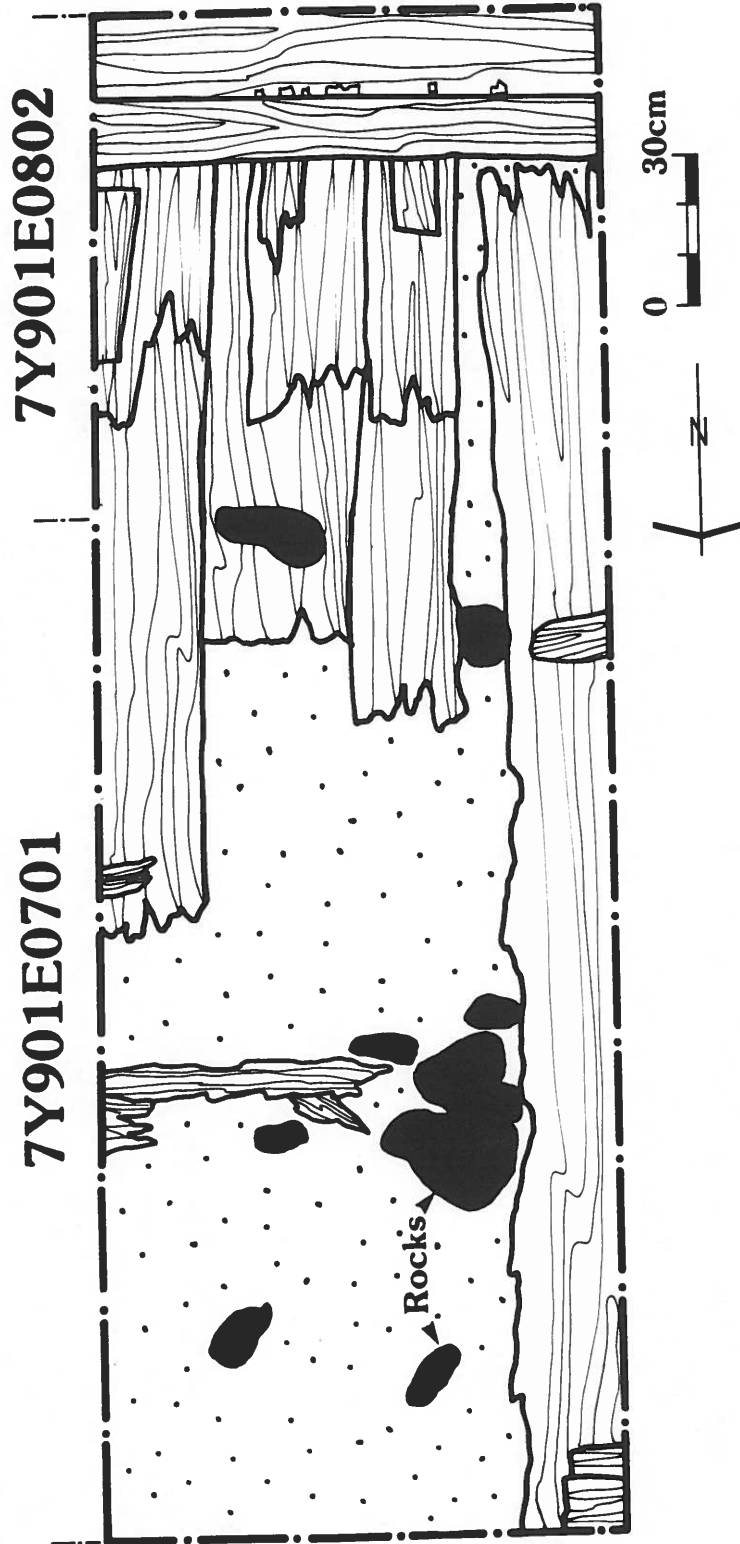


Figure 4.7. Walkway to harness room, plan of flooring below joists. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

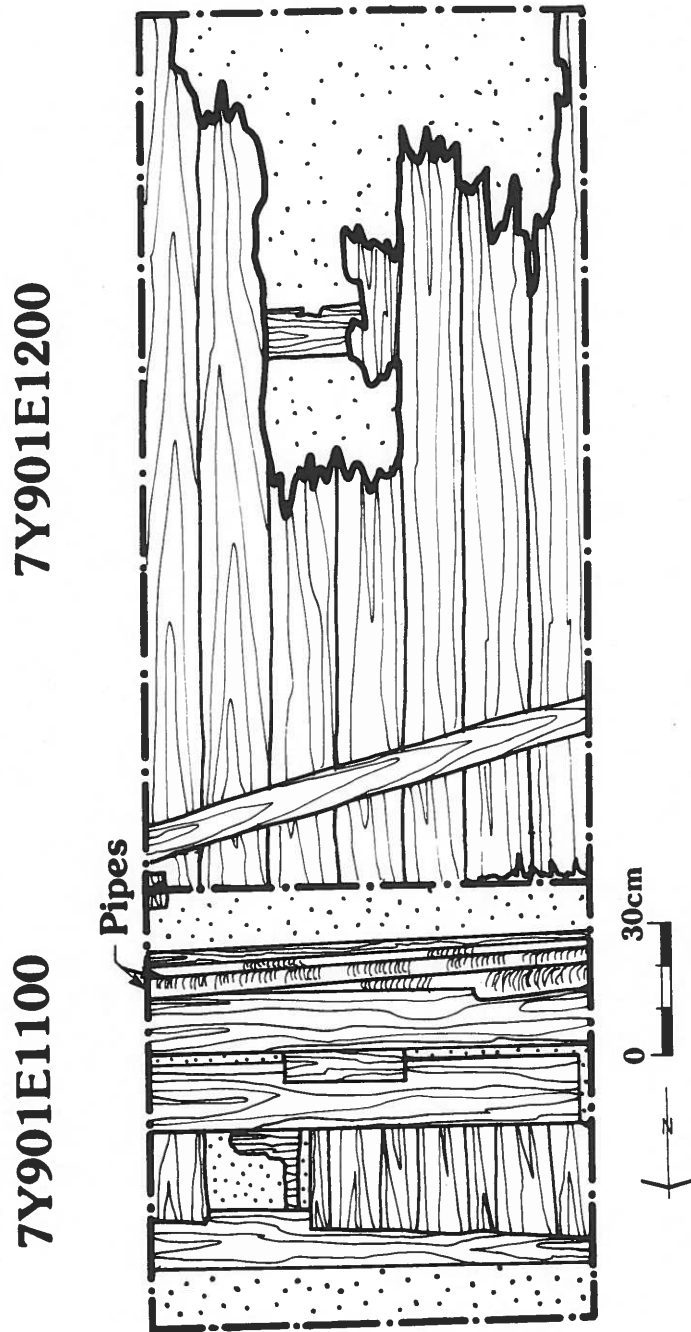


Figure 4.8. South side stall, plan of top layer of flooring. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

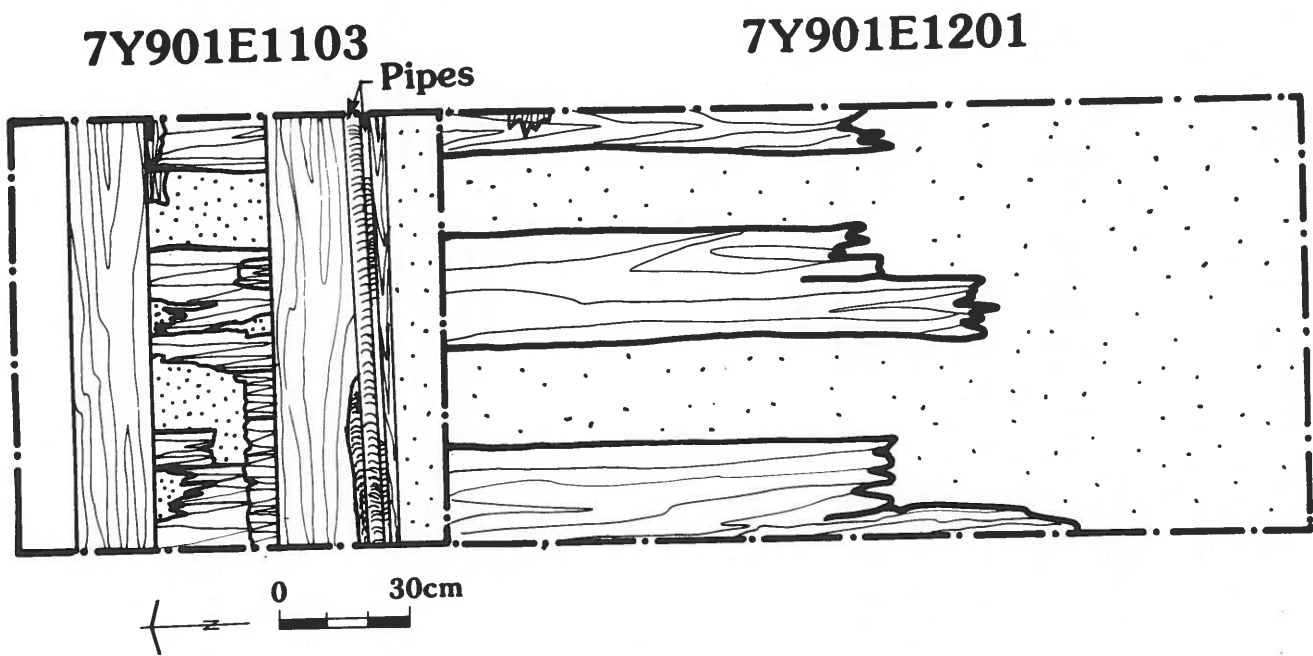


Figure 4.9. South side stall, plan of second layer of flooring. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

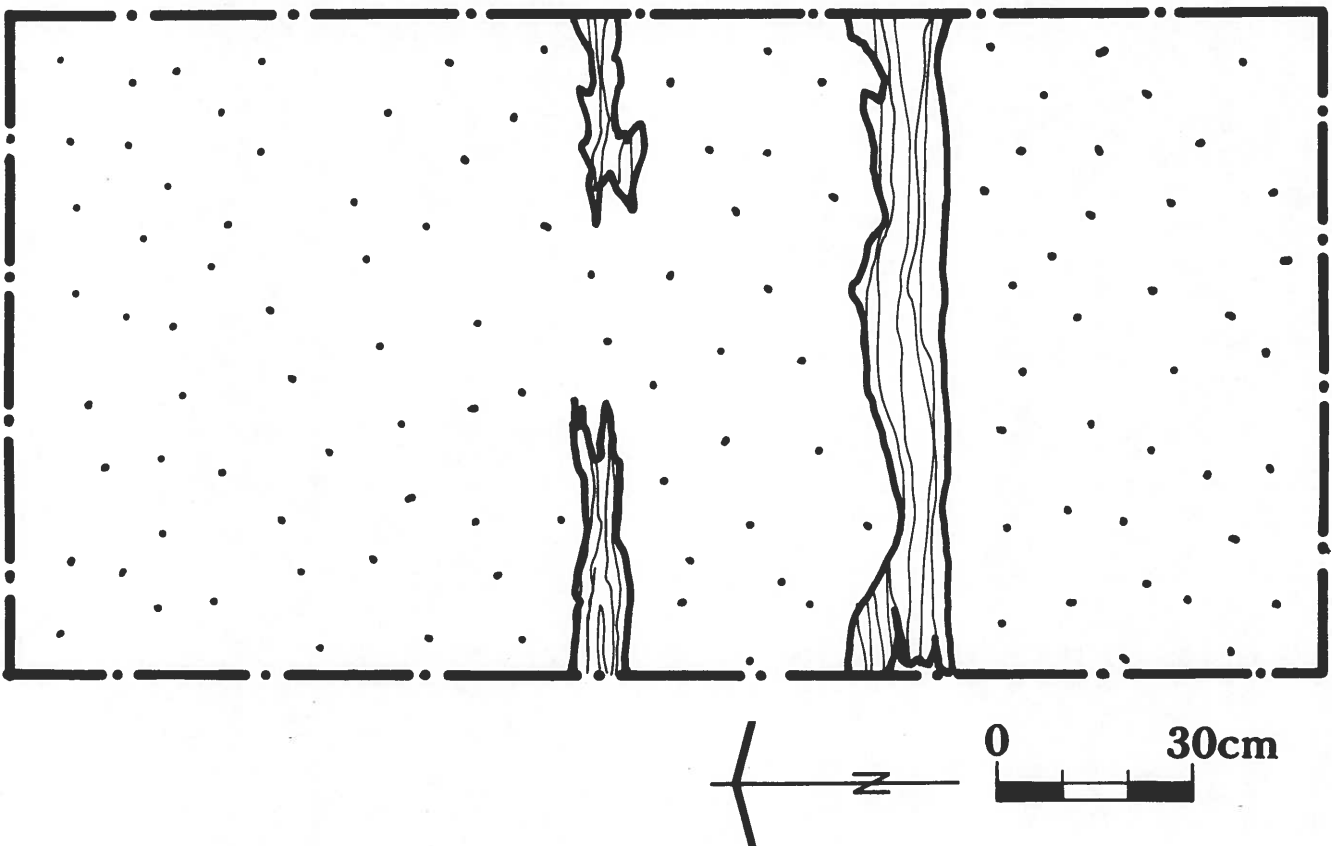
7Y901E1203

Figure 4.10. South side stall, plan of joists below second layer of flooring. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

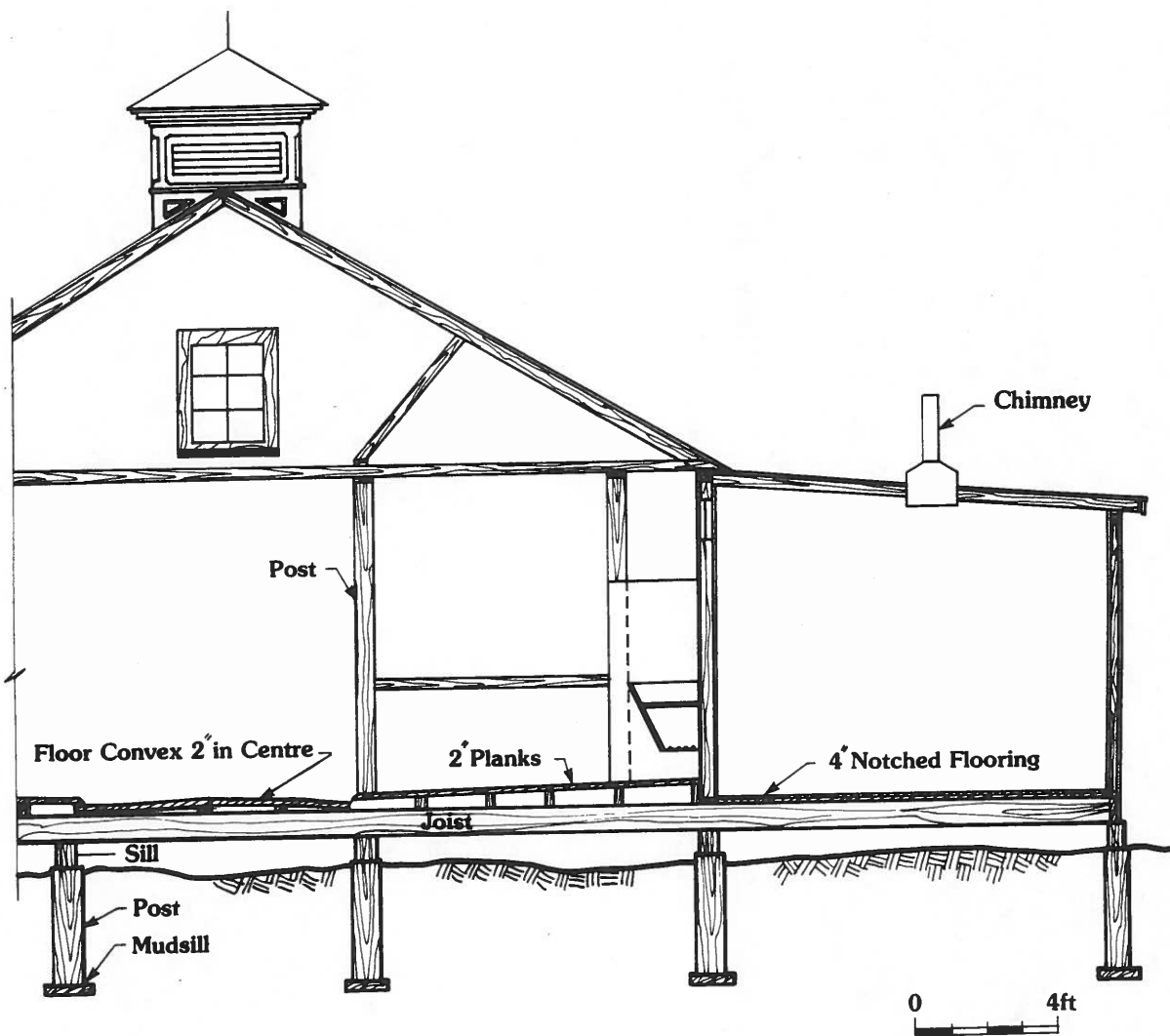


Figure 4.12. Partial section of stable, as designed.
(Drawn by D. Elrick.)

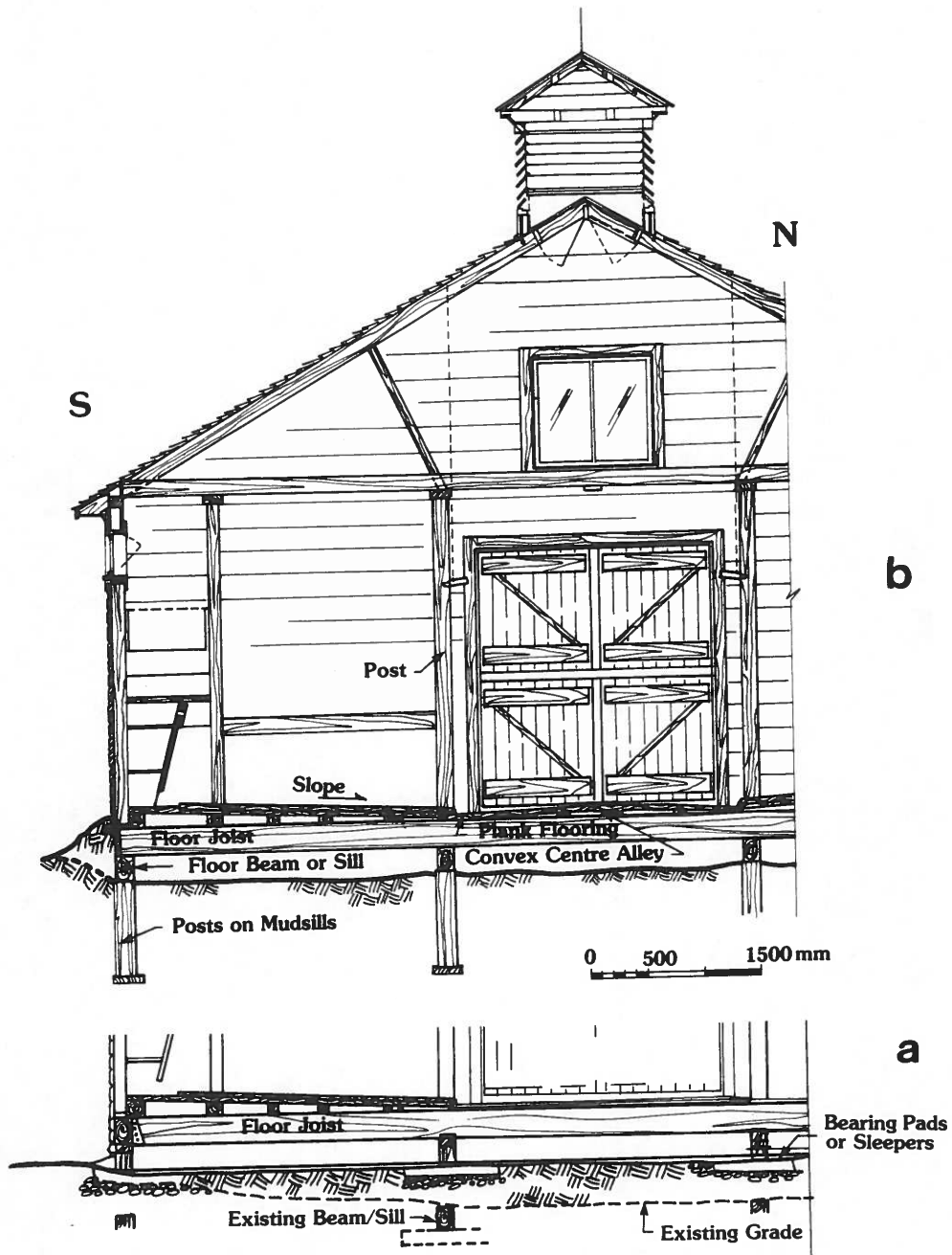


Figure 4.13. a) Architectural as-found record of stable foundation, b) conjectural restoration plan. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

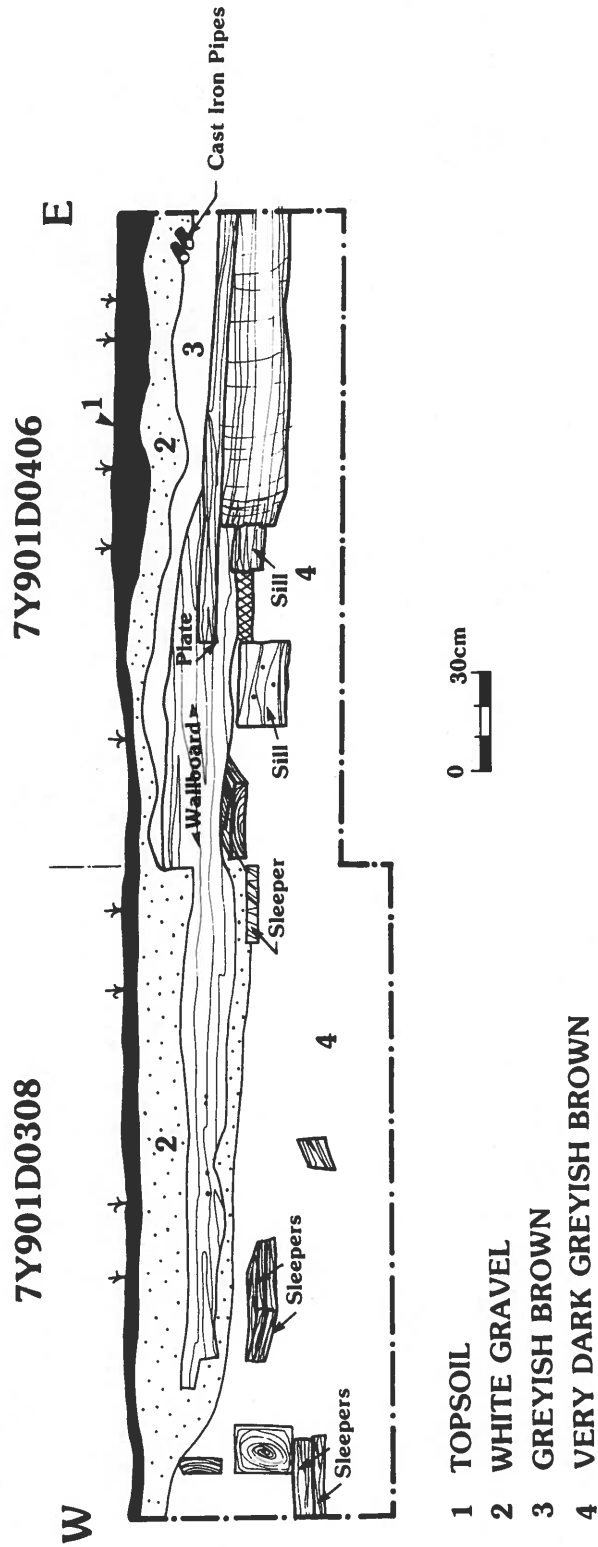


Figure 4.15. 7Y901D04, 7Y901D03; south profile. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

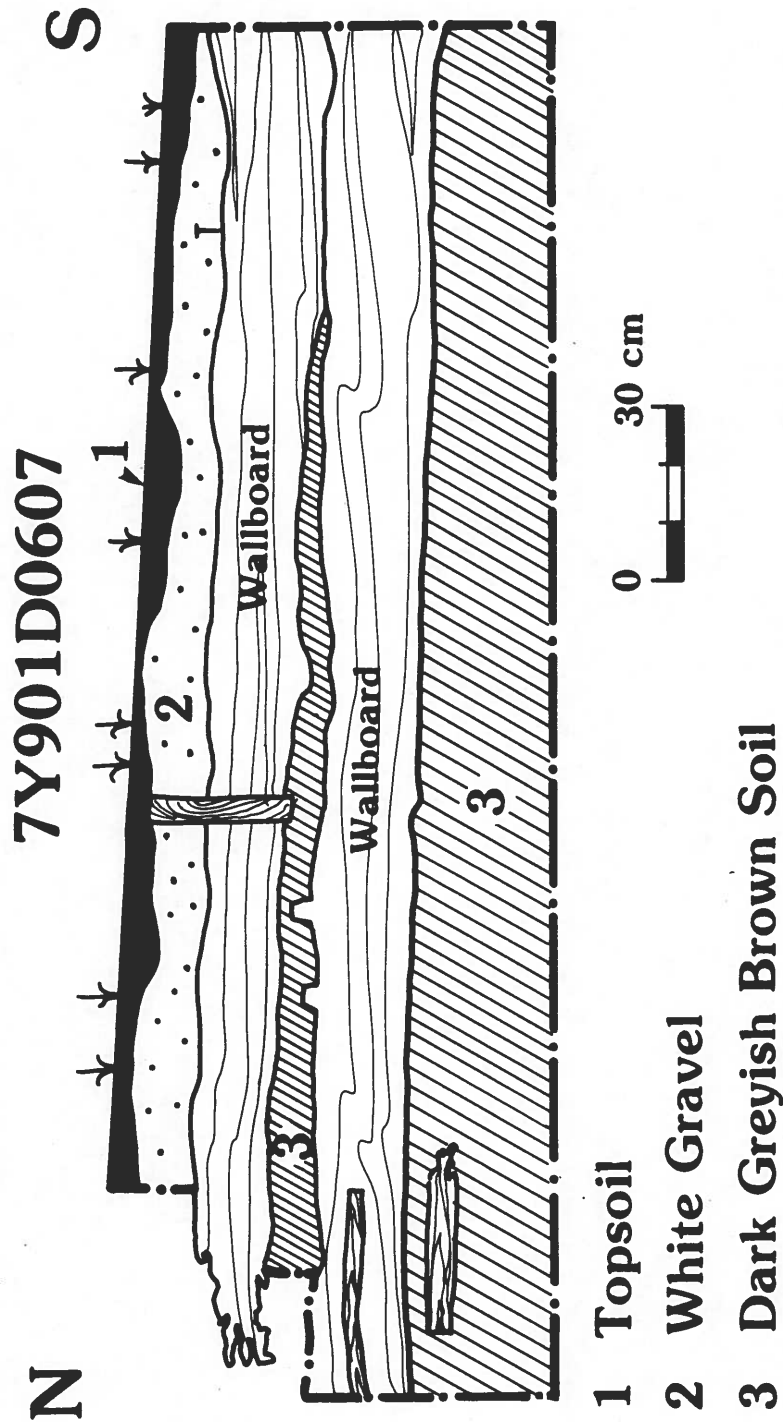
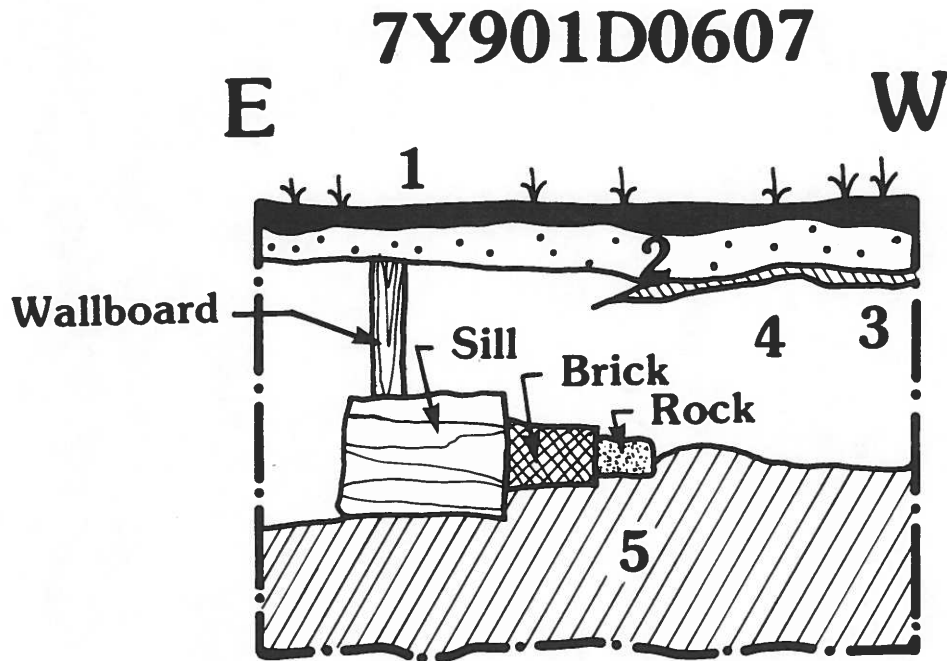


Figure 4.16. 7Y901D06, east profile. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)



- 1** **TOPSOIL**
- 2** **WHITE GRAVEL**
- 3** **DARK BROWN**
- 4** **GREYISH BROWN**
- 5** **DARK GREYISH BROWN**

Figure 4.17. 7Y901D06, south profile. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

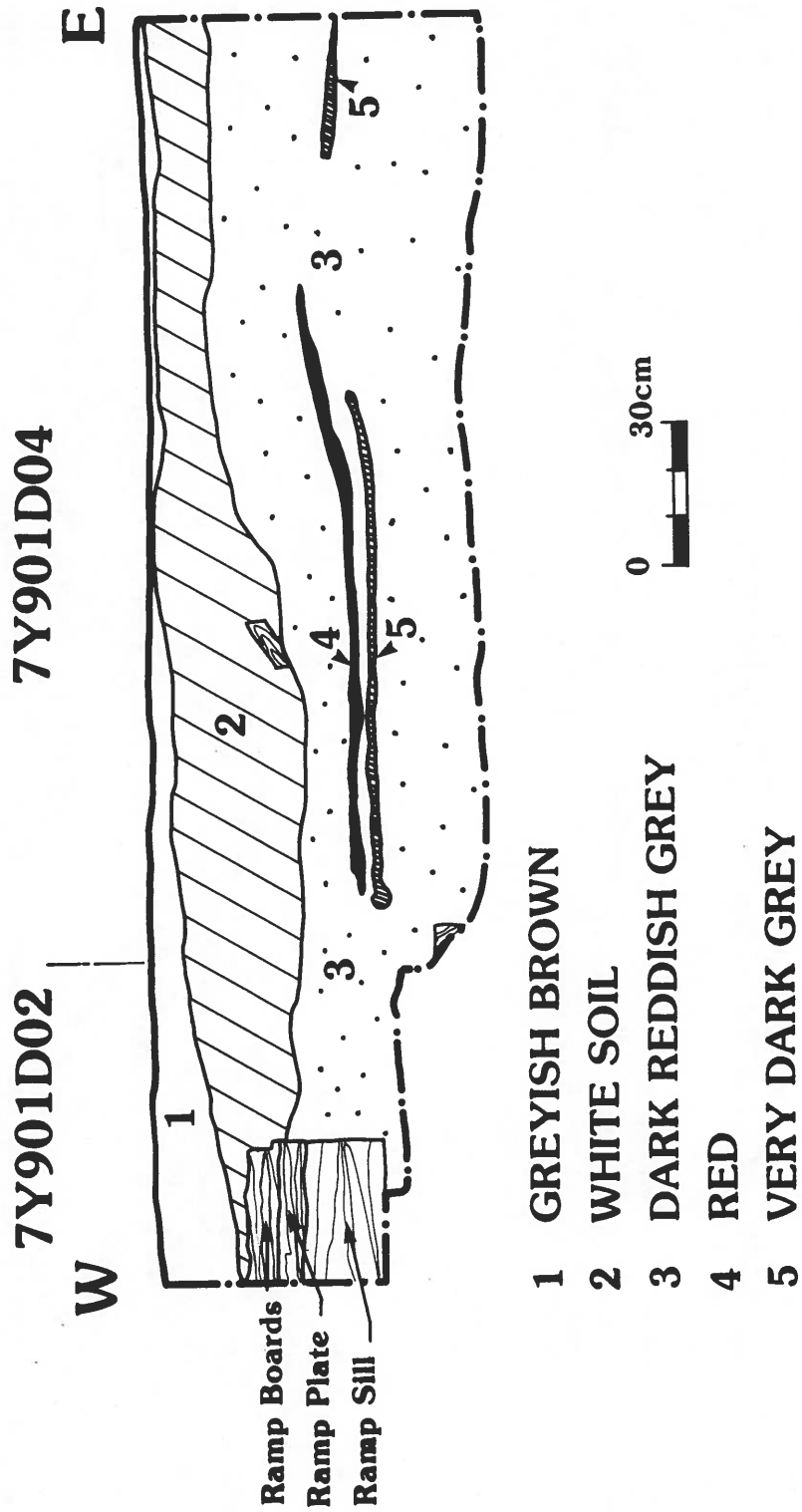


Figure 4.18. 7Y901D02, 7Y901D04; north profile. (Drawn by D. Elrick.)

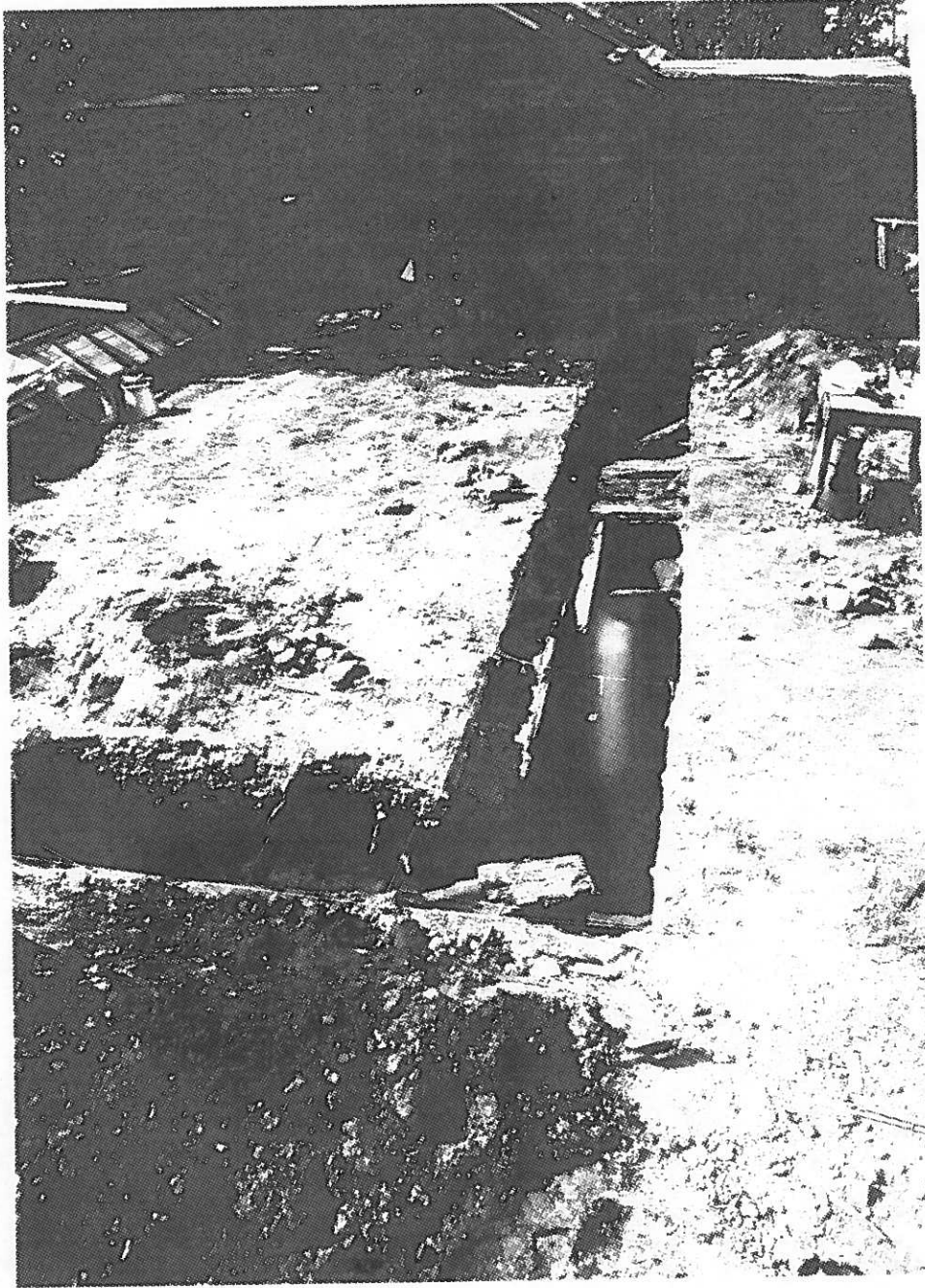


Figure 4.19. General view of 1981 excavation of non-extant east end of building. (Photo by S. McNalley.)

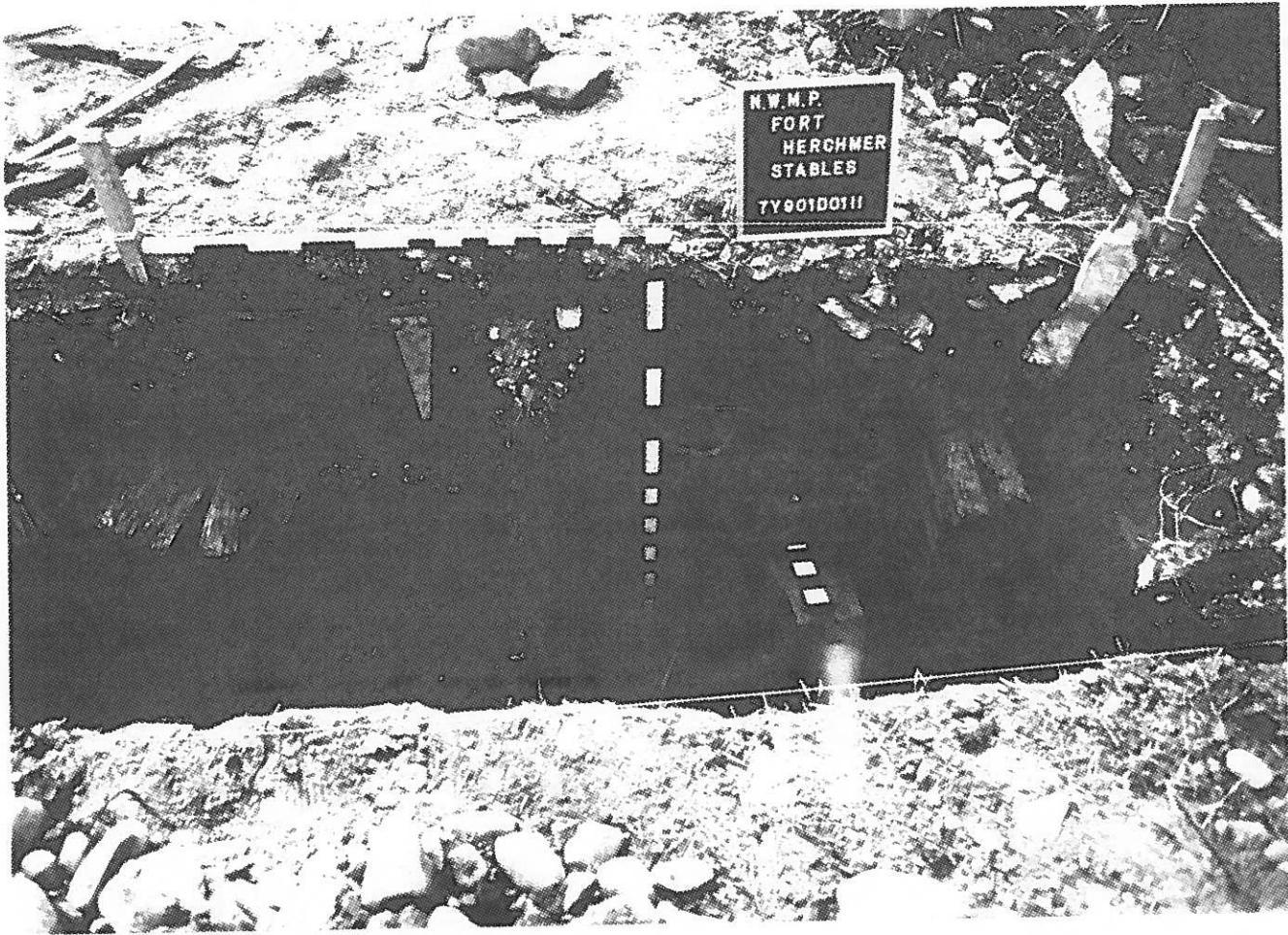


Figure 4.20. 7Y901D01; south profile, including (from right to left) stacked footing, post and door (hinge). (Photo by S. McNalley.)

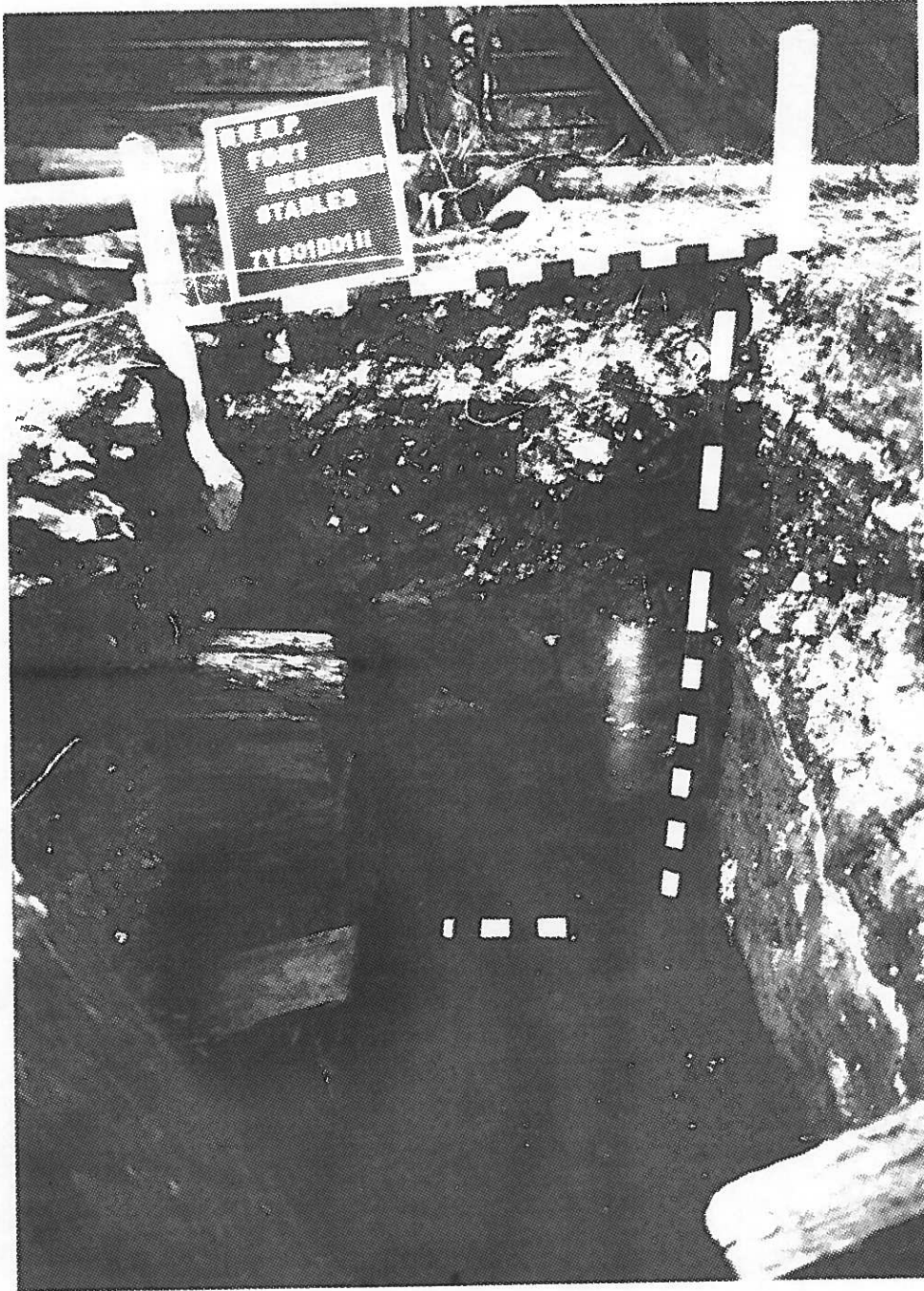


Figure 4.21. 7Y901D01, stacked footing for wall. (Photo by S. McNalley.)

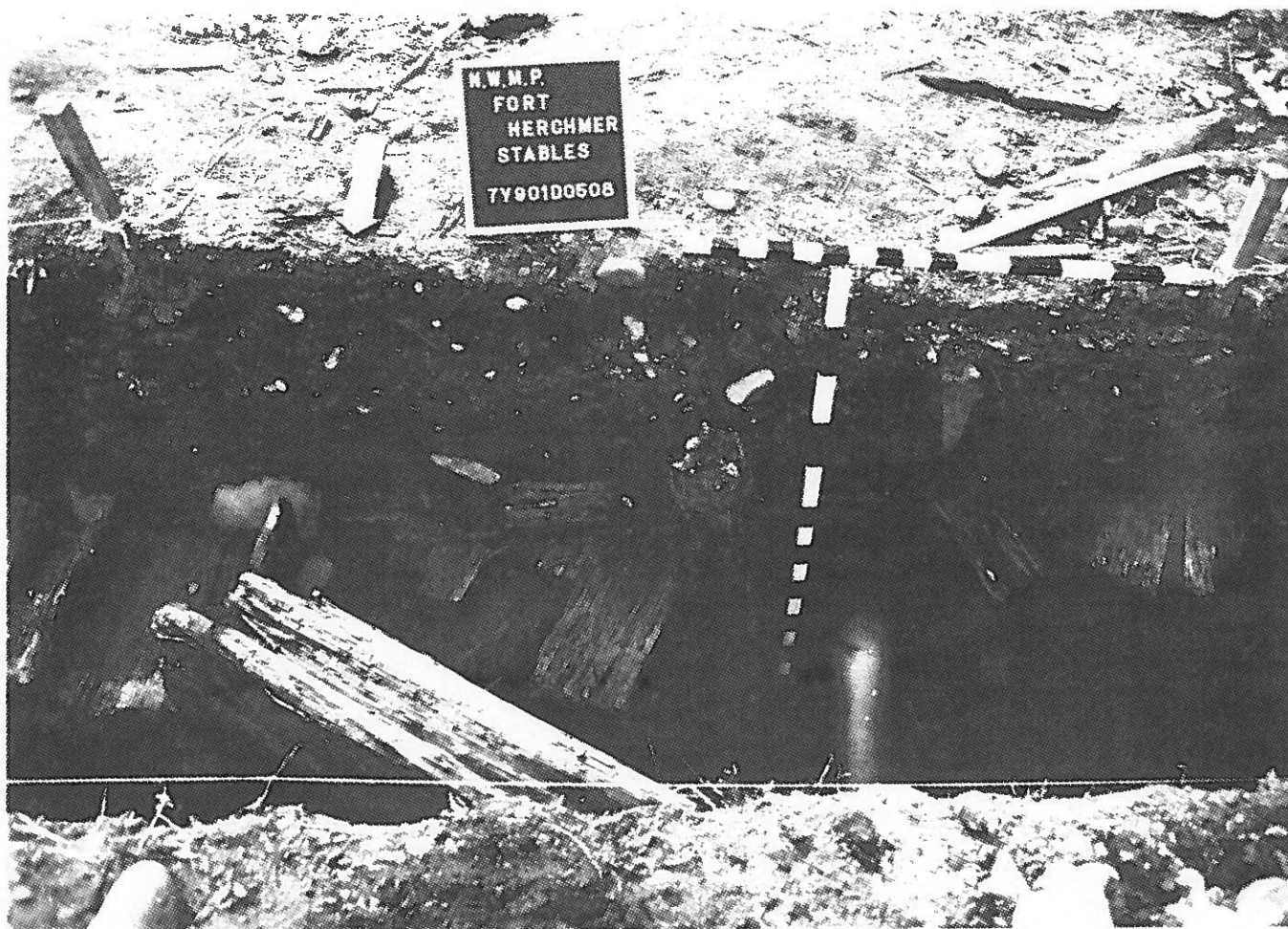


Figure 4.22. 7Y901D05; south profile, including post and various planks/shims used as footings. (Photo by S. McNalley.)

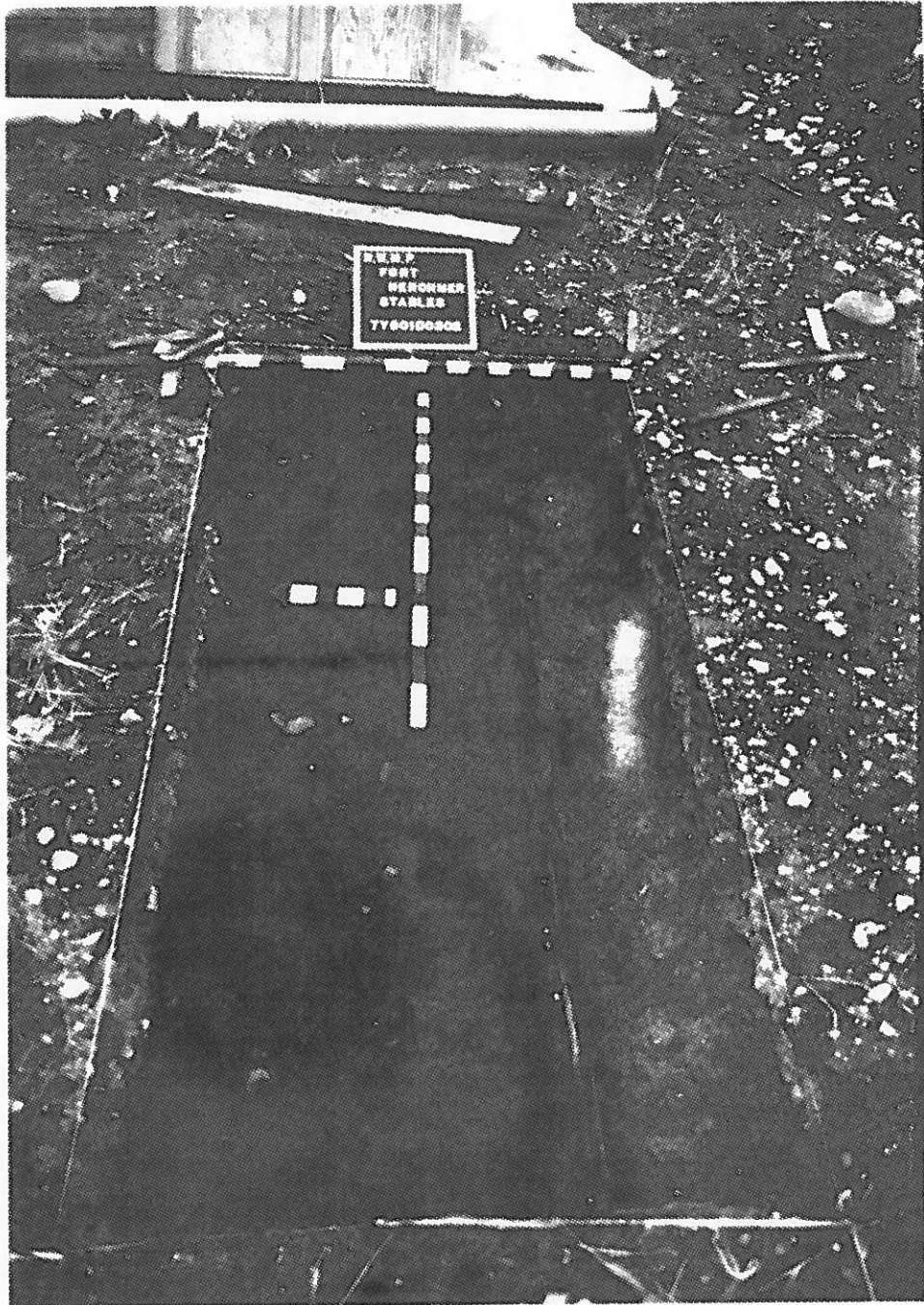


Figure 4.23. 7Y901D03, initial exposure of north wall line at non-extant original northeast corner of building; note suggestion of a double line of planks. (Photo by P. Menzies.)

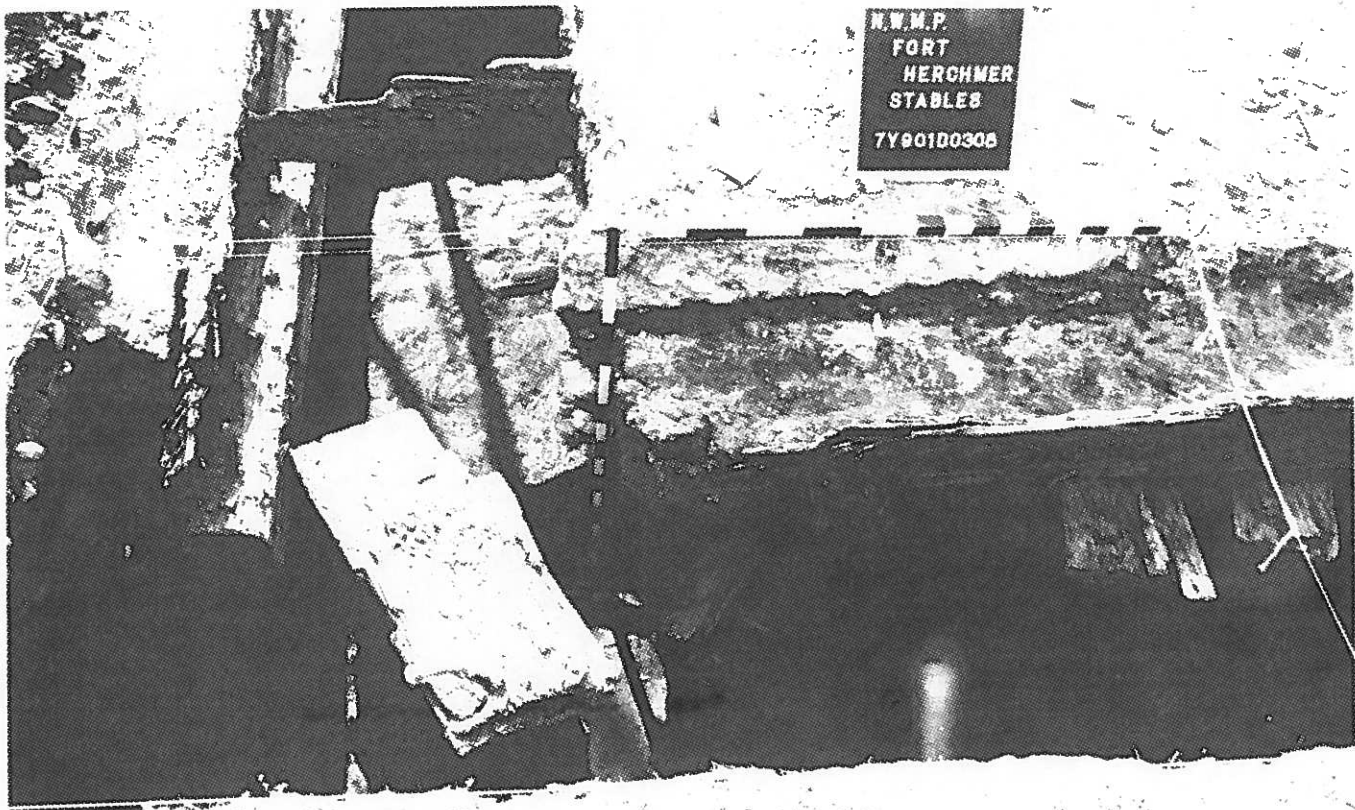


Figure 4.24. 7Y901D03, 7Y901D06; structural remains at non-extant original northeast corner. (Photo by S. McNalley.)

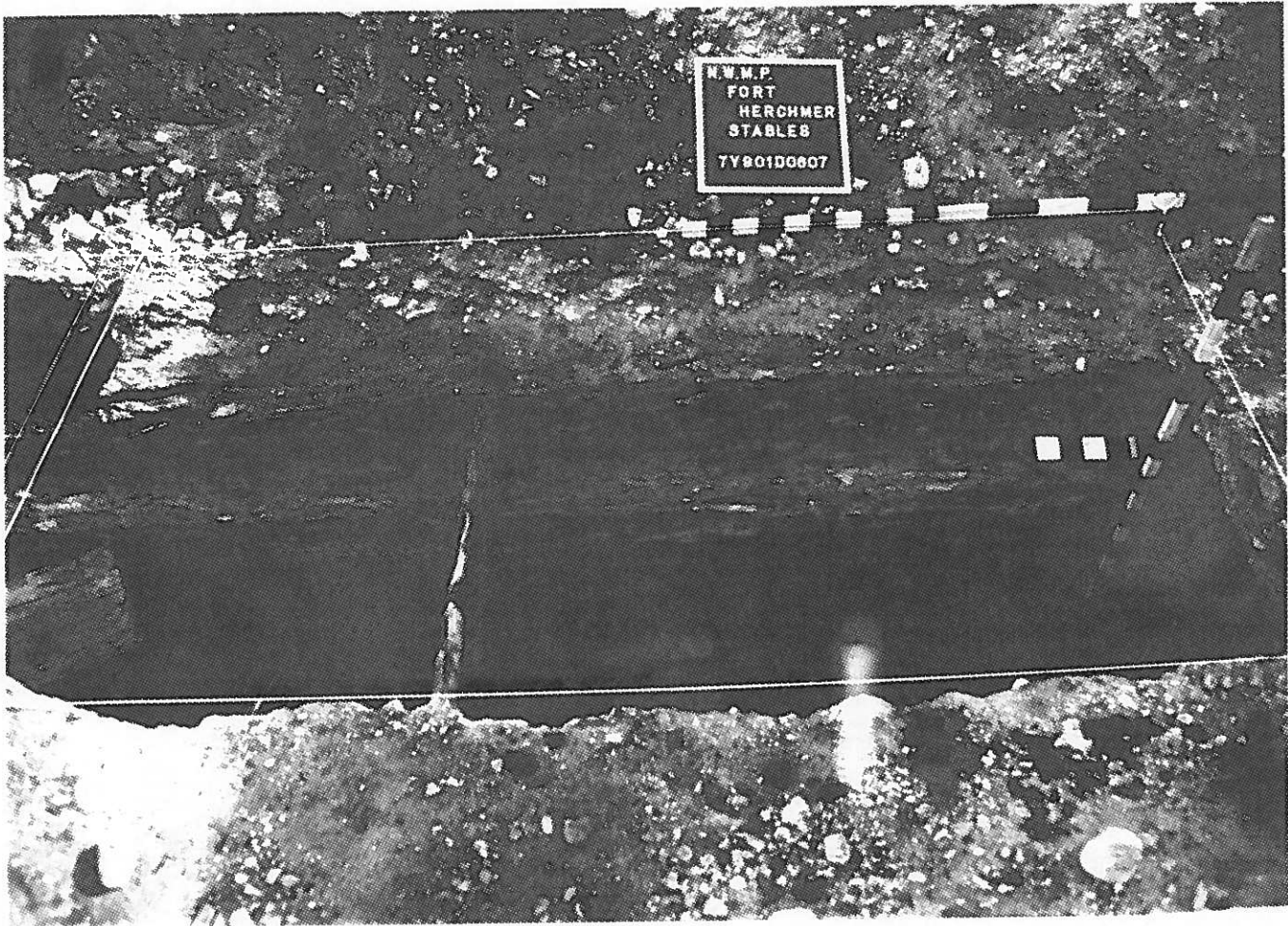


Figure 4.25. 7Y901D06; section of original east wall with sill supporting joist and header across end of joist. (Photo by S. McNalley.)



Figure 4.26. General view of excavations inside extant structure. (Photo by B. Ross.)

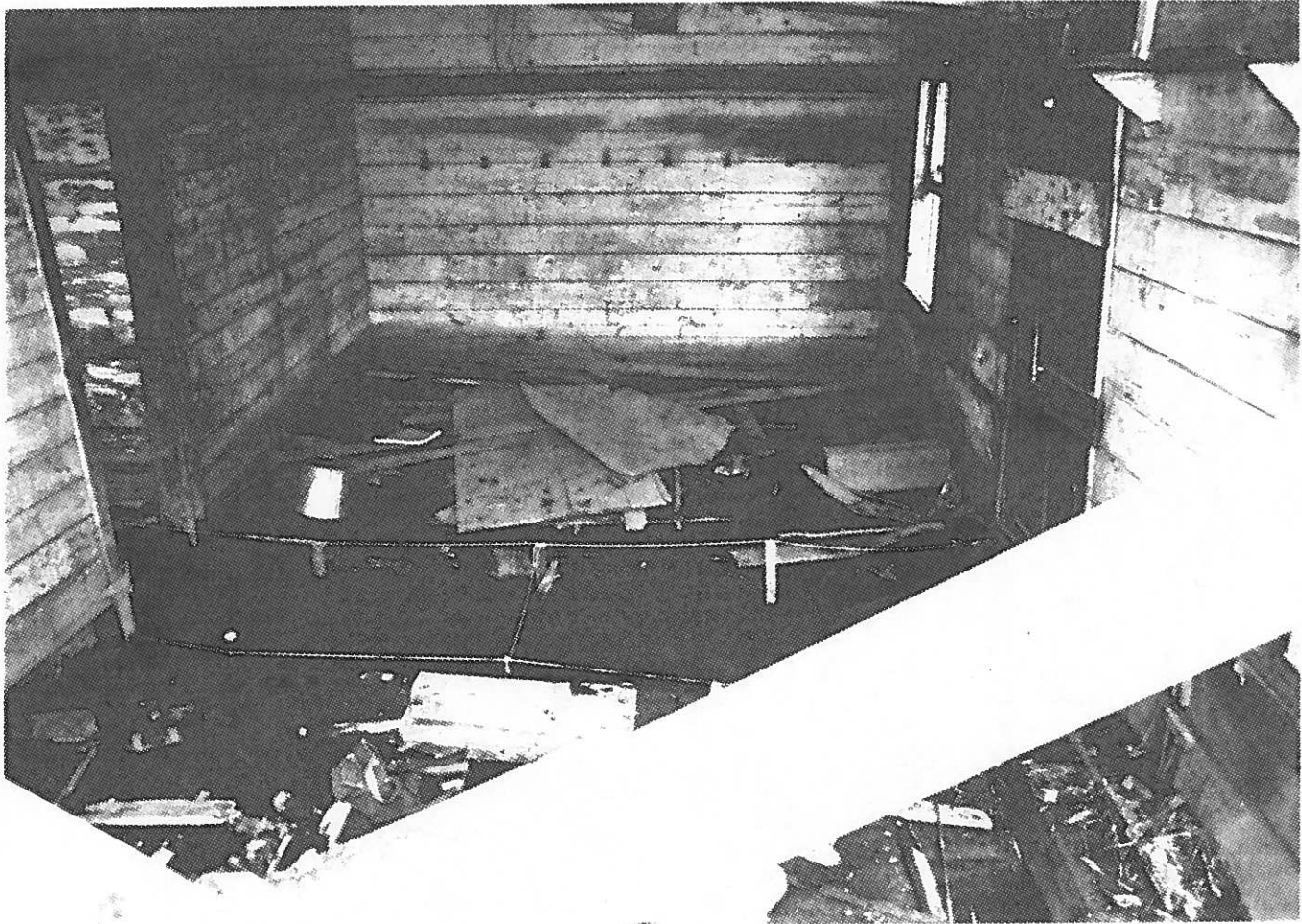


Figure 4.27. General view of interior of harness room.
(Photo by B. Ross.)

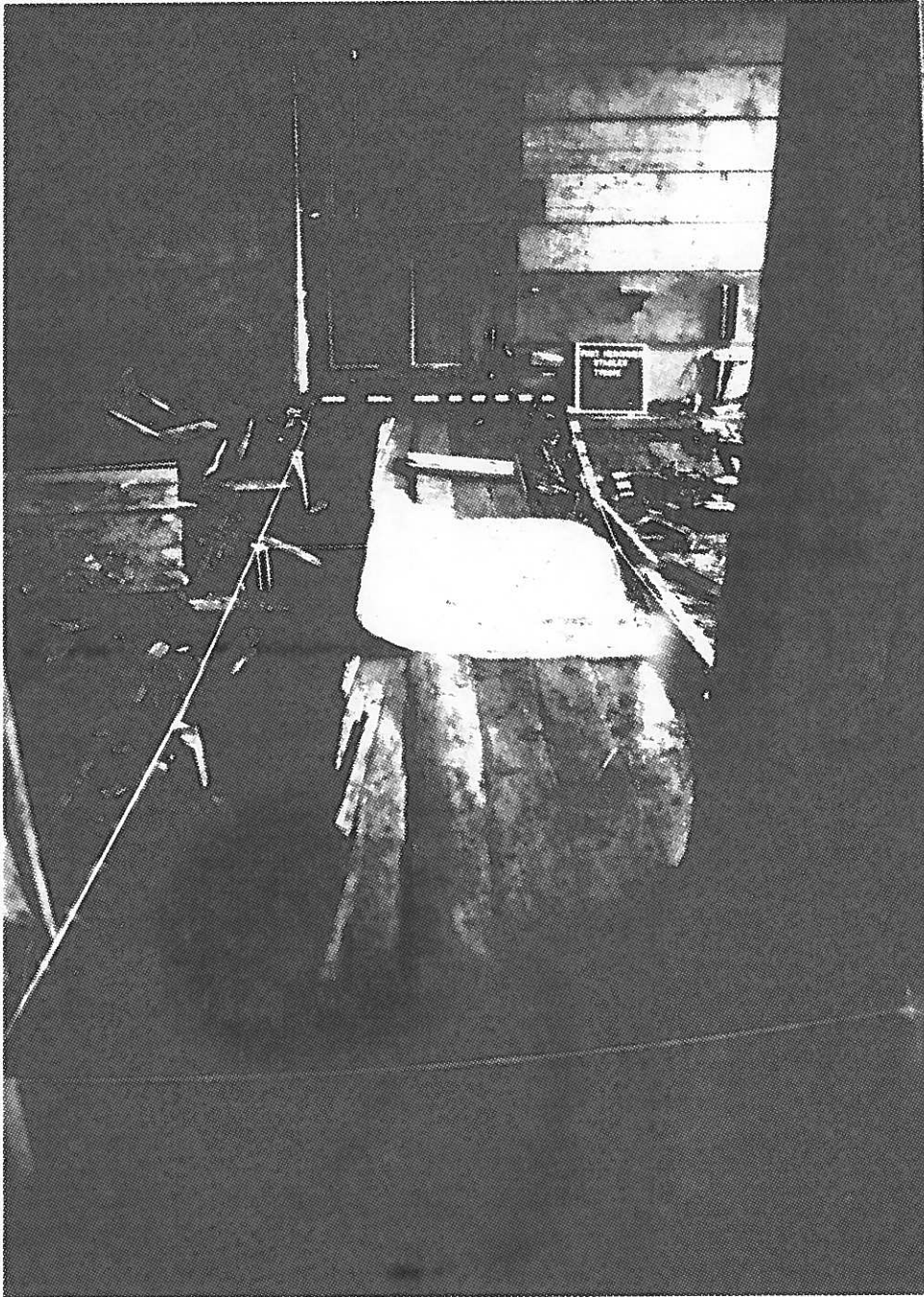


Figure 4.28. Flooring remains in harness room, including sheet metal base for stove. (Photo by S. Keen.)

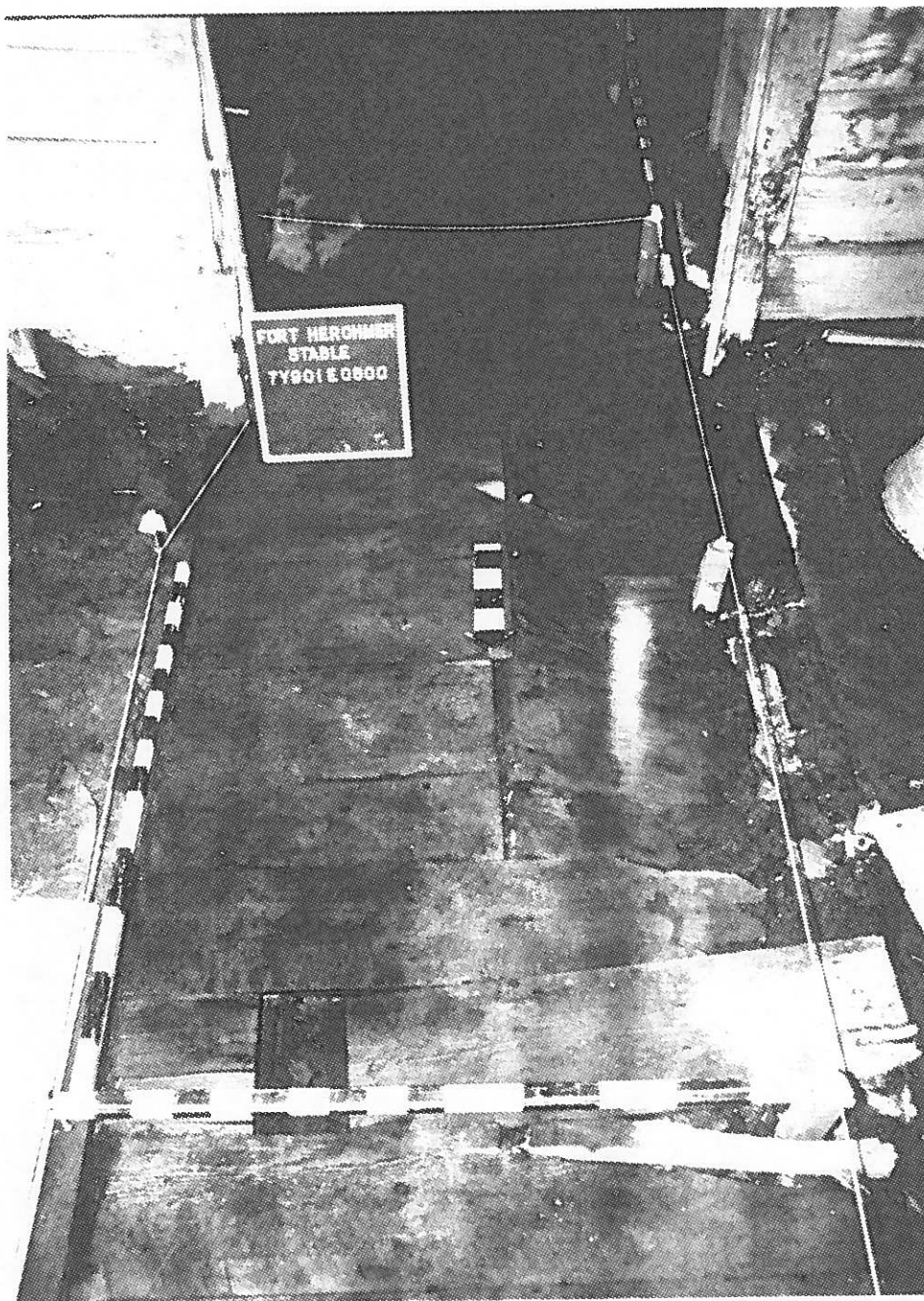


Figure 4.29. 7Y901E06, second to last layer of flooring in harness room. (Photo by B. Ross.)

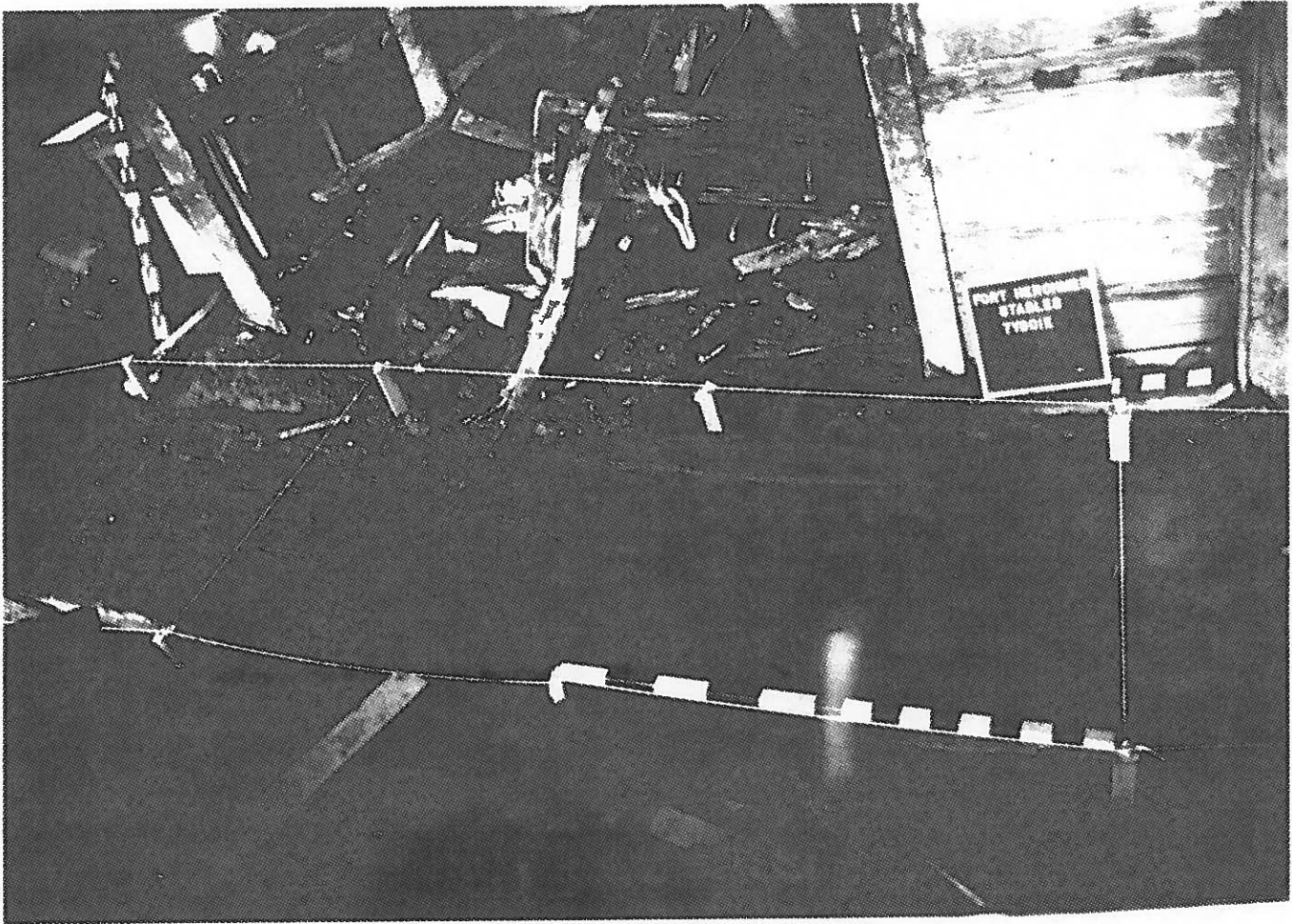


Figure 4.30. Flooring in passageway from harness room into stable. (Photo by S. Keen.)

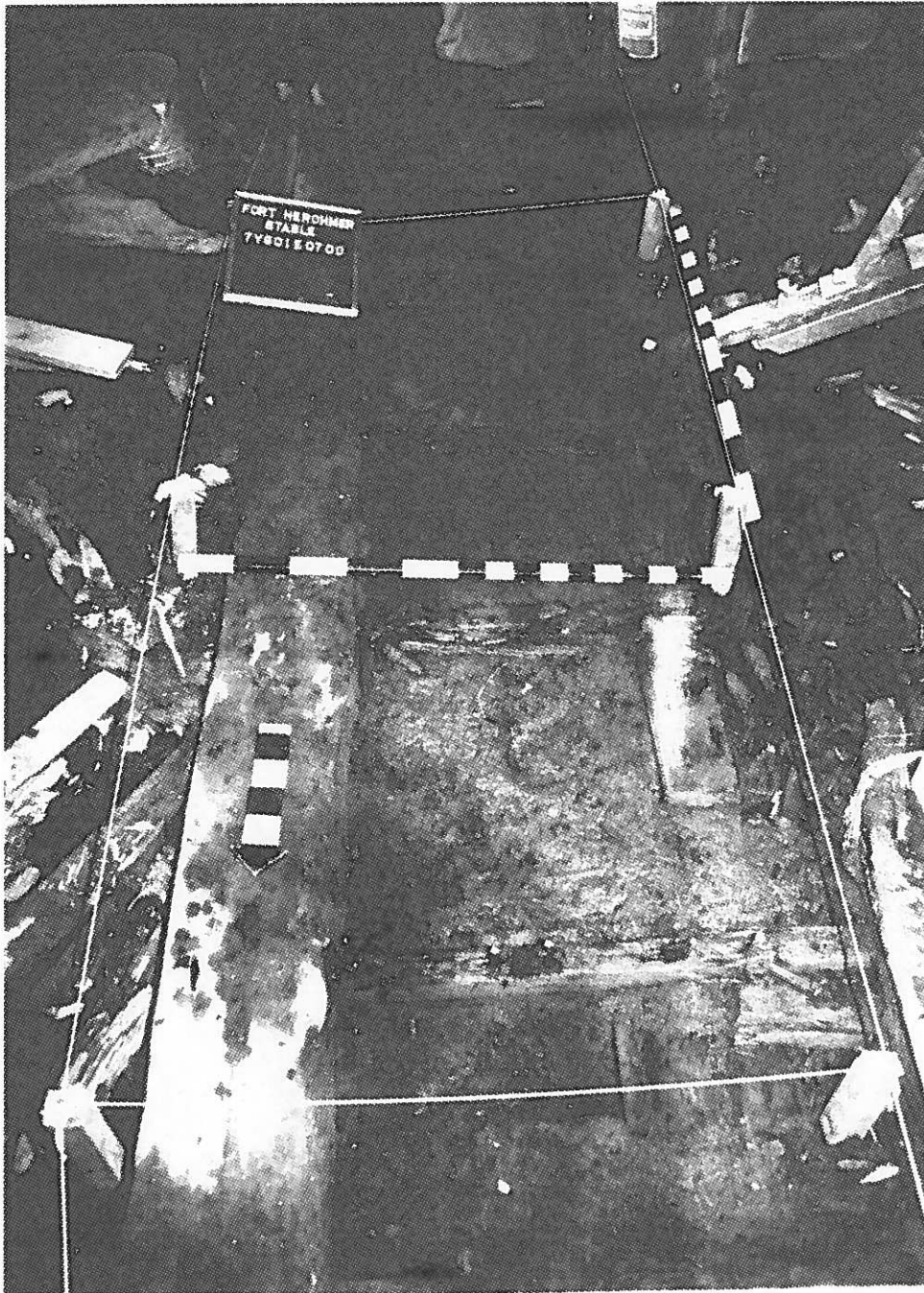


Figure 4.31. 7Y901E07, joists below flooring in passageway. (Photo by B. Ross.)

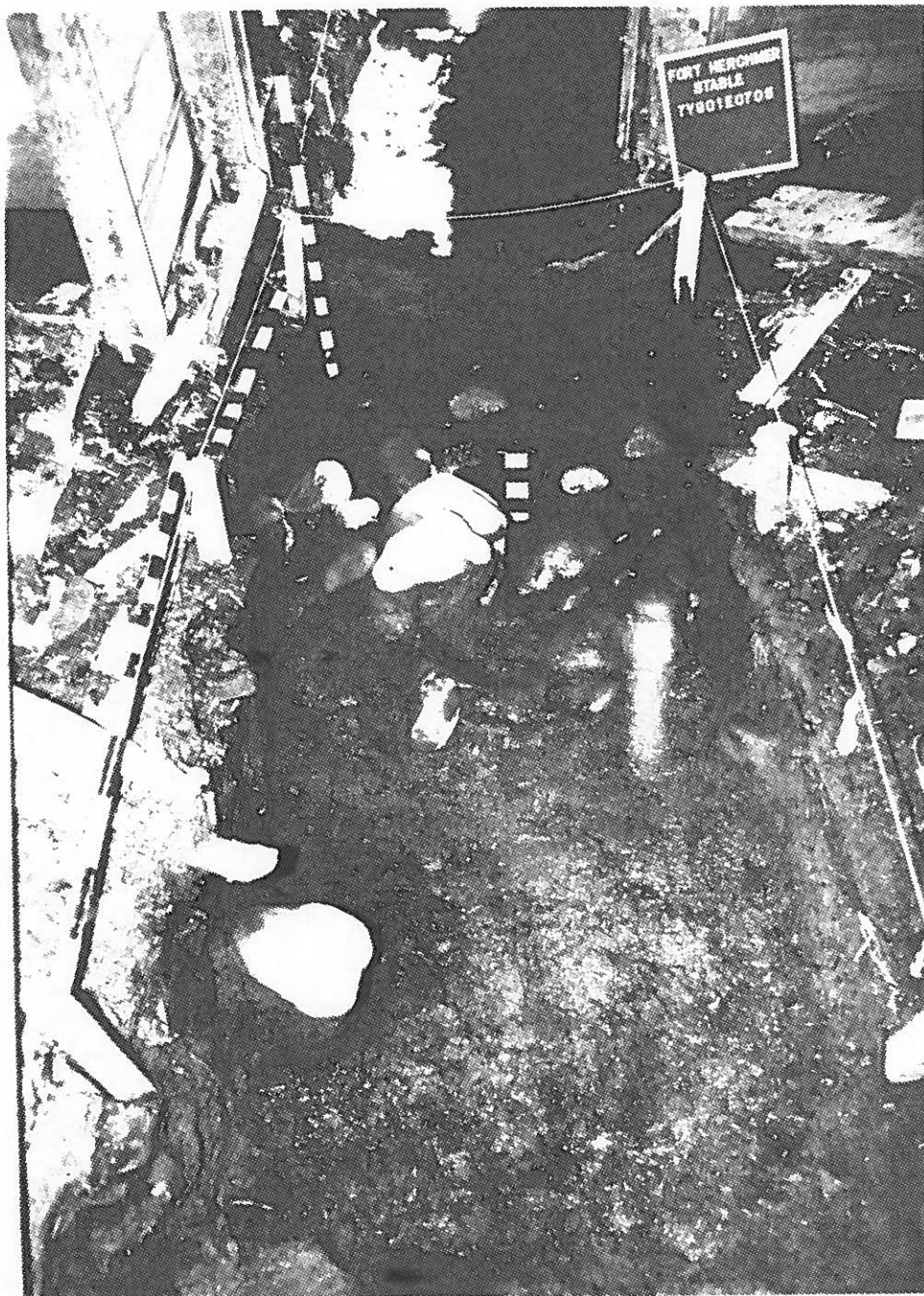


Figure 4.32. 7Y901E07, rubble below flooring in passageway; broken sill for stable north wall appears in back. (Photo by B. Ross.)

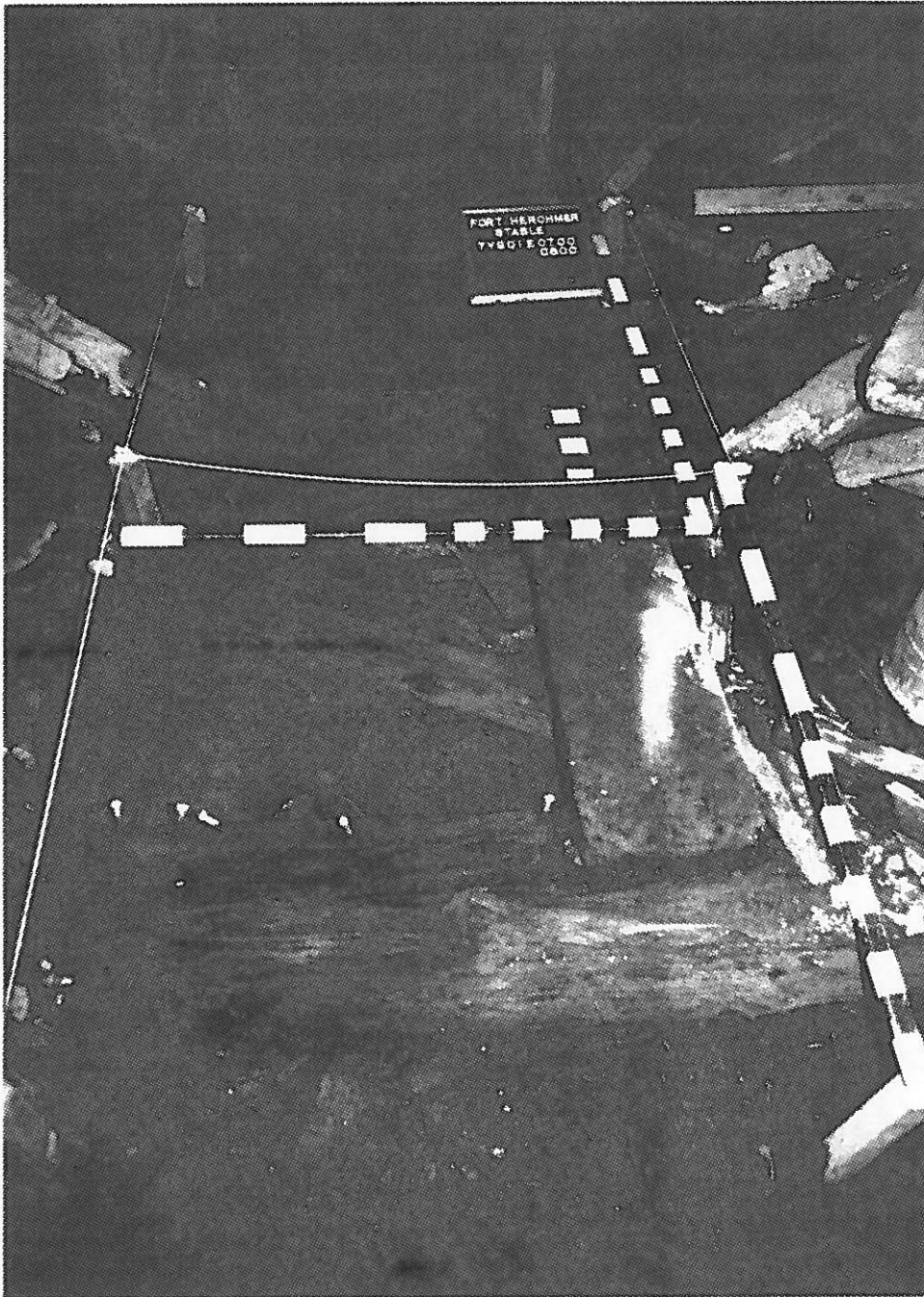


Figure 4.33. 7Y901E008; floorboard, joists and sill at end of passageway from harness room to central alley - note floorboard nailed to timber attached to side of sill. (Photo by B. Ross.)

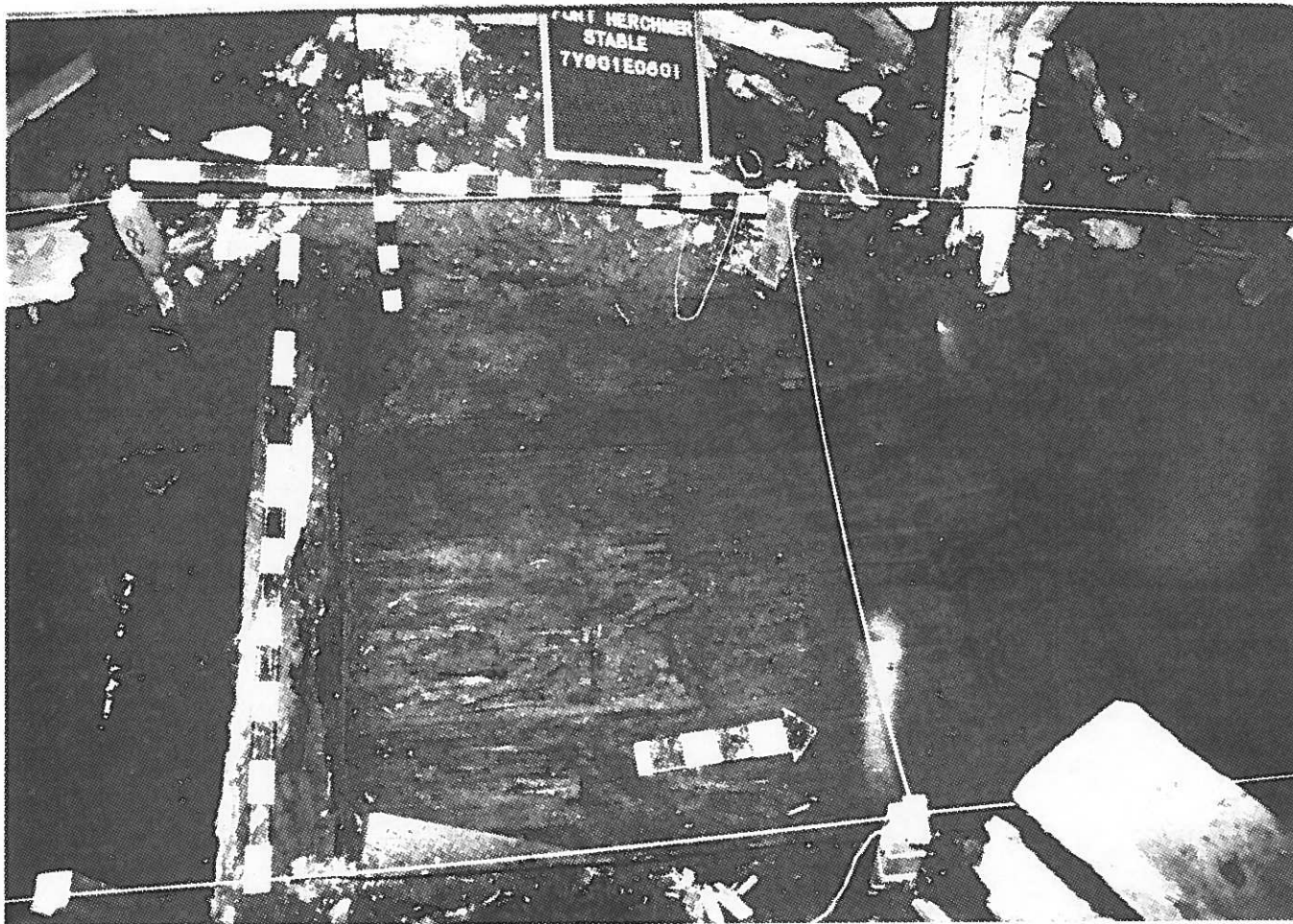


Figure 4.34. 7Y901E08, flooring remains and sill at end of passageway from harness room to central alley of stable. (Photo by B. Ross.)

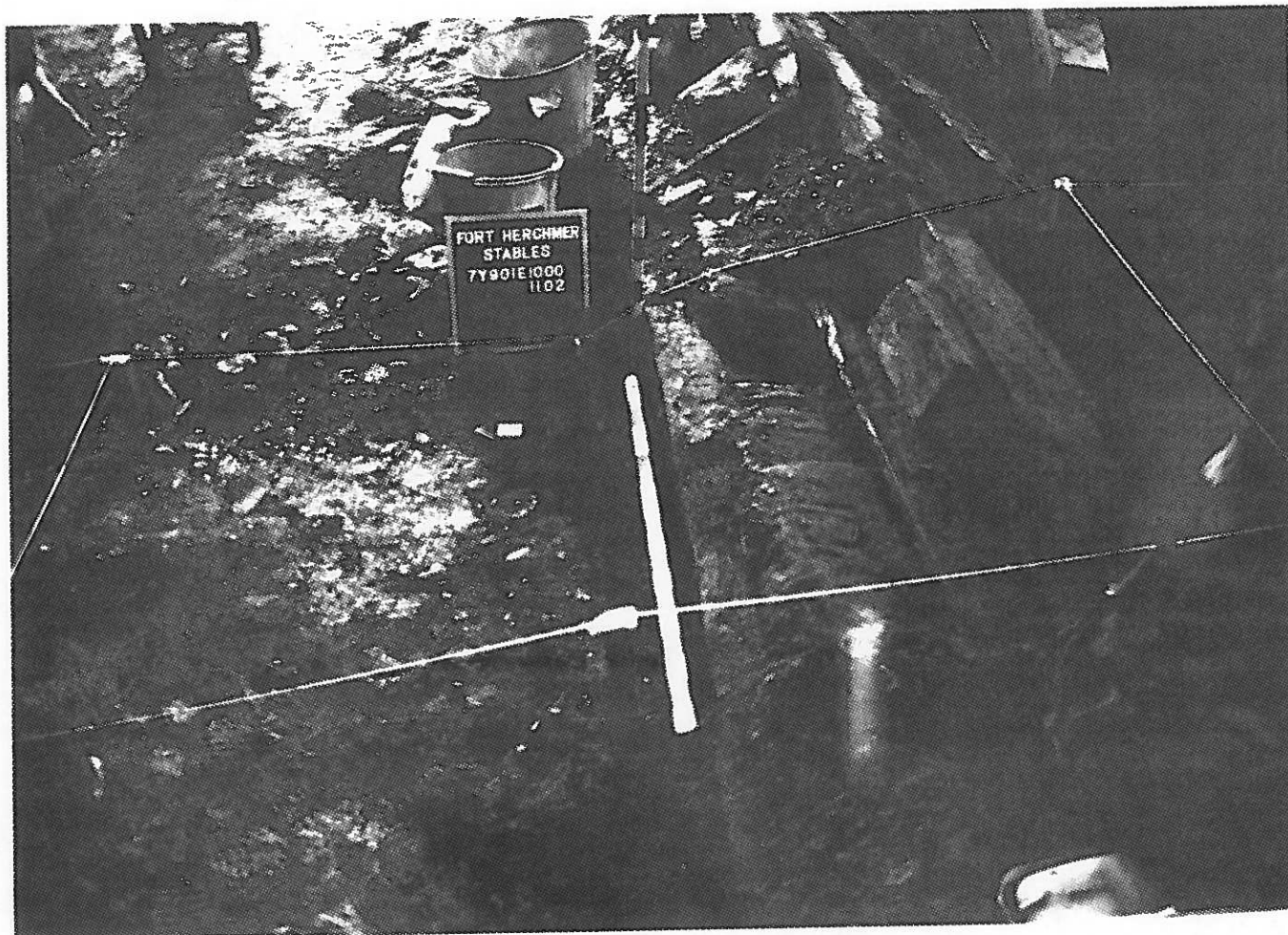


Figure 4.35. 7Y901E10, 7Y901E11; flooring remains, sill and utility box with water pipes. (Photo by S. Keen.)

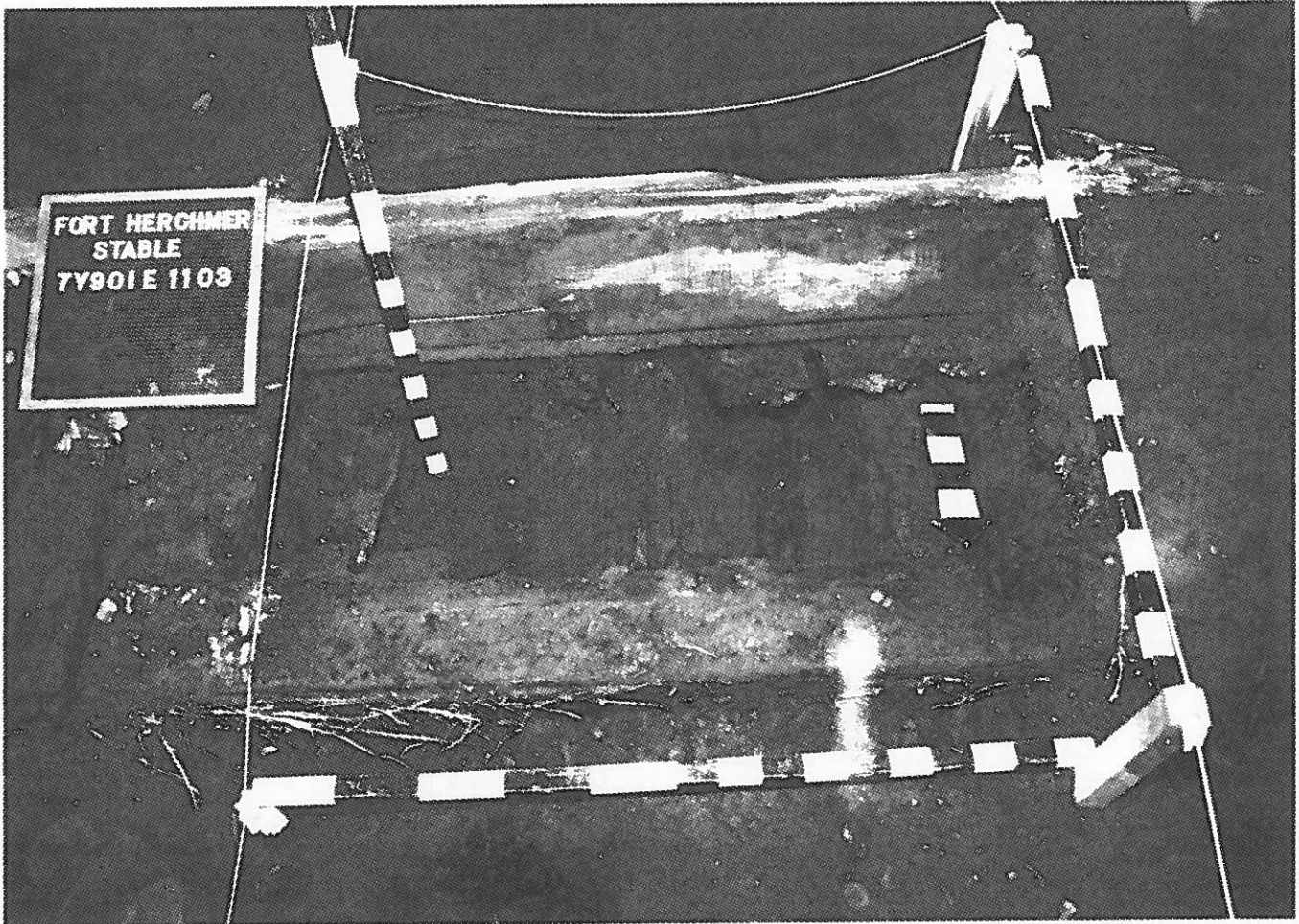


Figure 4.36. 7Y901E11; flooring below sill. (Photo by B. Ross.)

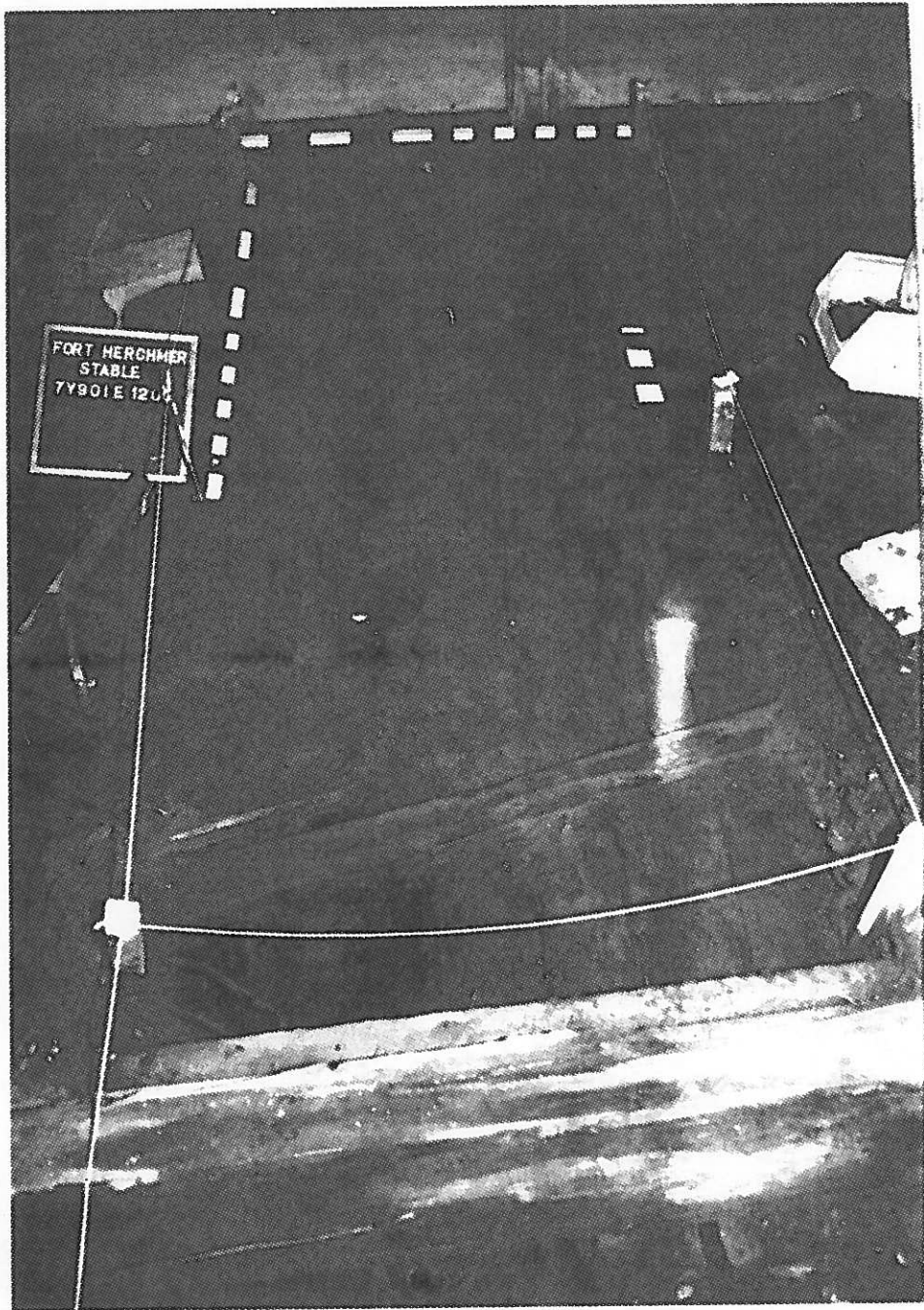


Figure 4.37. 7Y901E12, top layer of stall flooring.
(Photo by B. Ross.)

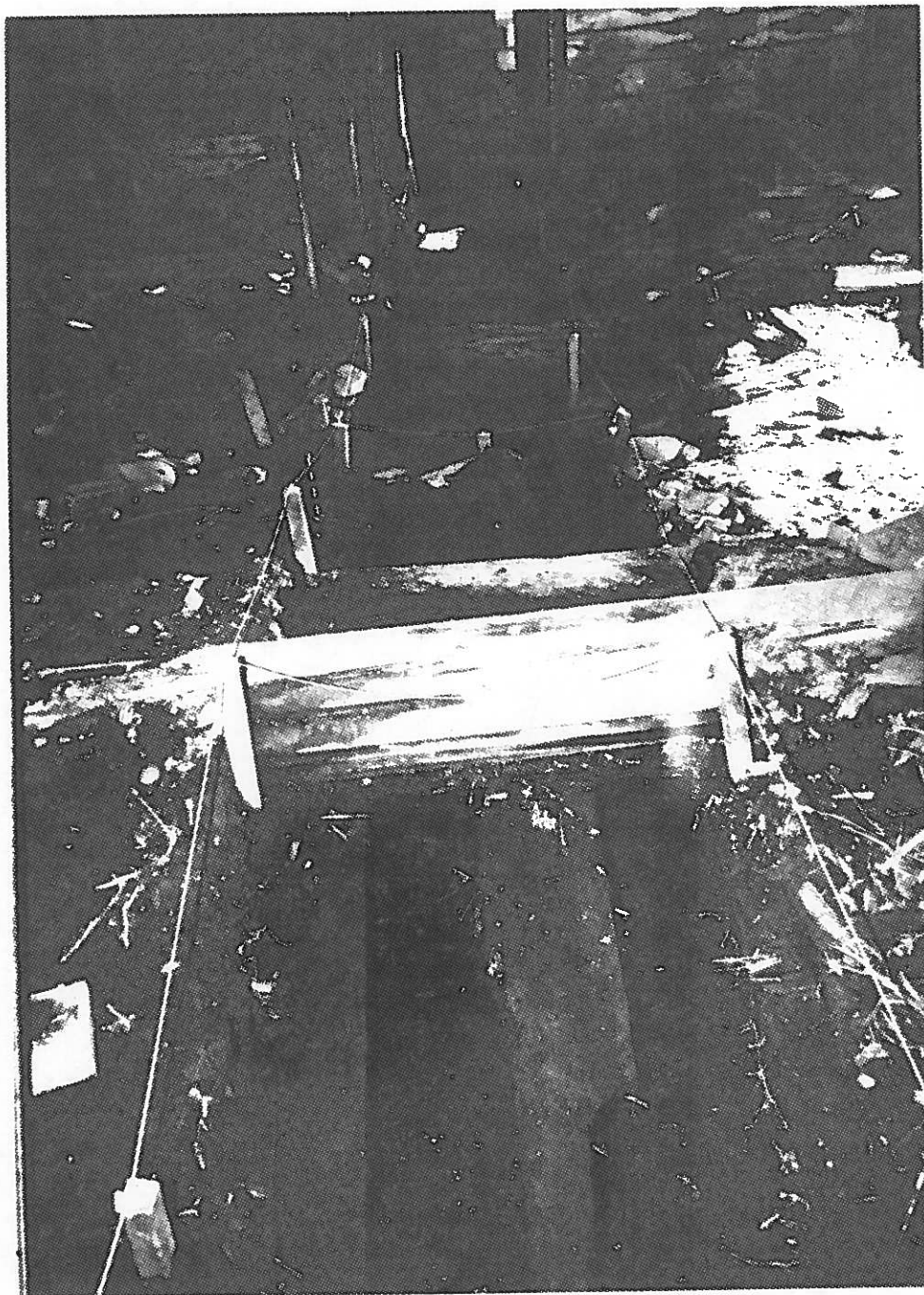


Figure 4.38. 7Y901E12, second last layer of stall flooring. (Photo by B. Ross.)

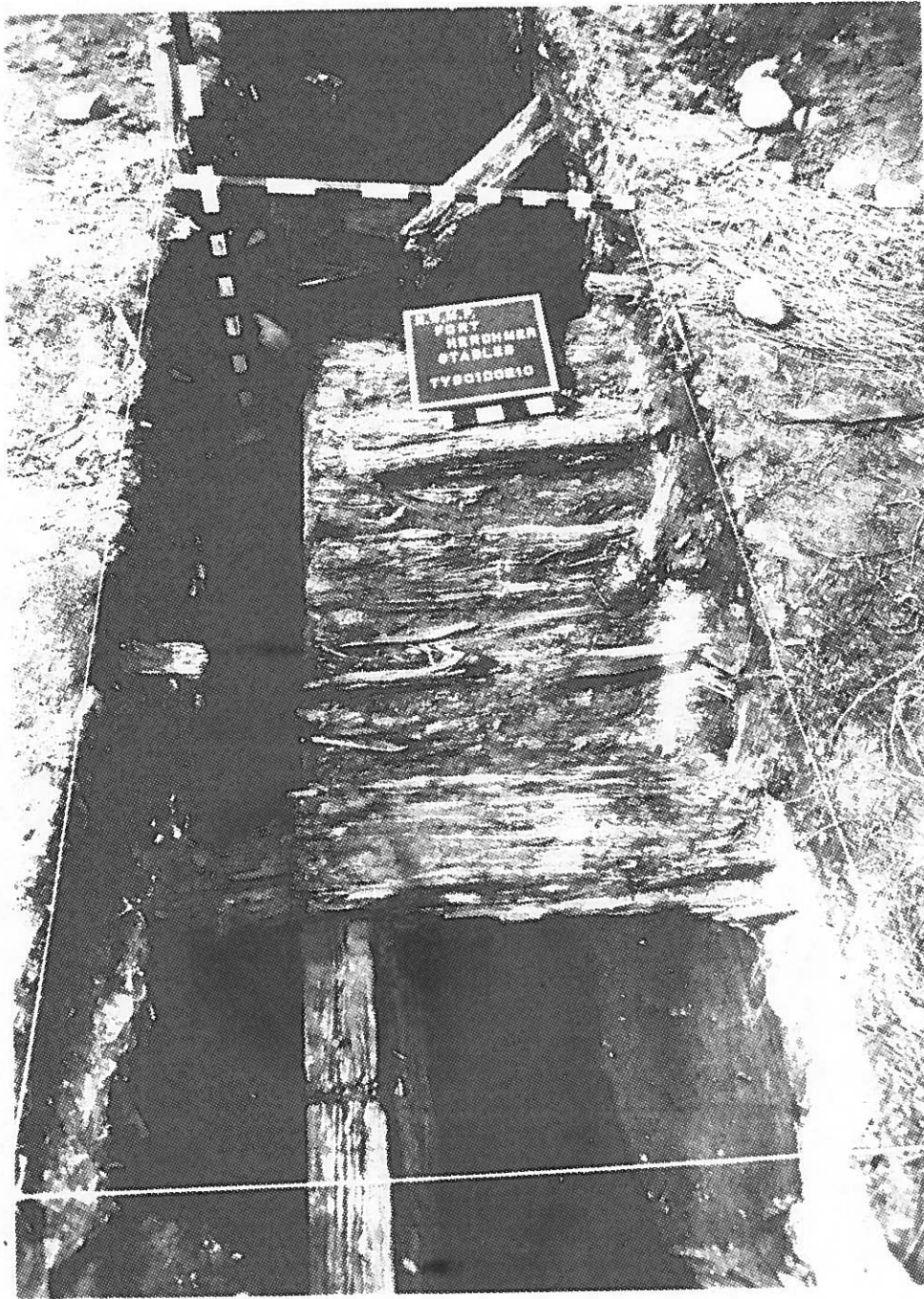


Figure 4.39. View along north door ramp. (Photo by S. McNalley.)

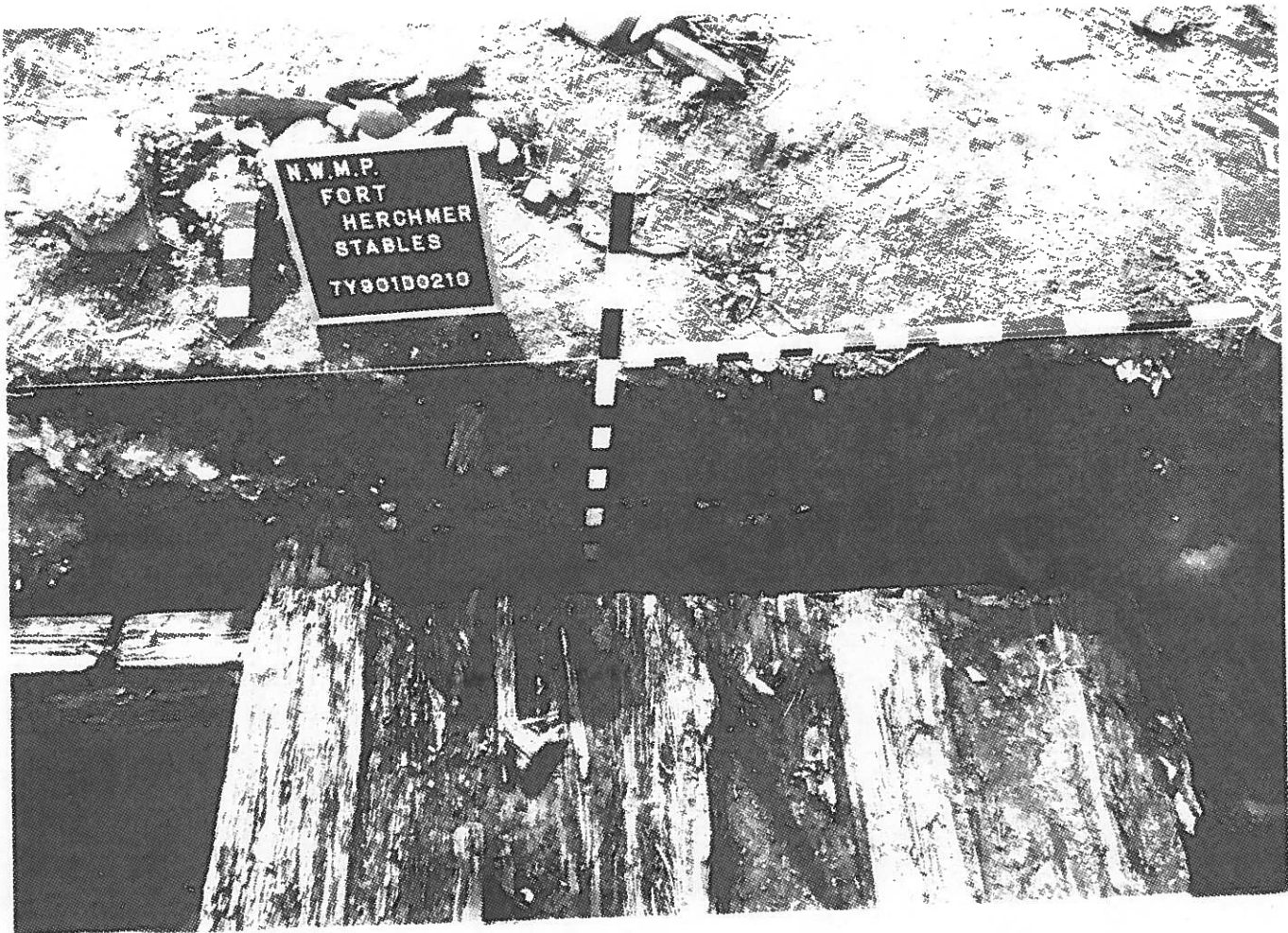


Figure 4.40. West end of north door ramp. (Photo by S. McNalley.)

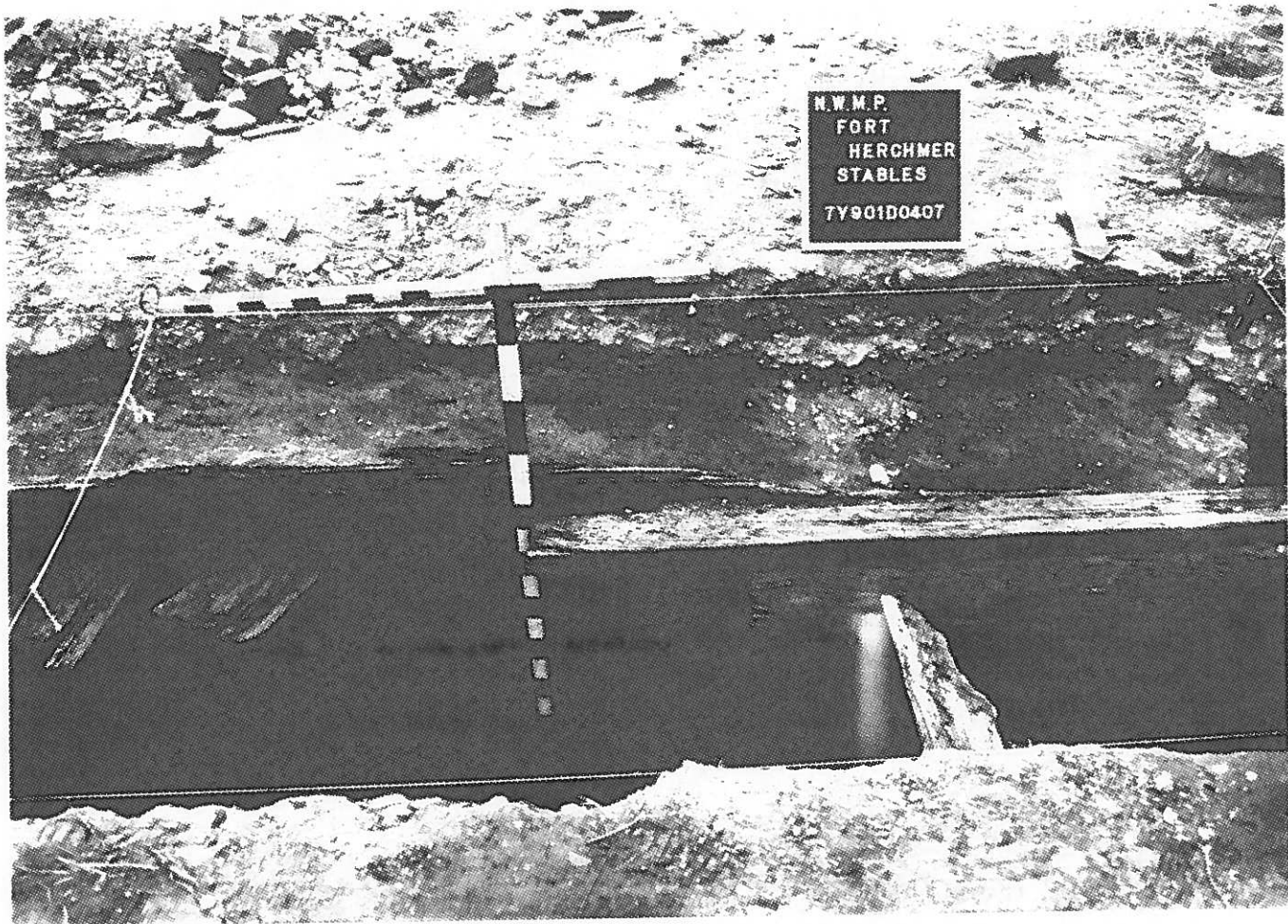


Figure 4.41. East end of north door ramp; note composite sill and tenon on end of bottom part of sill. (Photo by S. McNalley.)

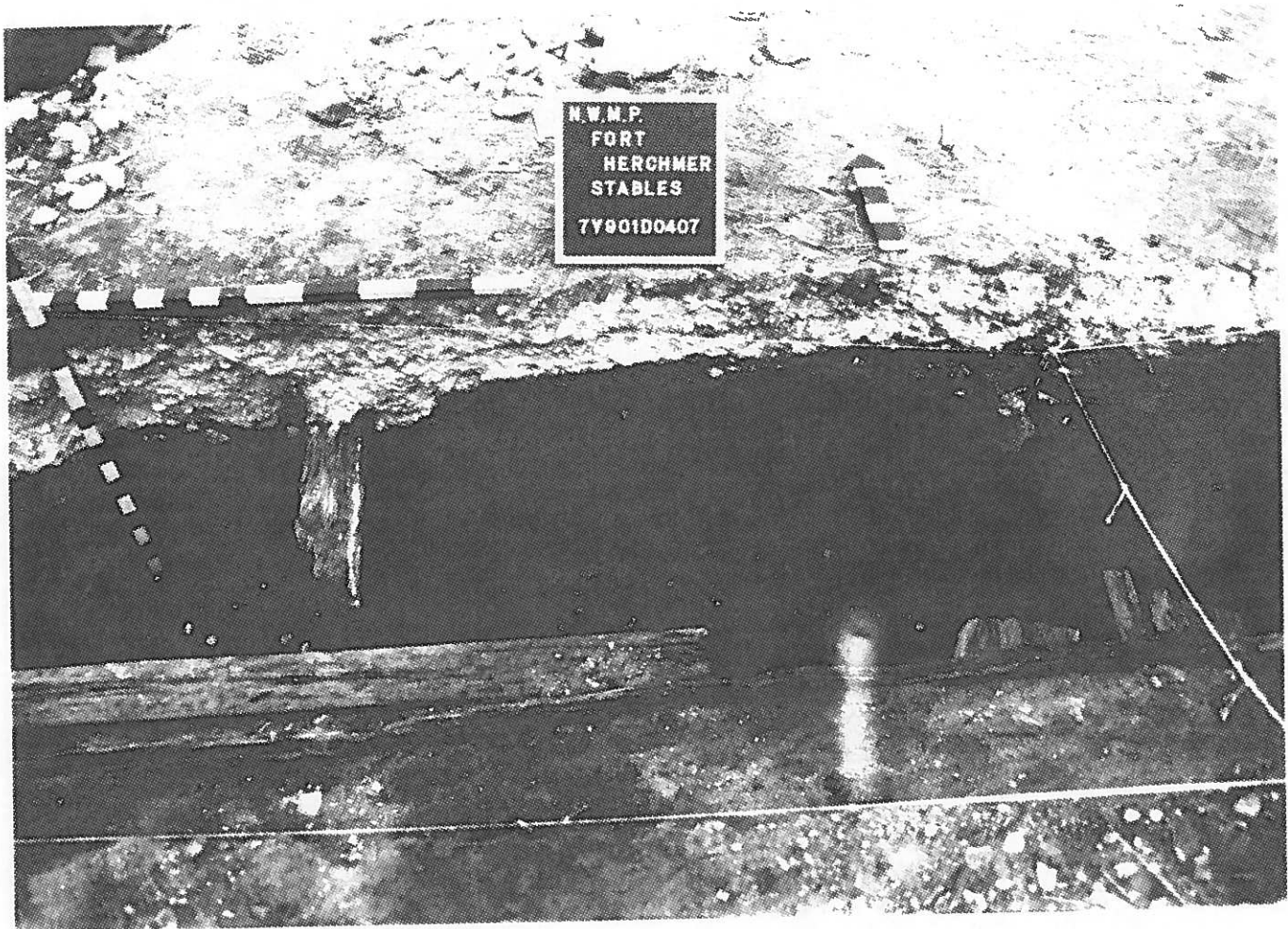


Figure 4.42. 7Y901D04, north profile; note light-colored gravel layer in area of east end of north door ramp. (Photo by S. McNalley.)

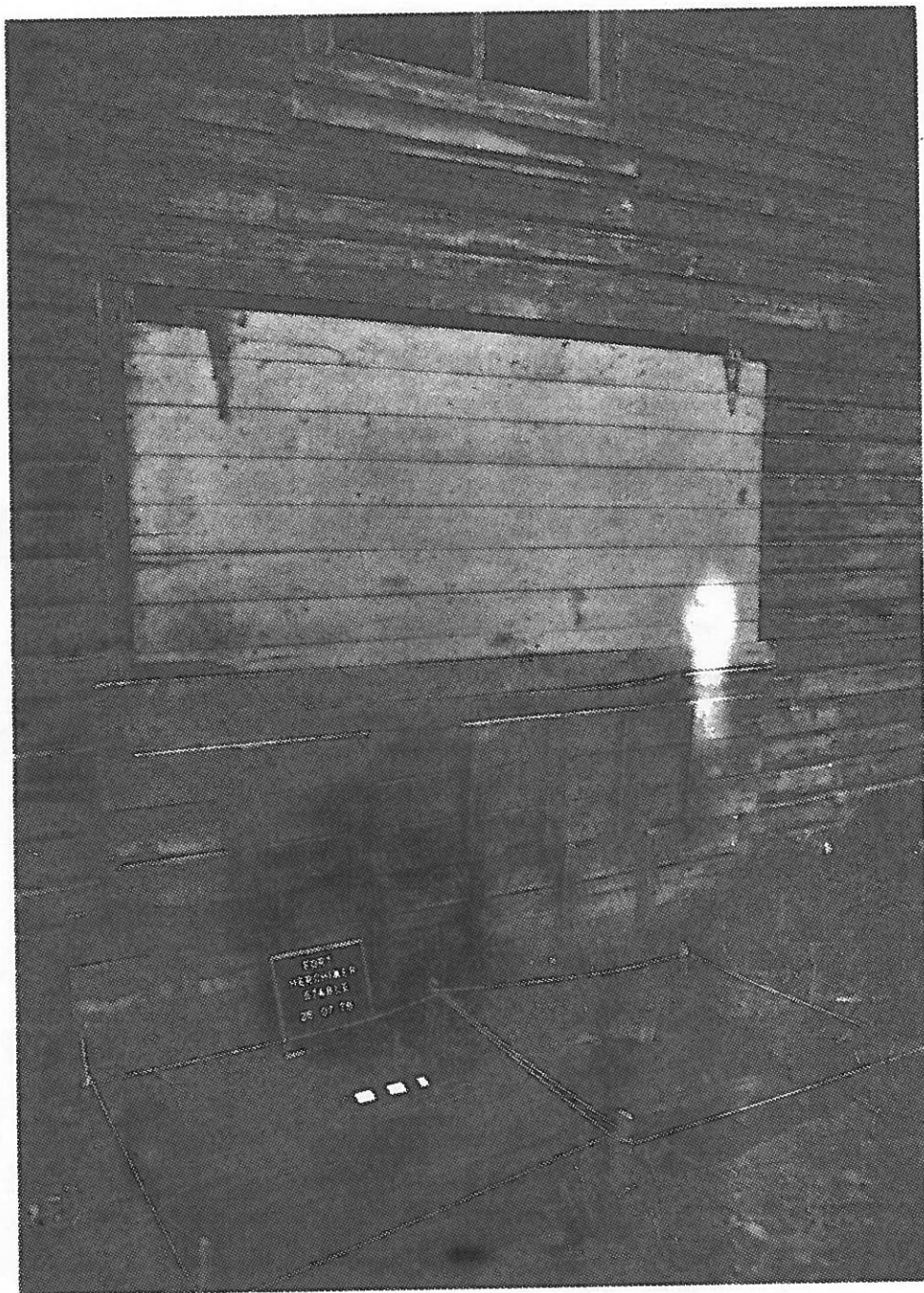


Figure 4.43. West door ramp. (Photo by D. Burley.)

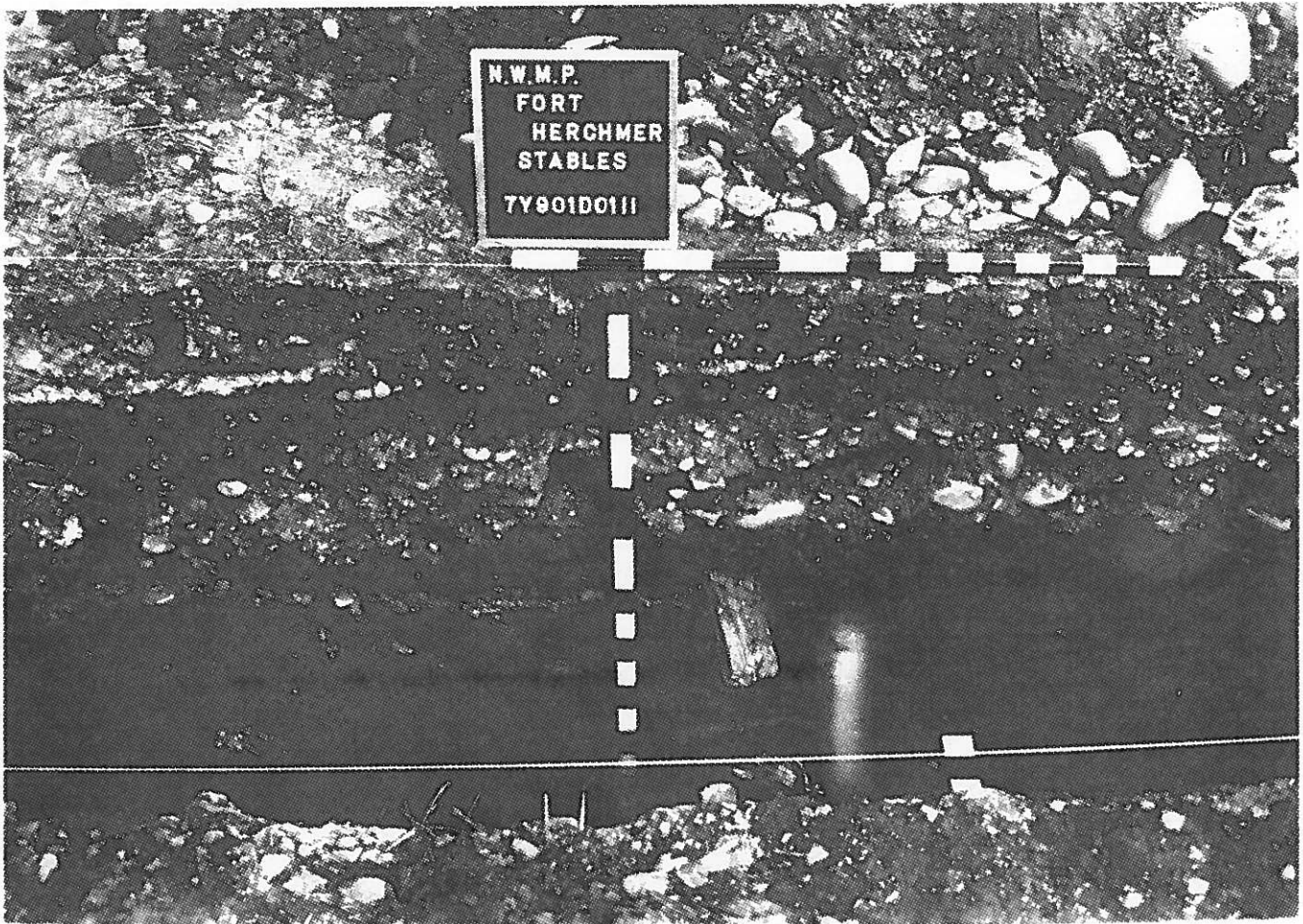


Figure 4.44. 7Y901D01, north profile; note accumulation of gravelly layers. (Photo by S. McNalley.)

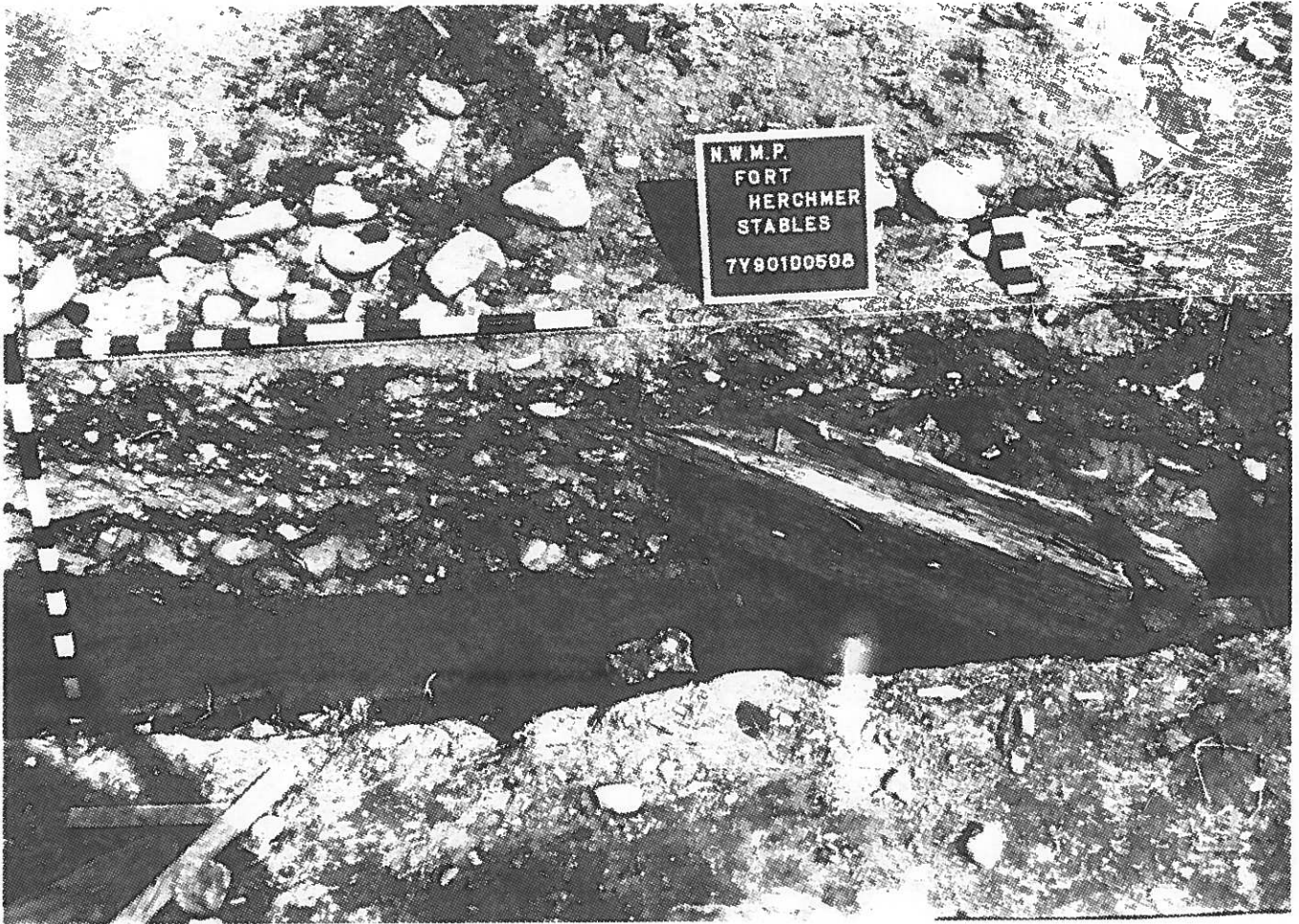


Figure 4.45. 7Y901D05, north profile; note accumulation of gravelly layers. (Photo by S. McNalley.)

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