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A House on Cambridge Hill (38GN2): An Excavation Report

Steven G. Baker

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A House on Cambridge Hill (38GN2): An Excavation Report

Description

Archeological investigation of a house ruin at the site of the extinct community of Cambridge, South Carolina, was completed in 1971 as part of a larger project at the site of Holmes' Fort (38GN2), one of the defensive works at the Revolutionary War Site of Ninety Six. The ruin examined consisted of the brick lined cellar of a house believed to have been constructed in the 1785 period when Cambridge first began to develop as a community. The house was moved or torn down in the late eighteenth or very early nineteenth century, and the cellar hole was subsequently used as a refuse dump until sometime prior to 1820. Examination of the ruin indicated the structure's lifespan correlates with the known period of growth and decline of the community and provided detailed information on construction phases and details of the cellar. An important by-product of the excavation was the recovery of an unusually large and varied assemblage of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century creamware and pearlware ceramics as well as a wide assortment of temporally corresponding artifacts of many categories, including other ceramic types. On a wider front, the investigations have provided insight into the cultural development of the Carolina backcountry in the post-Revolutionary period and have added an important comparative component for the examination of earlier periods of the site's history.

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A HOUSE ON CAMBRIDGE HILL (38GN2):
AN EXCAVATION REPORT

by

Steven G. Baker

Prepared by the
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
March 1972

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ABSTRACT

Archeological investigation of a house ruin at the site of the extinct community of Cambridge, South Carolina, was completed in 1971 as part of a larger project at the site of Holmes' Fort (38GN2), one of the defensive works at the Revolutionary War Site of Ninety Six. The ruin examined consisted of the brick lined cellar of a house believed to have been constructed in the 1785 period when Cambridge first began to develop as a community. The house was moved or torn down in the late eighteenth or very early nineteenth century, and the cellar hole was subsequently used as a refuse dump until sometime prior to 1820. Examination of the ruin indicated the structure's lifespan correlates with the known period of growth and decline of the community and provided detailed information on construction phases and details of the cellar. An important by-product of the excavation was the recovery of an unusually large and varied assemblage of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century creamware and pearlware ceramics as well as a wide assortment of temporally corresponding artifacts of many categories, including other ceramic types.

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PREFACE

Investigation of the eighteenth century house ruin considered in this report was carried out by the present writer as part of a larger project active during the summer of 1971 at Holmes' Fort at historic Ninety Six, South Carolina (38GN2). This project was under the immediate direction of Mr. Stanley South, Archeologist for the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina. Mr. South, together with Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, Director of the Institute, provided the opportunity for the writer to direct this work and made constructive comments regarding the excavation and interpretation of the feature. This writer's sincere appreciation is extended to these individuals.

Special thanks are due to Arthur Skinner and Paul Chaussy for their help in the excavation, as also to crew members Bob Strickland, David Barton, Steve Vinson, Pete Spadetti, Belton Ziegler, Duncan Abernathy, and the other individuals who worked with us. The assistance of everyone in the laboratory and general Institute office has been significant in helping me to complete this small, yet hopefully informative report on the excavation of this house ruin.

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Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

The present report is intended to summarize the investigation of a house ruin located on the site of the historic community of Cambridge, South Carolina, circa 1785-1850. The town of Cambridge was located on the site of the earlier existing Holmes' Fort, 38GN2, which was part of the Revolutionary War defense works of the town of Ninety Six. Holmes' Fort is only one of a group of sites collectively referred to as Ninety Six, all of which relate to various periods in the history of the original town of that name. These sites are located in one centralized area two miles south of the present town of Ninety Six, Greenwood County, South Carolina. The sites which make up this complex (38GN1 to 5) range in time from the French and Indian War period through the American Revolution and terminate in the nineteenth century with abandonment of the town of Cambridge (South 1971). The investigation considered in this report was carried out as part of a larger project on the site of Holmes' Fort during the summer of 1971. This work was conducted by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina under the sponsorship of the Star Fort Historical Commission. Mr. Stanley South was the director of the project at Ninety Six, and it was under his auspices that work at the presently discussed house ruin was completed. The present report is specifically designed to be a dependent portion of the larger report on the summer project which will be completed by Stanley South. Therefore, our treatment of this part of the excavation will be somewhat narrow in scope.

After the destruction of the original town and fortifications of Ninety Six by the British in 1781 and the eventual ending of the Revolution, the town of Cambridge came into existence about 1785 and flourished through the 1790's before falling into a decline in the early nineteenth century (Watson 1970). By the end of the third or fourth decade of the 1800's, the town had practically ceased to exist. There is little information available on the forgotten town of Cambridge, and most of the information presented in the historical discussion in Chapter IV comes from the work of Margaret Watson (1970) and a general familiarity with the site gained through our research on other features and sites in the vicinity.

The ruin of the house (Fig. 1) was located just a few feet north of the moat of Holmes' Fort (Fig. 9) and consisted of the brick lined cellar and associated fireplace pad and footings. The interior of the cellar measured roughly 11 feet by 12 feet and contained one large room which was entered by way of an entrance and steps on the north (Fig. 1). Suggestions are that the ruin dates from the first years of Cambridge and was in all probability destroyed some time in the very early 1800's. After the house was moved or destroyed, the cellar was used as a trash dump for a number of years. Quantities of artifacts found in its dump fill indicate that the cellar was filled in by about 1820.

The goals of the excavation were several and designed to complement one another. The foremost goal of the excavation was, of course, to provide detailed information concerning the dates and nature of the cellar construction and to gain some insight into the appearance of the structure which once stood above the cellar. In conjunction with the previously mentioned point was our interest in determining what ultimately happened to the building and isolating its life span as well as ascertaining the

course of its structural evolution. The little information we had on the history of the site of Cambridge, coupled with the observation that vast quantities of artifacts were appearing in the top level of the fill, suggested that we might also be fortunate enough to obtain a valuable sample of the ceramic and other artifact types in use during a restricted time span. With these objectives in mind, excavation began on June 18, 1971, and under the direction of this writer were continued for about six weeks. The cellar was fully excavated by July 30 after only sporadic work during previous weeks due to unusually wet weather.

We began the excavation with no historical reference which specifically related to the cellar or the property on which it stood. We therefore have had to rely on archeological evidence alone to inform us about the dating and relationships of the feature to the town of Cambridge. To this end the excavation fortunately resulted in the recovery of a large quantity of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century ceramics and other artifacts. It is, therefore, possible to demonstrate reasonably accurate dates for the construction and destruction of the building as well as to make comments about the building which originally stood over the cellar. We have been able to draw a preliminary picture of the relationship of the cellar and its associated house not only to the physical plan of the town, but also what we know of its history as well. At the present writing a fairly large amount of information has yet to be synthesized from the overall Ninety Six project.

The present report constitutes only a field report and general summary of the cellar excavations with a primary emphasis on the structure. It hopefully will be of assistance in producing reports on the artifacts recovered and the final report on the work at Cambridge and the Ninety Six Site in general.

Chapter II

STRUCTURAL DETAILS

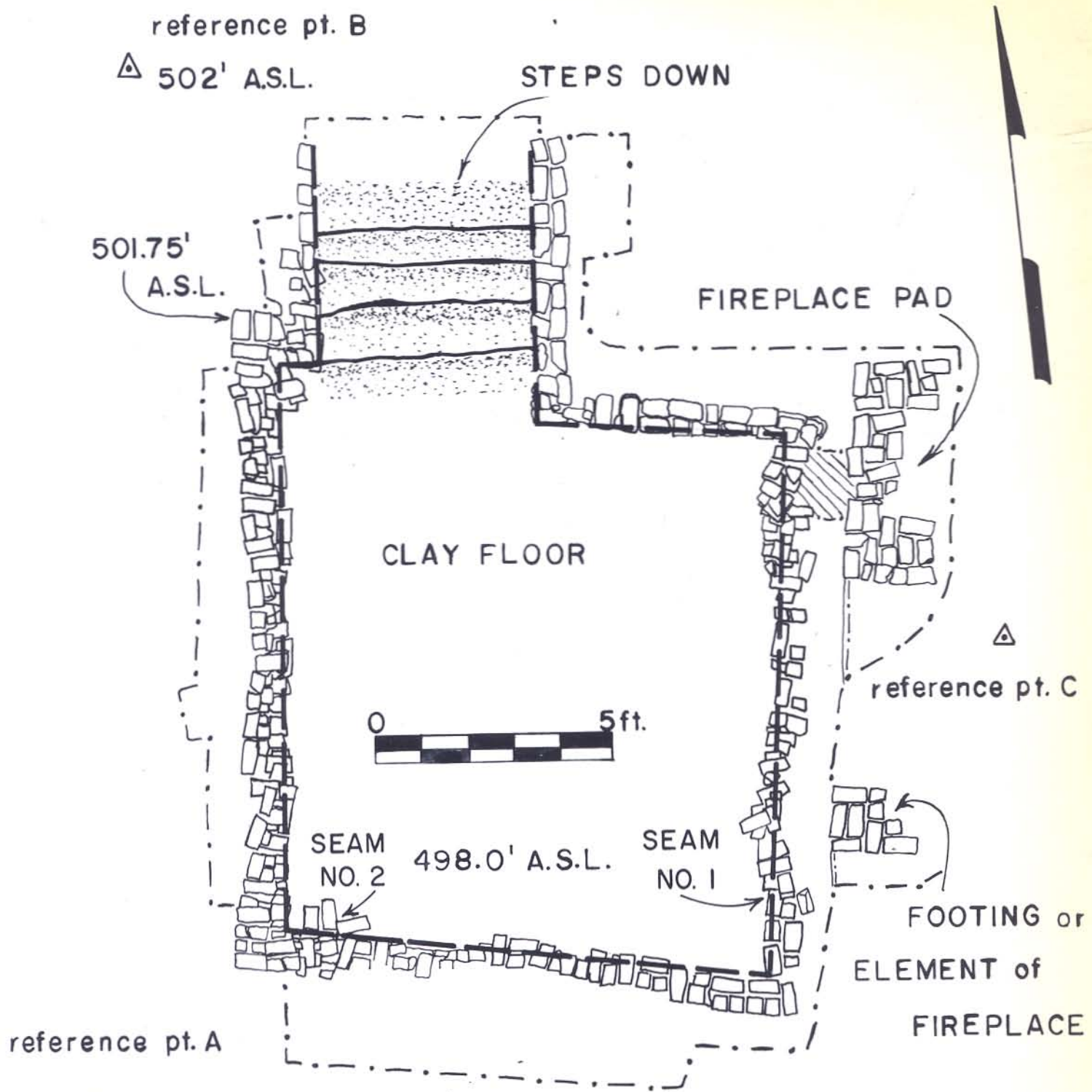
General Discussion



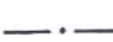


The ruins of the structure examined consisted of a cellar which had its highest portions flush with the surface of the red clay subsoil. The plow and topsoil zones were cut down to the subsoil with a motor scraper prior to excavation. Initially, before excavation the outline of the cellar indicated that it was roughly rectangular with gross exterior dimensions of about 12 feet east and west and 15 feet north and south. An offset entryway was visible on the northwest corner and what appeared to be the remains of a fireplace base could be seen at the northeast corner.

Upon completion of the excavation, the ruins of a brick lined cellar of interior dimension 11 feet by 12 feet were exposed (Fig. 1). The cellar had an entryway on the north with four steps carved into the clay subsoil. The entryway, which adjoined the north wall at its west side, was six feet across and extended six feet to the north beyond the limits of the cellar. The cellar floor was four feet below the surface of the red clay subsoil. In the present chapter we will concentrate on describing the structural detail and methods of construction used in the cellar and will treat the excavation details in the ensuing chapter.

Detail of the Masonry

The cellar lining was composed of handmade brick laid in a Flemish bond (Fig. 2, 6). The bricks were reasonably well fired and of dimensions approaching $2 \frac{3}{4}$ by 4 by $8 \frac{1}{2}$ inches. The average brick sizes from this cellar indicate that they very nearly approach the size of the



-  reference pt. B
-  BRICK
-  LIMITS OF EXCAVATION
-  TRUE LIMITS AT BASE OF WALL
-  UNEXCAVATED AREA

**18th Century Cellar
From Cambridge Hill**

**38 GN 2 Unit 76 Plan View
Holmes Fort August, 1971**

eighteenth century English statute brick. The English statute brick has been accorded contradictory dimensions by Stanley South and Ivor Noël Hume. South (1964:69) stated that this brick was 2 1/2 by 4 by 8 1/2 inches while Noël Hume (1969:24) listed the dimensions of the statute brick as 2 1/2 by 4 1/2 by 9 inches. The brick from the Cambridge cellar would fall within the expected range of typical brick from eighteenth century American sites as summarized in South's brick size index (South 1964:70). It is probable that the bricks were fired in the vicinity of Cambridge of local clays.

The very well executed pattern of Flemish bond as shown by Figure 2 was interrupted at only two points in the entire perimeter of the cellar. There is a very distinct seam in the bond of the east wall near the south corner (Fig. 3, 8). This break is marked by a straight seam caused by a lack of bonding so that the bricks simply meet end to end as opposed to the normal interlocking seen in other parts of the cellar. Where there is one joint of this type suggesting replacement of a wall there has to be a companion joint to mark the other side of the replaced section. There is no other joint in the near vicinity of the previously mentioned one such as we might expect if there had been an earlier entrance which had been sealed off. There is, however, a very apparent discontinuity in the bonding of the south wall near the southwest corner. This seam which can be seen in Figures 4 and 8 indicates that the entire south wall was replaced.

After the replaced south wall section was tied back into the original wall by the seam shown in Figures 5 and 8, it then continued to the



Figure 2

Postexcavation view of cellar entrance. View is to the north.

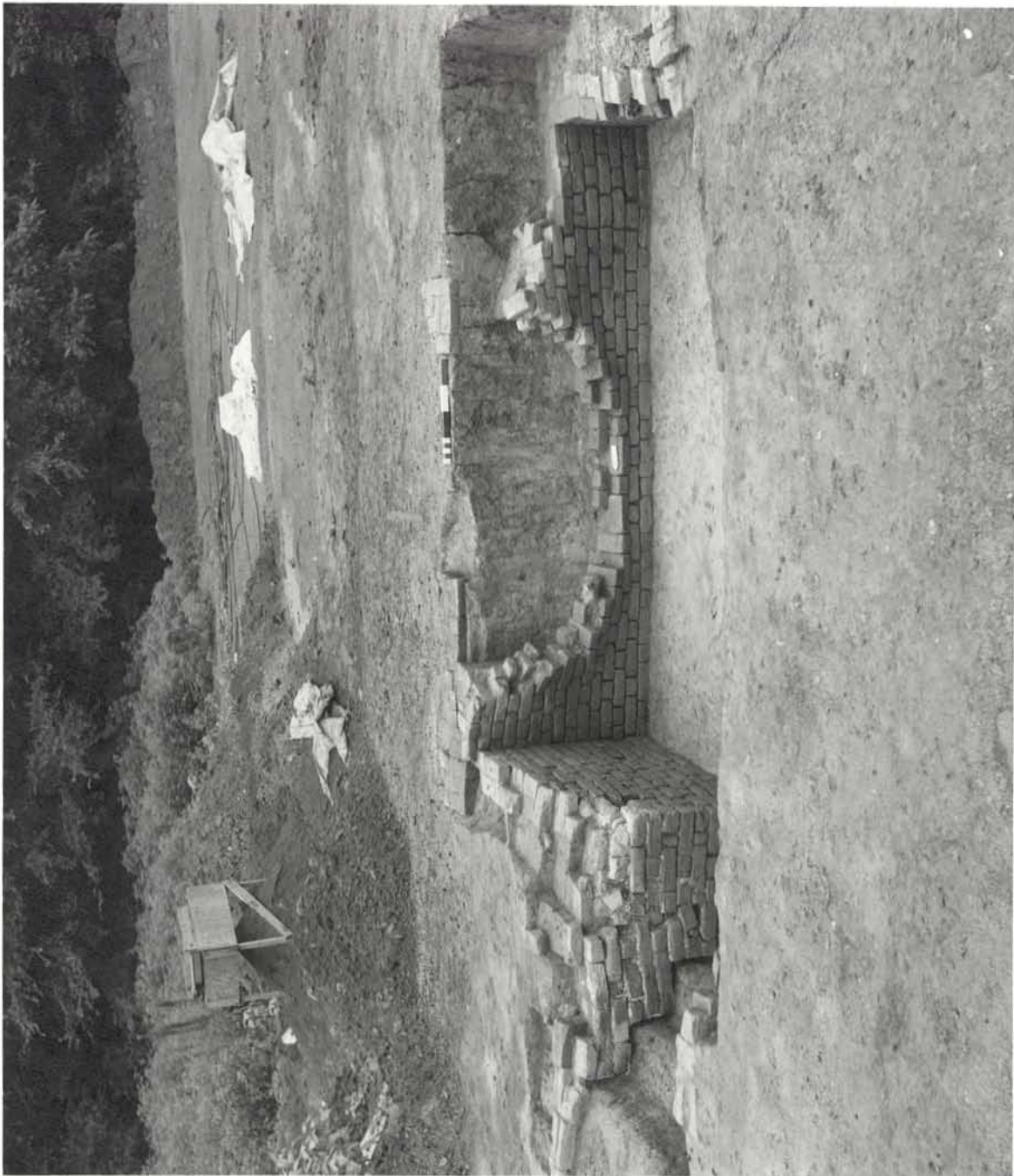


Figure 3

Postexcavation view of east cellar wall.
View is to the east with a 2' scale oriented
north and south.

east corner without interruption in the Flemish bond pattern. Near the south corner of the east wall, the bond pattern, while still basically the same, did begin to show some irregularity which finally culminated in the seam visible in Figure 3. The only possible conclusion that can be deduced from this bonding is that the entire south wall had been replaced, including the entire southeast corner of the cellar lining.

We can only speculate on when or why this south wall required replacement. Perhaps it had collapsed due to an internal weakness which did not allow it to support the weight placed on it. The north, south, and east walls of the cellar lining are all one brick in thickness. The west wall (Fig. 6) is heavier, one and one-half bricks, and may have served as a foundation wall. The one brick thickness of the cellar lining would not have been particularly strong and any weight on it might have been enough to collapse it. Stanley South has suggested that inasmuch as the wall may have been used to support the structure, that after it collapsed and was repaired, the footing shown in Figure 1 might have been built specifically to help ease the weight on this weak point in the cellar lining.

The mortar of the cellar consisted mostly of sand and apparently very little lime. Occasional bits of shell were found associated with the cellar and suggest that the lime was probably derived from oyster shell. The lime had nearly all leached out and only a heavy sand residue remained to testify to the presence of mortar.

The interior dimensions of the cellar were an irregular 11 feet by 12 feet due to the replacement of the collapsed wall section, and the gross exterior dimensions were 12 feet by 15 feet. The entryway (Fig. 1) extends to the north beyond the cellar.



Figure 4

Postexcavation view of south cellar wall. View is to the south with a portion of a 2' scale oriented east and west.



Figure 5

Postexcavation view of southwest corner of cellar. Shows seam and bonding pattern of replaced brick wall section. Moat of northwest bastion of Ft. Holmes shows in the background.

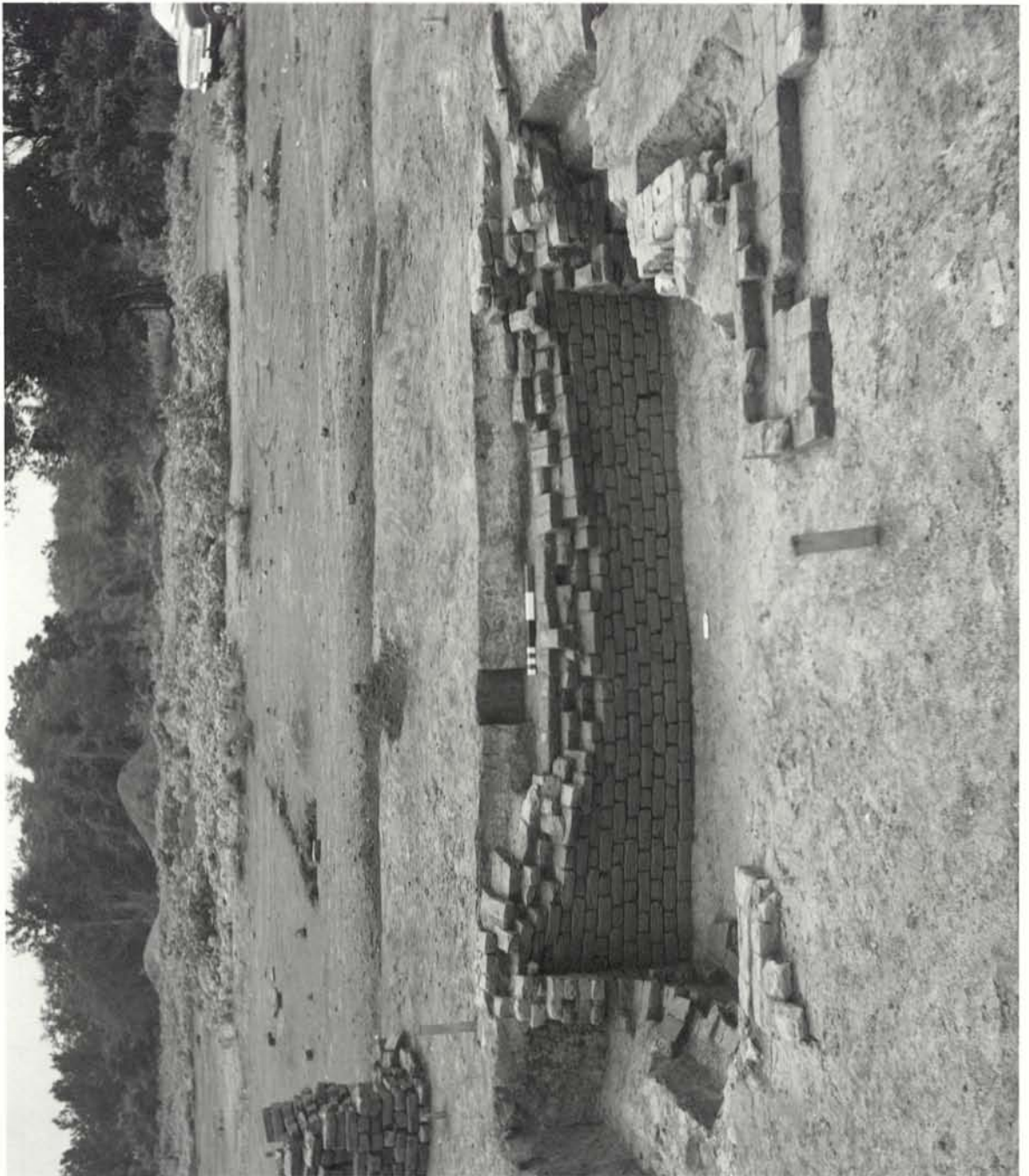


Figure 6

Postexcavation view of west cellar wall. View is to the west with a 2' scale oriented north and south.

Cellar Entrance

Neatly bonded into the north and west walls of the cellar are the walls of the entryway (Fig. 1, 7). The entrance remains consist of a brick wall on each side of a sloping clay bank into which have been cut three steps (Fig. 7). The bond of the brick entrance is Flemish, as with the rest of the cellar. The entryway was apparently constructed at the same time as the rest of the cellar. The steps were 4.5 feet wide and the rise of the steps were individually about .9 of a foot. The tread width of the steps varied between 1 and 1.5 feet. Figure 8 shows that the steps rose about 3.4 feet in height within 4 feet of horizontal distance. The grade of such steps is steep.

Distinct slots were present in the walls of the cellar entrance at the end of each step (Fig. 7). These slots indicate that both the tread and riser of each step had been covered with wood. The slots would tend to hold each board in place and the boards protected the steps from wearing down and crumbling away. Boards to fit these slots would have been one to two inches thick.

Cellar Floor and Elevations

The cellar hole had originally been dug completely through the red clay subsoil into the underlying yellow clay subsoil of the site. The hole for the cellar was only slightly larger than the brich lining and the floor was simply a smooth surface of the yellow clay. The general level of the floor has been listed in the drawings as 498 feet actual elevation.* The floor level actually varies slightly, with the west edge being the highest as shown in

*A.E. or actual elevation has been used to indicate the height above sea level.



Figure 7

Postexcavation view of east wall of the cellar entrance with slots for wooden treads and risers visible at the end of clay steps.

Figure 8. There is a slight drop to the floor level from west to east of about .3 of a foot. No posts, pillings, root cellars or other subfloor features were in evidence. The floor appeared to be formed directly on top of undisturbed clay, but we did not do any subfloor testing.

The highest point found intact on the cellar wall (Fig. 8) was A.E. 502 feet. If we consider that there has been at least 1 to 1.5 feet of natural and mechanical erosion in this area of the site, the original ground level would have been somewhere in the vicinity of A.E. 503.5 feet. This suggestion is only speculation but is, however, indicative of the problem of estimating original elevations.

The house originally standing over the cellar would probably have been on footings or on the top of a foundation extending at least one foot above the ground surface for drainage and as a means of keeping termites away from the wood. Suggestions are that the cellar lining extended above the original ground surface and so probably would have extended all the way to the floor of the structure and served to carry the weight of it as a foundation. If this were the case, then the cellar lining would originally have extended to somewhere around A.E. 504 or 505 feet. This would have made the original height of the cellar lining six or seven feet high. We must allow for a loss of at least two feet of the original height of the walls in this instance. The loss of the two feet of wall can be attributed to intentional razing of the remains and damage done later by agricultural activity.

Fireplace and Footing Remains

The remains of what is presumed to have been a fireplace were lo-

cated at the northeast corner of the cellar (Fig. 1, 6). This feature was constructed of brick and consisted of the remains of two vertical courses. It was set about .2 of a foot into the red clay subsoil in a hole prepared for it. The bond of the brick in this feature was atypical of the rest of the structure in that the pattern consisted of four whole bricks set around a central half brick, with this pattern repeating itself throughout the feature. It extended to an elevation of A.E. 501.4 feet, and the remains were slightly U-shaped with the open end of the U facing to the east away from the cellar. The fireplace remains were two feet in width by five feet in length.

Located at the southeast corner of the cellar is a small feature presumed to be a footing for the support of the house. It is directly in line (Fig. 1) north and south with the fireplace pad at the northeast corner. The footing consists of one course of bricks set in a shallow hole in the subsoil. It is not intact, but the remaining dimensions are one by two feet. The bond of the bricks appears random and is different from that in the fireplace pad. At first glance the two features would appear to be contemporary, and there is no evidence thus far to preclude this assumption. The bonding is rather unorthodox in both features and cannot be used as a criteria for assigning any associations in this instance.

Comments on the Superstructure of the House

Two general configurations can be conjectured for the house which originally stood above the cellar. These plans are illustrated in Figure 9 and are both subject to criticism in interpretation.

Based on what we know of the cellar ruin and other features in the

vicinity of the cellar, the most probable size for a building would have been at least 15 by 30 feet. The 15 feet width is relatively certain in that the extreme west wall would have been the same length as the west cellar wall. The west cellar wall was one and one-half bricks in thickness as opposed to the one brick thickness of the rest of the cellar lining. This is evidence that the west cellar wall served as a primary foundation for support of one end of the house. This interpretation is strengthened by the existence of Cambridge period fence lines (Fig. 9) only a few feet to the west of the cellar (South 1972). The existence of these fence lines would have prevented incorporation of this area within the structure's limits and thereby limited it to the vicinity of the west cellar wall. In order for the fireplace to have been effectively utilized it would have been essential to have the north wall of the house considerably to the north and not directly over the north wall of the cellar. A line drawn from the extreme north end of the west foundation wall would allow for this effective utilization of the fireplace and still suggest an outside entrance to the cellar stairs. In a similar manner the south wall can be extended eastward from the south end of the west foundation wall in a line parallel to the north wall of the house. An arbitrary doubling of the overall width of the ruin results in a figure of roughly 30 feet. The house very easily could have extended 30 feet east and west and have been supported on independent footings beyond the cellar walls (Fig. 9, heavy black line).

In accordance with South's interpretation of fence or property lines and the evidence from the rest of the features in the vicinity (Fig. 9), this conjectural vision of the original building outline

seems to be the most workable. There is, unfortunately, one serious drawback that, when fully investigated, suggests another plausible alternative. This second alternative conjectural view of the house plan is also illustrated in Figure 9.

In Figure 9 it will be noticed that the entrance to the cellar appears to intrude on a ditchlike feature running east and west from the area west of the fence lines to a point considerably east of the cellar remains. At first glance this long linear feature appears to be neatly cut through by the cellar entrance. This could be simple enough except that this feature apparently relates to the Cambridge period (South 1972). A small cross section was made through this feature, but there were only a couple of small sherds of pearlware present in it. This suggests that it was probably filled in in the latter part of the eighteenth century. However, if the house over the cellar was built, as we suspect, in the early years of Cambridge then that would only allow a very few years, perhaps only five or so maximum, for this feature to have come into existence following destruction of Fort Holmes in 1782 and before construction of the cellar which appears to have truncated it.

The first thought one has in regard to this feature is that it is a drip line from the eaves of a large house standing over the cellar. Although the feature seemed to be a little deep for a drip line this possibility has not been fully discounted. If it was, then a house of approximately 15 by 40 feet would have originally stood above the cellar. This possibility is illustrated in Figure 9 (broken line) but is not a preferred alternative, even though it has been necessary to mention it. There is one major point which either destroys or confirms

this alternative concept. In Figure 9 the north-south running fence lines seem to run right through the area which would have been included in the house area. Now we will introduce the biggest question yet raised in regard to this house, and the reader may judge for himself about the possible relationships.

Our dating of the building has suggested that by the end of the first decade of the nineteenth century it was gone from the site. There was no evidence of fire or natural catastrophe, and we know that the building was in existence at least long enough for the cellar walls to collapse and be rebuilt. This implies at least reasonable longevity. There was absolutely no evidence that the cellar was filled in prior to the Cambridge period and all evidence actually contradicts it. If the house was built in the period of early construction at Cambridge (circa 1780's) and was gone by circa 1800-1810, then its life span was only a maximum of about 20 or maybe 25 years. Is it possible that a house of the larger dimensions stood on this location in the early years of Cambridge and approximately the turn of the century the first survey lines for which we have evidence were laid out as shown on Figure 9? If so, the survey could have found that the building straddled a property line, and the owner could have been forced to remove the house in order to conform to civic authority. This is certainly not an unheard of situation and would explain the reasons for the very obvious and mysteriously short life span of this house. The timing of the removal of the building would certainly be in keeping with the dating evidence we have and the only really opposing evidence we know of at the moment is that the ditch-like feature does not look like what we normally

think of as a drip line. One other possible alternative is that this ditch-like feature is actually much earlier than the Cambridge period and that South's interpretation (1972) needs to be revised.

If our first alternative plan of the house is correct (Fig. 9), we can project a structure of at least two rooms with a fireplace in the wall separating them. The house would have been at least 14 or 15 feet wide and perhaps double that size in length. It would have had its lengthwise axis oriented east-west and would have had a cellar under the west room with an outside entrance from the north. It would have been bounded on the west by a fence line (Fig. 9) and further to the west was another house. Noël Hume has pointed out (Hume 1969:128) that a foundation of a brick and a half could carry a two story frame house with no basement or small one story house of brick. A one-brick foundation could support nothing larger than a story and a half frame house. The cellar under consideration had one wall of one and a half bricks and the rest were only one brick in thickness. If we use Noël Hume's suggestions as a guideline, then it is doubtful that the house originally standing above the cellar could have been of more than one or a story and a half tall at the most. It certainly would not have been a brick house, but most likely was of frame construction. It is entirely possible that the structure could have been of hewn log construction. We have documentation that there were log buildings at Cambridge and that they were in ruins in 1806 (Watson 1970:25). This structure could conceivably be one of them.

A potential parallel for such construction might be found in the "Hays" home which is located a mile south of the Ninety Six Site on

Highway 248. The original portion of this structure is said to be of hewn log construction and does have a small cellar under it. This writer has only visited the site for a brief moment but has been invited by the owner to make a longer visit. I hope to do this and for the moment can only refer the reader to one reference which might give him some idea of the range of such structures. The Log Cabin in America by C. A. Weslager (1969) has many weaknesses, but does show many examples of early American log architecture.

Abandonment and Razing of the Structure

One of the main subjects of concern during excavation of the cellar was in recovering evidence relating to the destruction of the house. No evidence was found for any trauma to the structure such as fire or complete collapse. The overall lack of structural materials other than brick in the fill of the cellar, as well as on the floor, suggests that the house was either razed for its building materials or moved from the site. There were, to be sure, some pieces of hardware that probably came from the building; but we can demonstrate few, if any, ties between this material and the structure. There were large quantities of whole and fragmentary brick throughout the fill and particularly towards the floor where we began to recover elements of the collapsed cellar walls (Fig. 14).

There was a solid layer of brick overlying the floor area of the cellar. It could be discerned by the patterning of this brick layer, with some layers running under others, that most, if not all, had been derived from the collapse of the cellar walls.

We have estimated that there has been a loss of at least one foot of topsoil from the site. The original cellar walls extended to an elevation of approximately A.E. 504 or 505 feet. The fact that the highest intact point on the feature was A.E. 502 feet, coupled with our knowledge that the foundation must have extended at least one foot above the original ground surface, would allow us to state that perhaps two feet of the foundation had been removed after the building was abandoned. The remaining portions of the walls either collapsed naturally or were intentionally pushed in as a means of partially filling the cellar. The result of this was the accumulation of a massive layer of brick and mortar overlying the cellar floor. The elevations of the various wall remnants can be seen in Figure 8, as well as the post excavations photographs (Fig. 2, 7).

Our initial observations on the cellar fill indicate that it was probably in the process of being backfilled by around 1800 or perhaps as late as 1810 or 1812 and was completely filled in by about 1820. If these dates are correct then it must have been abandoned and destroyed within a few years of 1800. We will address ourselves to questions of dating in more detail in Chapter IV.

Chapter III

STRATIGRAPHY AND EXCAVATION DETAIL

Introduction

The cellar presently under discussion was originally located during the fall project of 1970 (South 1971:90). At that time a motor scraper was used to strip the topsoil from a large portion of the Holmes' Fort Site (38GN2). This action exposed the subsoil to view and led to the location of numerous features. One of the features exposed was the cellar, and at that time it was designated provenience Unit 76. This provenience simply indicated the general vicinity of the feature. At the end of the project in November of 1970, the feature was covered with plastic and a layer of dirt in order to protect against erosion and vandalism during the winter.

In June of 1971 a crew returned to the site of Holmes' Fort, and the decision was made to excavate the cellar. Excavation began in earnest on June 21 and continued until the last week of July. The daily labor was carried out with an average of three to four men. The entire excavation was completed with trowels (Fig. 13) due to the large numbers of artifacts recovered throughout the fill (Fig. 11, 12). Nearly all the soil was screened through either one-quarter or one-half inch mesh screens. During the month of July rain precluded our working on the cellar on a full-time basis.

The excavation recording system used is that standardly in use by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology. This system simply involves assigning a number or numbers to a feature and then utilizing alphabetical

designations under that number for any specific provenience within the overall designation. Cards are filled out to describe each provenience, and soil profile drawings are all oriented towards demonstrating the stratigraphic context of each provenience.

In the present report we will not summarize each provenience assigned and excavated, but will discuss the groupings of proveniences as they relate to specific stratigraphic or structural contexts.

Excavation Detail

Our first step in the excavation of the cellar was to divide it in half with the north one half being designated 225 and the south one half 224. String lines were oriented so that balks and soil profiles could be left at each side of the cellar as well as across the center. An additional profile was designed to extend from the central east-west profile northward up the center of the cellar steps.

Horizontal control points were established by placement of three wooden stakes at various locations around the excavation (Fig. 1). These points were simply designated as "reference points A, B, and C." Any locating of features or artifacts encountered during the excavation was done by triangulation from these points. Reference point B further served as a vertical datum for the feature, and its actual elevation (A.E.) was 502 feet above sea level.

The first emphasis of the excavation was toward the south one half of the cellar fill. Proveniences 224 A, B, C, D, E, F, and G were among the first removed with the result that the south end of the cellar was the first major portion of the feature to be completely excavated. The

wall areas and special proveniences in the south one half were then dealt with.

While the south one half of the cellar was being excavated under provenience designation 224, a three foot wide trench running north-south from the central profile to the top of the entrance steps was also being excavated. This unit included proveniences 225 A, B, C, D, E, and F and was opened in order to sample the stratigraphy in the north one half of the cellar and particularly to provide us with a soil profile extending northward up the cellar steps from the center of the cellar. After completion of this unit, the westward portion of the fill was removed. This included 225 F, G, H, I, J, and K and was excavated with the utmost care in order to provide closely provenienced samples of the artifacts that would relate directly to the soil profile. The completion of this portion of the excavation left only one large area of the cellar fill yet to be excavated. This was the northeast corner which was excavated under the designations 225 L, M, N, O, and P.

With the completion of the excavation of the major blocks of the cellar fill, the recording and removal of the central balk was the major job remaining. After this was finished, the cleaning and excavation of foundation trenches and final recording was begun. The cellar was completely excavated by July 30 after work was carried out on an intermittent basis for the previous three weeks or so. The final mapping was done with a plane table and folding leaf alidade, and the drawing shown in Figure 1 is produced from this map. The details of

the provenience correlations are provided in Figures 10 and 15.

In the following description of the stratigraphy of the cellar fill, the discussion is keyed directly to the central soil profile through the feature. This east-west profile (Fig. 10) is considered to be the master stratigraphic reference for the entire excavation and correlates the major vertical proveniences to their stratigraphic context.

Stratigraphic Considerations

The first fill to go into the abandoned cellar was debris from the collapse of the walls (Fig 10). This included a heavy layer of brick rubble (Fig. 14) which was underlain by a layer of green sand derived from the breakdown of the mortar. This green sand is located directly on top of the floor of the cellar and is found through much of the brick layer. There were few cultural materials of any kind directly on the floor, and the very obvious lack of these materials is a further indication that the cellar was probably intentionally destroyed. Directly overlying the collapsed east wall (Fig. 10, layer V and VI) was a layering of yellow clay subsoil. Some few included layers of ash and charcoal were mixed with it, and it has generally a rather mottled texture. If any of the stratigraphy was derived from destruction of the house, this probably was it. This layering of material was sealed off by layer IV (Fig. 10) and was among the first soil units deposited after the collapse of the cellar walls.

A layer of red clay was the next fill layer to be deposited in the cellar. This layer contained a few artifacts but was generally free of inclusions. It had the look and feel of what is rather subjectively called a "clean" soil which lacks a lot of cultural mixing, artifacts

and organic debris. This layer is illustrated as Unit IV in Figure 10 and contained two silver coins. The coins were both Spanish, one a 1782 one real piece and the other a 1785 one-half real. These coins are the only artifacts which give any form of close dating to this layer, and even now all we can say is that it had to have been deposited sometime after 1785. This layer could be derived from the soil which surrounded the structure while it still stood and probably includes materials dating earlier than the period of occupancy of the house as well as miscellaneous trash accumulated after its destruction. The point we wish to stress is that the layer does not suggest the same derivation as the overlying ash layers which are probably direct fireplace and general household debris from neighboring structures. This layer seems to be of secondary deposition as opposed to the overlying ash layers which might be termed primary deposition, particularly when we consider that they were probably taken directly from the hearth or garbage bucket and thrown straight into the cellar. As with the rest of the layers of fill, the materials from this layer were provenienced separately as an independent unit. Layer IV apparently filled into the hole from all sides as the surrounding soil caved in and was pushed in over top of the collapsed brick walls.

Commencing at the top of the red clay fill, which overlies and is mixed with the brick rubble layer, is a layer of bedded ash lenses nearly three feet thick which forms at least two thirds of the entire soil profile. This layering includes Units I, II, and III in Figure 10 and, as can be seen in the profile, basically represents one big trash dump which was probably filled in over a period of years. Micro-stratigraphic detail

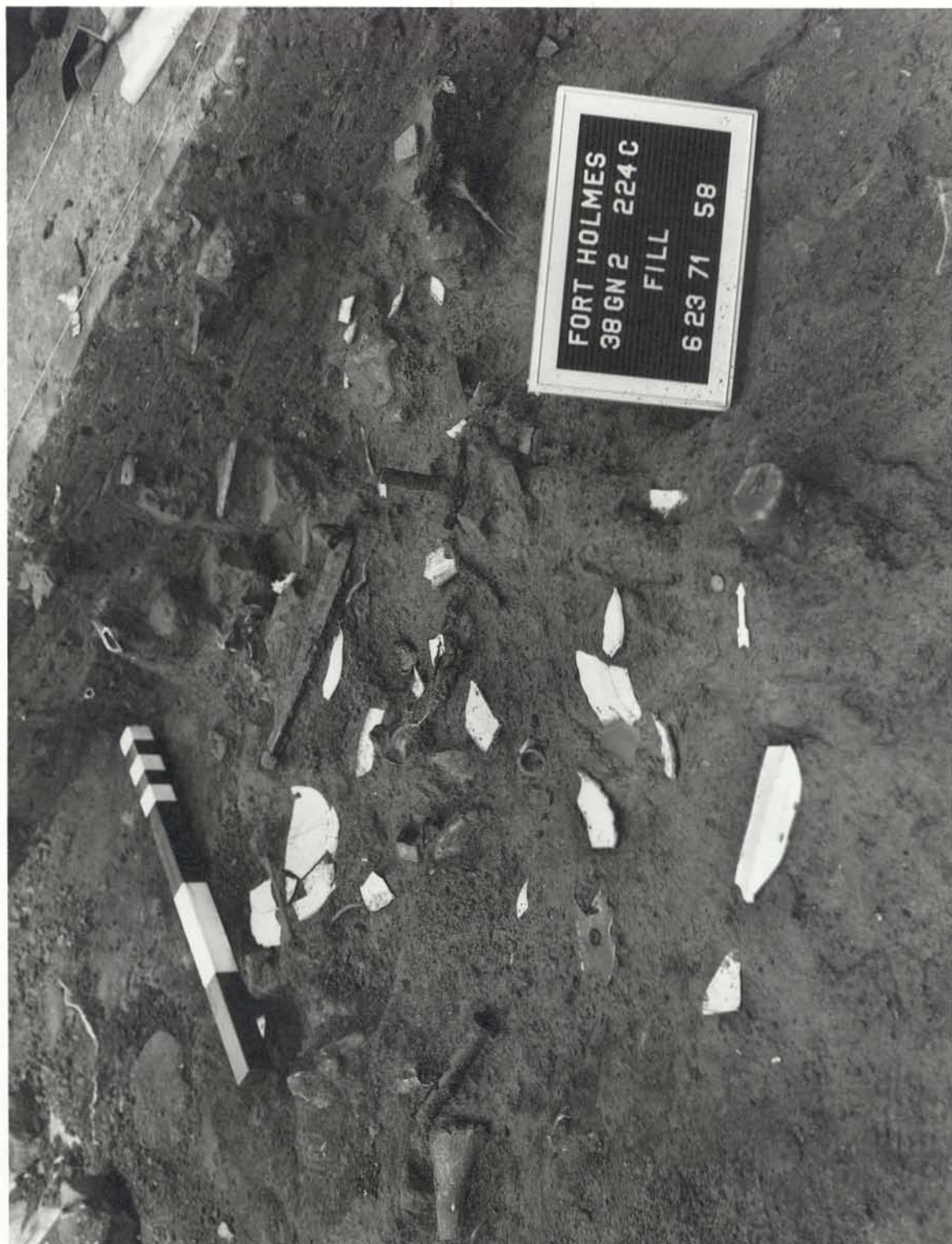


Figure 11

Photograph illustrating artifact content of the major fill layers of the cellar. Provenience is 224C.



Figure 12

Photograph of unusual transfer printed pearlware bowl and other ceramics typical of those found throughout the cellar fill.

of the ash deposit shows scores of individual layers which are all bedded in a very tight configuration with no layering of sterile soils in between. This detail allows us to state that deposition was frequent and involved a little deposition on numerous occasions, perhaps whenever the occupants of a neighboring structure threw their trash out or cleaned the ashes from the hearth. Thus, the ash layers may represent as much as 10 or more years of continual deposition with no long periods between that would allow a humus development or heavy washing in of extraneous soils. The dates represented by the artifacts recovered suggest that this fill is of about 1800 to 1820 deposition. These dates are considered to be conservative and are only general as will be discussed in the following chapter of the report. What little indications we have suggest that in most cases the fill was deposited from a westerly or perhaps a northwesterly direction. The fill was unusually rich in artifacts. Tabulation of the non-ceramic items alone has run to over 11,000 items, and perhaps double the number of ceramics are yet to be tabulated. Figures 11 and 12 illustrate the typical distribution of materials in this major layer.

If the soil profile will again be consulted (Fig. 10), it will be noted that the ash layers of Unit III in the west one half of the profile show considerable reworking with red clay. They are, though, obviously the same basic unit as those on the side but exhibit a much heavier clay content which makes the ash lenses of the east side stand out better. There is a suggestion of a soil break in the west one half as shown by the broken line, but the entire soil layering of this area is hard to pin down to a specific line, except at some points. The situation was further complicated by the presence of a large hole in the center of the profile (Fig. 10) which was caused by vandalism in the early part of



Figure 13

General view of excavation in progress on July 1, 1971.

View is to the north.

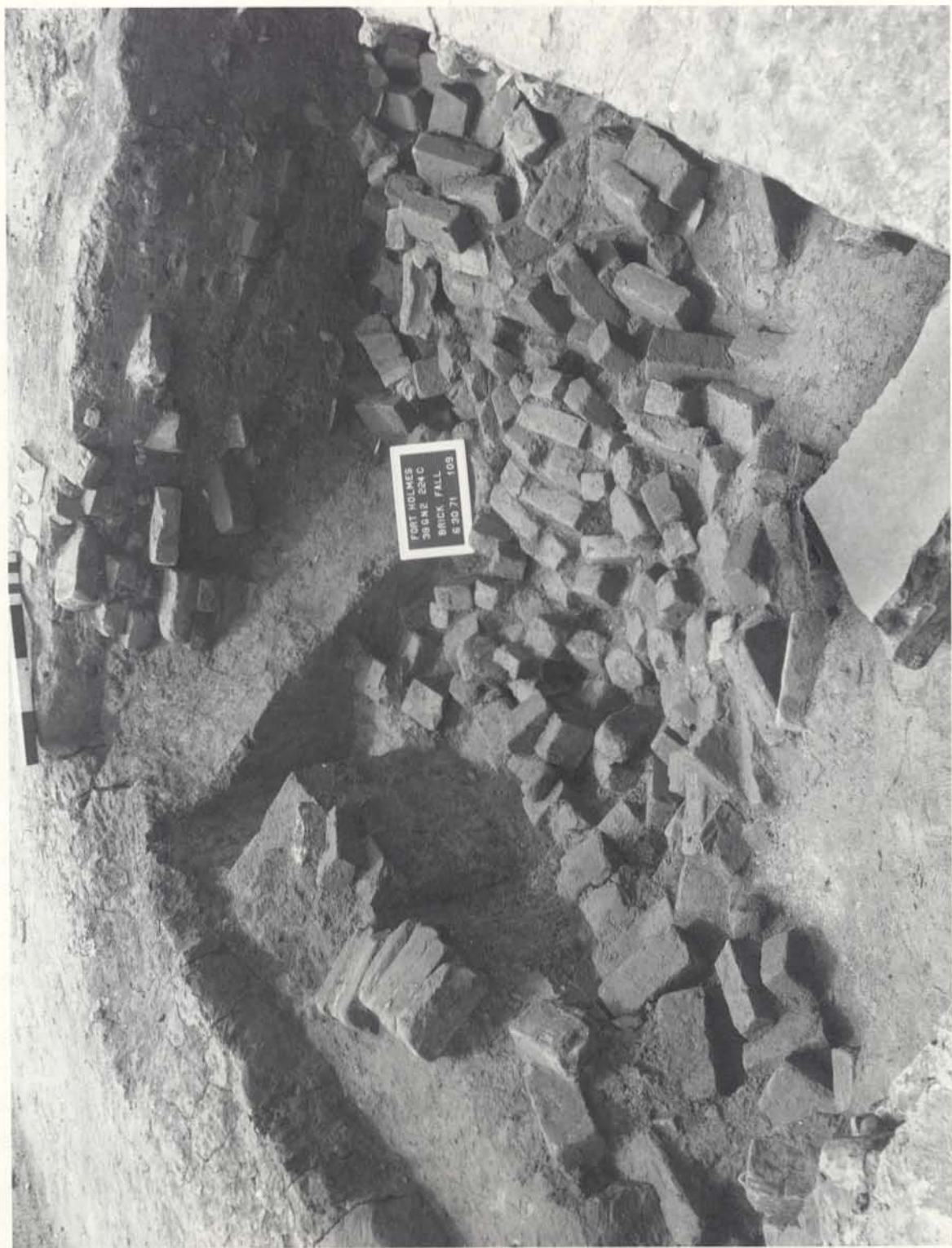


Figure 14

Photo of collapsed south wall of brick cellar lining.

the excavation. Essentially, even though there are numerous lenses of ash within the overall soil unit, it generally reflects an accumulation of household trash which was thrown into the open cellar over a number of years and slowly settled to the center. The heavier mixing with red clay on this side is probably the result of water action and washing in of extraneous soil on this side.

Special Provenience Considerations

Provenience number 224-I designated the contents of a section of an intrusive pit (Fig. 15) which had intruded through the top layers of fill in a position over the southeast corner of the cellar. The pit extended from the east bank of the undisturbed subsoil out into the fill of 224, where it gradually faded away and its limits could no longer be traced (Polhemus 1971: Field Drawing). It was roughly two feet wide and extended down to the top of the residual cellar wall located at about A.E. 499.6 feet. This pit was filled with brick bats and general trash and is suspected to be the result of the robbing of the brick from this corner of the cellar wall.

There was considerable disturbance of the subsoil behind the line of the south cellar wall about midway along it, but it was very irregular, and we were not able to fully define its limits, although it probably was part of the same intrusion discussed above and shown in Figure 15. Prior to excavation, there was an irregular concentration of brick and stone protruding out of the fill in a position over the residual south wall. Richard Polhemus drew a pre-excavation map of the cellar (Polhemus 1971) but did not delimit any disturbance in this area. Although we failed to define its limits, it is speculated that it was probably an

attempt to rob bricks from the south wall. This endeavor could not have been successful, though, because the south wall of the cellar was fully collapsed onto the floor of the feature as shown in Figure 14.

A small cache of coins and jewelry were recovered from the construction space behind the replaced brick wall of the cellar lining (Fig. 16). This cache of coins and jewelry consisted of a brass chain, four Spanish silver coins¹, a cut quartz set from a sleeve link or earring, a small brass buckle, and two buttons. There was also an almost complete green shell edged pearlware dinner plate wedged behind the brick (Fig. 16). The location of this cluster of materials which were all found within six inches of each other and with the coins and jewelry in a pile was designated 224 M. It is possible, but doubtful, that this material was the result of general trash falling down the construction space either during or even after the wall was replaced.

The small items were probably originally in a small purse or bag which has since deteriorated without leaving a trace other than perhaps the chains or buttons. It is possible that these materials which may have been valued items to someone were placed here intentionally in order to hide or otherwise cache them. The plate could very easily be a "treasured" object for someone while not being serviceable to the normal household. There was only a little extraneous trash associated with these mentioned items such as we would expect to find in typical household refuse. They were firmly imbedded in the yellow clay which filled the lower reaches of the construction space and were nearly two feet down

¹The coins included a badly worn and perforated one-half real, 1780 one real piece, a 1774 one real piece, and a 1766 one real piece.



Figure 16

Photo showing location of small cache of coins,
jewelry, and a pearlware plate behind the replaced
section of the southeast cellar wall.

from the surface of the ground. Originally they would have been as deep as four feet below the original top of the cellar wall.

With the foregoing discussion in mind, we can offer two hypotheses concerning the question of "how these materials got there." It is possible that someone placed the materials behind this wall when it was rebuilt. This observation definitely precludes the possibility that the materials could have been placed in this position during the original construction, as they would have been dislodged when the wall was replaced. If they were not placed there at the time the cellar wall was rebuilt, it is evident that they were put there after the structure had been torn down and most of the wall had collapsed. The intrusive pit seen in Figure 15, other than a brick robber's trench, could also conceivably be evidence of an excavation intended to deposit these materials, or theoretically, perhaps, even an attempt to retrieve them after the abandonment and decay of the structure.

Chapter IV

DATING AND HISTORICAL INTEGRATION

Historical Summary of Cambridge

Numerous historical sources mention the community of Cambridge but few go into any discussion of it. One of the only detailed discussions is in Margaret Watson's Greenwood County Sketches (1970), and we have relied heavily on it in compiling the present summary. The history of the site of Fort Holmes and Ninety Six in general are well summarized in the recent manuscript by Stanley South (1971).

After the siege of Ninety Six in the early summer of 1781 in which the British forces successfully repulsed the army of General Nathaniel Greene, the British returned to Charleston after abandoning the town and destroying the fortifications. When the Revolutionary War ended, the South Carolina General Assembly passed an act on March 19, 1785, which authorized a college to be located (Watson 1970:22) at Ninety Six, a town which at that time was only beginning to rebuild after the war. This college was one of three established by the new state of South Carolina and was named Cambridge College. The college building was constructed about a quarter of a mile from the old town site of Ninety Six, and it was not long before a clustering of houses grew up around it (Watson 1960:6).

There are several maps available which show the town of Cambridge strung out along the road in the vicinity of the earlier Holmes' Fort. South (1971) has reproduced many of these, and they include map coverage from Johnson (1822), Lossing (1851), Avery (1909), McCrady (1902), and Commager and Morris (1958). The original town plat of Cambridge exists

(S. C. Archives II/MC/7/11), but we have no information on the owners of specific lots. This information might be obtained through deed records if the materials still exist, however, for the moment all we know is the more general historical background of the community. Detailed information on properties and individual residents will have to await future research.

At least for a very short time the future of the community looked bright. It had one of the new state colleges, was the district court for the Ninety Six District, was strategically located at a major junction on the roads in this area, and generally enjoyed the presence of numerous professional individuals. Good times for Cambridge were to be short, however, and in January of 1800 the newly established circuit courts serving individual counties took away its standing as the courthouse town for the large old Ninety Six District (Watson 1960 and 1970: 23).

The college failed to grow and never had more than one or two teachers. In its lifetime it presumably offered no regular system of college education and conferred no degrees. Even the addition of a post office on March 20, 1793, could not reverse the failure of the community, and it continued to decline into the nineteenth century (Watson 1970:23-24).

Some of our only descriptions of the community come from the diary of Edward Hooker who arrived in Cambridge in 1806 to teach at the college. Portions of his diary have been published as part of the article on Cambridge by Margaret Watson (1970) and the entry for February 27, 1806, can be paraphrased as follows:

Cambridge was described as a snug little village of fifteen or twenty houses and stores on top of a small hill called Cambridge Hill. The brick courthouse was standing in dilapidated condition in the center of the community and the old brick jail was standing a little way down the hill. The college, which was a two-story brick building was "much neglected" and the log buildings in the area were in ruins. Seven stores and three taverns were in evidence, and in Hooker's own words, "the appearance is not at all flourishing, and it is said to have been decaying ever since the judiciary arrangements by which the courts were built anew since the War; the old town of Ninety Six, as it used to be called, having been destroyed by the British" (Watson 1970:25).

Watson (1970:26-27) points out that the "Institution founded soon after the war began to decline about 1789 or 1790 and had fallen into almost total neglect by about 1795 or 1796." The school "became extinct" in 1825 "owing to disease and immigration," and Richard Griffin, a surviving member of the Cambridge School Association introduced a bill in the South Carolina legislature in December of 1832. This bill was to allow the Association to sell its property in Cambridge and to apply the money toward a school in the new community of Greenwood, "as it was a more healthy and eligible situation."

In the period from about 1810 to 1830, even though it was steadily declining, the town began to receive a few new residents and businesses. A Dr. Griffin recalled from memory in 1879 that "many wealthy gentlemen purchased lots fronting on the main road which was claimed to be the Broadway of the village, and built handsome and costly residences." The first newspaper in the Abbeville district moved to Cambridge in 1812. By 1820 the best hotel in town was known as "Buzzards Roost." This would seem appropriate to a town which was essentially dying. By 1824

the town was getting smaller and had only fifteen families: four merchants, four lawyers, "hotel keepers," a tailor, a blacksmith, "carriage and harness shops," three physicians, a flourishing academy, and a church. The statement that there was a flourishing academy in 1824 is contradictory to what we have already heard of the town and history of the school (Watson 1970:28-29).

There was an epidemic of disease in 1815 and 1816 (Watson 1970: 31), and this is probably the reason why the area came to be known as "unhealthy" (Watson 1960:6). This concern for illness led to further decay, and even the people who used to come down from the mountains to trade in this area seem to have ceased to come into Cambridge, and instead went to Hamburg or Augusta.

Deterioration was progressive after about 1820 and continued until the 1850's and 1860's by which time Cambridge was a ghost town. Much of this deterioration can be traced to the beginnings of the town of Greenwood which grew up on the former plantation of Cambridge Attorney John McGehee about ten miles west of Cambridge. This growth took place in the 1830's and involved many Cambridge families who relocated in Greenwood, perhaps because they considered it to be a "more healthy location." The Greenwood and Columbia railroad came through the area in 1852, and a new village developed alongside it a couple of miles north of Cambridge (Watson 1970:31). This new village was appropriately named Ninety Six, and although it has nearly half of its stores boarded up, today it is still an active community.

It is possible that at least one house dating to the period of Cambridge is still standing. This house is said to have been the home

of Dr. Zachariah Merriwether who lived in Cambridge in 1790 according to the census of that year (Watson 1970:24). This house, according to Watson, was still present in 1970 and is located on the west side of State Highway 248 atop a small hill. This house is probably the one I have observed on the west side of the highway about one mile north of the marker at the entrance to the Ninety Six historical site. The "Hayes" home, mentioned in Chapter IV, and which is located a mile south of the site on the south side of Ninety Six Creek is presently suspected of dating to the Cambridge era also.

Dr. Merriwether is known to history predominately from the memory of a Dr. Griffin who grew up in the area and whose remembrances were cited by Watson (1970:28). In this account he was said to have been an individual with a large practice and to have been very fond of blooded horses and game chickens. Dr. Merriwether left us at least a partial list of residents of the area in his account book of 1816-17, which is said to be in the University of South Carolina Library.

There were a number of doctors in Cambridge prior to 1820, and to know their names may prove valuable to archeology in the event any jewelry, ceramics, or other items bearing monograms are recovered. We already have a slight suspicion that the cellar excavated may have been at least partially backfilled with trash from the household of a medical practitioner. This evidence is limited, but includes a set from a sleeve link with a caduceus on it as well as numerous medicine bottles, however, the bottles could have come from nearly any household over a period of years. The list of doctors included Dr. Merriwether, Dr.

James Spam, Dr. Walter Bickley, Dr. Moore, and Dr. William Lowndes Broyles. Later, after about 1825, Dr. Joseph R. Dogan, Dr. E. R. Calhoun, Dr. John Williams, and perhaps a Dr. Gorie lived in Cambridge (Watson 1970:28).

Dating and History of the Cellar

The map of the Fort Holmes' Site, including the ruins of the town of Cambridge, has been prepared by Mr. Stanley South, Archeologist for the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology. This particular map does not correlate the early maps and property surveys with the archeological plan, but it should ultimately be possible to locate the cellar on a precise map of the town and pin the ruin down to the home of one individual and perhaps learn something in detail about the lot and property on which the house was situated.

In general the house appears to have been located near the east side of the community. We have no evidence for structures of this period further to the east, although we do have building ruins located to the north and to the west. A preliminary speculation might suggest that the house had originally been located on a side street extending eastward from Guerard Street (S. C. Archives II/MC/7/11). This might put the house on Waring Street in the vicinity of lots 23 or 24 or, more likely, on the more northerly unnamed street which ran parallel to Waring Street. This latter location would put the structure in the vicinity of lot 39 or 40. We have presently attempted no scaling of map features to correlate the site to the original town plan, but it

would appear that Broad Street was essentially the "Augusta Connector Road" which ran east-west from Cambridge to the old brick jail at Ninety Six.

The structure investigated was nearly in the backyard of a number of buildings with one large house ruin not much over fifty feet to the west and others just a short distance to the north (South 1972). This information would tend to suggest that the building sat in the same block as the others and was probably backfilled with refuse from the occupations of the neighboring structures.

The house was in all probability constructed soon after the Revolution ended and the town of Cambridge came into existence. We have certainly questioned the possibility that the structure might be of a pre-Revolutionary War date but have found no evidence to support such a supposition. If the house was of such an early period, then it would have been in existence either prior to or at the same time as Fort Holmes which was constructed in 1780 (South 1971:82). The British would certainly not have allowed a dwelling to stand within a few feet of one of their major fortifications due to the need to provide a clear field of fire from the fort. There is no evidence to suggest that the structure was destroyed as early as this and so must have been constructed after the British leveled the fortifications and departed for Charleston (South 1971:90) in 1781. Thus the earliest possible date for construction of the building would have been sometime after the summer of 1781 and probably not until after 1782 when the War finally ended.

The structure seems to have had a relatively short life span, as it was almost certainly a ruin by the 1810's, if not earlier. During the course of the building's occupancy, extensive repairs were undertaken along the south wall of the cellar. We have summarized the details of finding the cache of coins behind this replaced wall in Chapter III, and this information only allows us to state that the repairs were made after 1780, as this was the date of the latest coin found.

As mentioned previously, there is no indication that the building was destroyed by fire or sudden calamity. The only suggestion we can offer regarding reasons for its abandonment and destruction, other than the general dying out of the town or the alternative discussed in Chapter II, is that the foundation system may have finally deteriorated to the point that the house was no longer tenable. Termites can also render a wooden building untenable in a relatively short time and could account for the building's end. Regardless what the cause might have been, the building seems to have passed out of existence within a 30 year period at an absolute maximum. To even have survived this long, it would have been necessary for it to have been built immediately after the end of the Revolution and not to have been destroyed until after 1813.

Just as we have no specific indications for the year of the original construction, we have no information that will allow us to precisely date the destruction and filling in of the cellar. A 1785 Spanish silver one real piece was found in one of the lower lying stratigraphic levels of the fill (Fig. 10, 225M). Thus we can be certain that the building

was not filled in until after that date. This coin was old, worn, and had a hole drilled through it which would indicate that it was probably not deposited until many years after 1785.

The abundance of pearlware ceramics from the fill of the cellar indicates that the filling took place after the 1790's (Noël Hume 1970: 129, 130), particularly when we consider that there was also a large amount of creamware present with the pearlware. Creamware was produced throughout the latter eighteenth and into the nineteenth century and was gradually replaced in the nineteenth century by pearlwares and, later, ironstone. The presence of both pearlware and creamware in relatively large amounts would suggest that the cellar was filled in when these items were both in common use. Large numbers of creamware vessels with plain rims were recovered from the fill and Noel Hume has pointed out that these are generally found in contexts of the 1790's and early 1800's (Noël Hume 1970:126). If the cellar were filled in during the 1820's, we would expect to find a predominance of pearlware and much less creamware.

The last layer of fill to be thrown into the cellar contained large amounts of pearlwares with chinese motifs and hand-painted polychrome floral designs. There were also some annular or "banded" pearlwares and creamwares along with the plain creamwares and large amounts of shell-edged pearlwares. Taken as a whole these ceramic types are usually found in contexts dating to the late eighteenth and very early nineteenth century. The nineteenth century dates would seem to be restricted in this case by the absence of the "mocha"

wares, blue transfer printed pearlwares with pastoral designs, and the "blue willow" patterns. This writer's experience (Baker 1971) at the site of New Echota (9Gol) in Georgia, a site dating from about 1820 to 1840, as well as the work of Fairbanks on the same site (Fairbanks 1962), tends to indicate that these last mentioned types are probably indicative of the period after 1820 in this general region. Since we have observed few or none of these wares in the fill of the cellar, it is a further indication that the cellar was filled in prior to about 1820 at the latest.

Two more factors lead us to view the major part of the cellar as having been filled in during the 1810's or earlier. In the topmost layer of fill was an American infantry uniform button. This button is of the type known as the "script I with Mullet." The normal date range suggested for use of this button is 1812 to about 1820 or 1830 at the latest (Johnson 1948:54). There were also a few pieces of printing type present in the fill. It is not possible to state that these pieces are derived from the newspaper which was located in the town, but the possibility that they might be increases when we consider that the paper did not come to Cambridge until 1812 (Watson 1970:28).

Tabulation of non-ceramic artifacts have been completed, and glass objects in particular tend to confirm the dates suggested by our informal analysis of the ceramics. The wine bottles from the cellar fill total 1,754 pieces and in the vast majority tend to cluster between 1800 and 1809. None of the wine bottles appear to date later than the first decade of the nineteenth century, and this date range is further

supported by the datable medicine bottles and stemmed glass ware. A total non-ceramic object count from the cellar fill reached 11,532 pieces, and the final ceramic count is expected to run perhaps twice again as high as this.

We were not fortunate enough to find any specific criteria for dating the original construction of the structure, but it is reasonable to suggest that the building fell into abandonment at about the turn of the eighteenth century and that the cellar was completely filled in by about 1820. It is foreseeable that final analysis of the materials might change this view. These dates do, however, allow for a life span of reasonable length for the house and coincide with the period of known decadence of many buildings in the town of Cambridge. As the school teacher Edward Hooker pointed out (Watkins 1970:25), the town was decaying in 1806 and many of the structures were then in disrepair or else abandoned.

Chapter V

SUMMARY COMMENTS

In concluding our discussion of the investigation of the cellar on Cambridge Hill, it is more important for us to consider the broad nature of the subject rather than to simply recap the direct historical contexts and factual knowledge gained. It is our responsibility at this point to question our methods, motives, and results of investigation and weigh them against factors of expense and return for the sponsor. We must also examine our contribution to the academic field of historical archeology.

In this writer's opinion the most important result of this excavation is in the fact that it provides us with a "historical telescope" from which to focus on the town of Cambridge and the post Revolution development of the Carolina back country. It could certainly be argued that we could have gained much the same view of the community without excavating the cellar. I am convinced, though, that it has provided us the chance to take a longer look, perhaps a more appreciative view of the community, so that instead of what would essentially have been a mute component has now spoken with us and added its own story to the overview of the entire site. Even if no other features of the town of Cambridge are ever archeologically examined, we can actually say that we have been there and have seen at least one portion of the town and its occupants from the closest possible viewpoint. This small cellar graphically documents the slow death of Cambridge and the community's abandonment by its populace.

Our painstaking excavation technique was rewarding, yet how does one determine if a bone handled fork is worth the cost necessary to locate it intact and remove it and then to take time to stabilize it and pack it for a trip to the laboratory? Without the careful trowel work around the walls of the cellar, we still might have recovered the contents of the small bag or purse which had been placed behind the replaced section of the east wall, but we probably would not have been able to venture that someone had intentionally placed them there. Without the careful work needed to clean up the area where these materials were found, it would not have been possible to note that the objects were definitely coming from the yellow clay subsoil fill and not from the fill of the overlying intrusive pit.

Final artifact studies from the fill of the cellar may prove that the extreme care taken in the excavation of most of the fill layers has demonstrated no significant differences in types or quantities of artifacts and that even though the wall collapse was excavated as a unit that there were no materials of interpretative significance lurking within it. Without excavating layers such as the brick layer as separate units, we would never have known the value of the materials included, even though it required that the top of the layer be completely exposed and cleaned of overlying soil. Such has been our approach throughout the investigation of the cellar. It is admittedly a lengthy and tedious process when compared to critical salvage necessities or other cellars which may have predominantly sterile or sandy fill throughout and only contain minor layers with heavy artifact concentrations.

As a result of this approach, we have obtained much more than a large sample of well provenienced artifacts; we have demonstrated another aspect of the archeological process. It should serve as a complimentary portion to any site study which is predominantly oriented to more general understandings on the broad total site scale. Just as portions of the cellar were excavated with more care than others, so can a site have some features which are investigated in more detail than others. It certainly would not be necessary to excavate every cellar in the town of Cambridge with the same meticulous concern expressed for the one just discussed. It is also highly unlikely that the other cellars would even provide the criteria that dictates an approach such as we took with this feature.

To the professional archeologist the dating and materials recovered and their relationships to historical evolution and chronology may well be the most important products emerging from this investigation. As another excavated ruin it does not tell us much about construction techniques of the period that we did not previously know. However, as a focal point for the public to see the research on the Cambridge cellar and its position in the historical chronology of the site as a testament to the actual existence of the forgotten town is very important. In the same vein, one of the most constructive results of the meticulous excavation of the cellar is that it did present another methodological portion of the archeological process to the public eye as well as to the potential sponsors of future archeology both on this and other sites.

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