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Archeological Investigations at the Kershaw House, Camden (38KE1), Kershaw County, south Carolina

Kenneth E. Lewis

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Archeological Investigations at the Kershaw House, Camden (38KE1), Kershaw County, south Carolina

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ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE KERSHAW HOUSE,
CAMDEN (38KE1), KERSHAW COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

by

Kenneth E. Lewis
Research Manuscript Series, No. 78

Prepared by the
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
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September, 1975

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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CW/30/II/6: 106	Cornwallis Papers. Public Record Office (Great Britain). Followed by reference code.
GP/155/II: 161	Greene Papers. In: Papers of the Continental Congress. Followed by item, volume, and page number.
Inventories/100: 373	<u>Inventories</u> . Charleston County Probate Court. Followed by volume and page number.
JKP/1774	Joseph Kershaw Papers. Southern Historical Collection. Followed by date.
UAB/1779/25	Unidentified Account Book. Camden District Heritage Foundation. Followed by date and entry number.

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INTRODUCTION

During the first two weeks in November, 1974 and the month of April, 1975, archeological excavations were conducted at the Kershaw House palisade in Camden (38KE1) by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina. This work comprised the final stage in the current investigations of the historic occupation here. The excavations were conducted under a federal grant awarded by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior to the Camden Historical Commission. Because previous archeological work had uncovered the actual footing trench of the log palisade wall which once surrounded this eighteenth century structure, the goals of the present excavations were of a limited nature. The palisade footing trench was to be re-located, cleared, and re-excavated. These steps would reveal information concerning the construction of the wall, its form, and possibly the dates of its existence. Following the completion of this work, the footing trench was to be prepared for the positioning of new palisade posts to form a re-constructed wall. Archeological materials recovered from the Kershaw House palisade were cleaned, processed, and preserved at the laboratory facilities of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology and are held in trust at the Institute.

The Kershaw House is situated on a hill overlooking the site of the eighteenth century town of Camden. It lies east of Market Street and south of Bull Street, on the east side of a line drawn southward from the intersection of Bull and Lyttleton Streets (Fig. 1). The site of the Kershaw House has been under cultivation for at least the past century (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 277) and is presently in grass. Originally

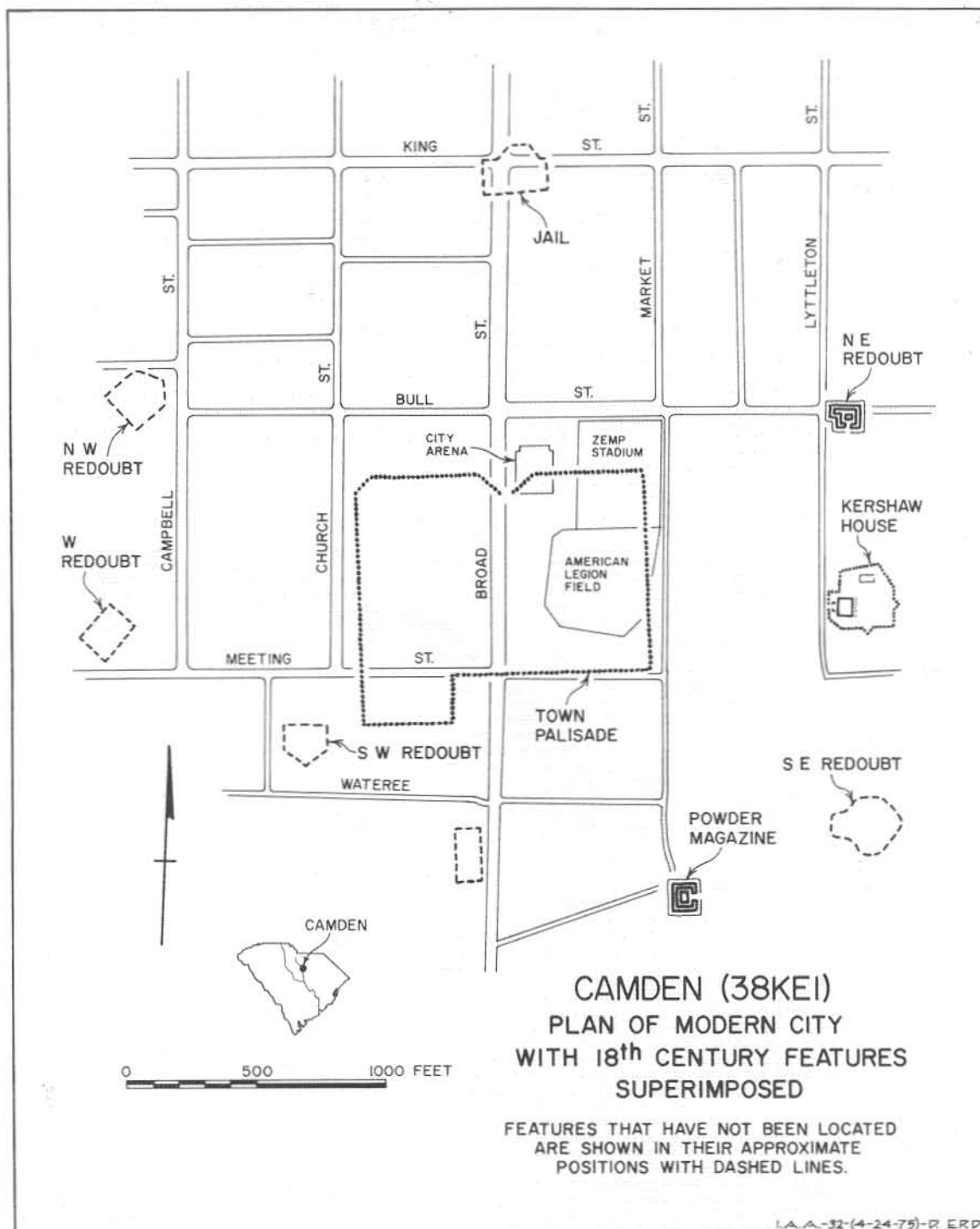


FIGURE 1: Camden (38KE1) plan of modern city with eighteenth century features superimposed.

the land was probably covered in longleaf pine forest, which is indigenous to the Sandhills, the physiographic region on the edge of which Camden lies (Frothingham and Nelson 1944: 19). Scrub oaks and other hardwoods form an understory in this pine forest (Brown 1950: 285). The site of Camden is situated upon well-to-poorly drained soils of the Wickham-Altavista-Roanoke association (Craddock and Ellerbe 1966). The Marlboro sandy loam soils occurring at the Kershaw House Site yield a characteristic three-layer profile consisting of a grey surface soil, a yellow subsoil, and a deep subsoil of mottled red sandy clay (Latimer et. al. 1922: 46). There is no surface evidence of any recent human occupation near the site of the Kershaw House; however, photographs taken in the late 1960's show at least one small log or frame house in the vicinity (Calmes 1968: pl. 10).

Because this report deals with the last stage of quite extensive archeological work at the Kershaw House, it is perhaps best to preface the present study with a summary of the previous work. The search for the Kershaw House dates back to the early 1960's. A farmer's plow had unearthed bricks on "Magazine Hill", the traditional site of the house. Millard Osborne, a local historian, investigated the site in 1963 and two years later magnetometer and geohm studies were carried out there in search of structural remains by the Applied Science Center for Archaeology of the University of Pennsylvania (Ralph and Borstling 1965). Their findings led William E. Edwards, then State Archeologist of South Carolina, to conduct test excavations during the same year with negative results (Calmes 1968: 3). In 1967, Alan Calmes, then Research Director of the Camden District Heritage Foundation, conducted exploratory

excavations at the same location and uncovered the brick foundations of the house itself and part of the palisade wall trench (Calmes 1968: 15-16).

After a brief hiatus, archeological work resumed at Camden under the direction of Robert N. Strickland, and excavations were carried out at the Kershaw House from 1970 to 1973 (Strickland 1971 and South 1973: 16). Strickland's investigations expanded the small area uncovered by Calmes and exposed the entire area to the north and east of the house. Several features were exposed during the course of this work including an outbuilding with a central fireplace, a well, a square brick structure intersecting the east palisade wall, and the entire palisade wall trench itself (Fig. 2). Several sections of the trench were excavated by hand at this time. The palisade trench, like that surrounding the town of Camden itself, appears to have supported a single line of stakes without accompanying fortification features such as a ditch, rampart, or firing steps (Strickland 1971). Subsequent to the last excavations all exposed features were covered with an overburden of earth to protect them. The foundations of the Kershaw House itself were capped with brick to provide a stabilized interpretive exhibit.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The history of Camden is closely tied to the early European occupation of the South Carolina interior. Official steps had been taken to encourage English settlements in the Carolina backcountry as early as the 1730's with the establishment of a Fredericksburg Township on the Wateree River. Like many other such planned towns, it failed to attract prospective inhabitants. Two decades later with the arrival of Irish

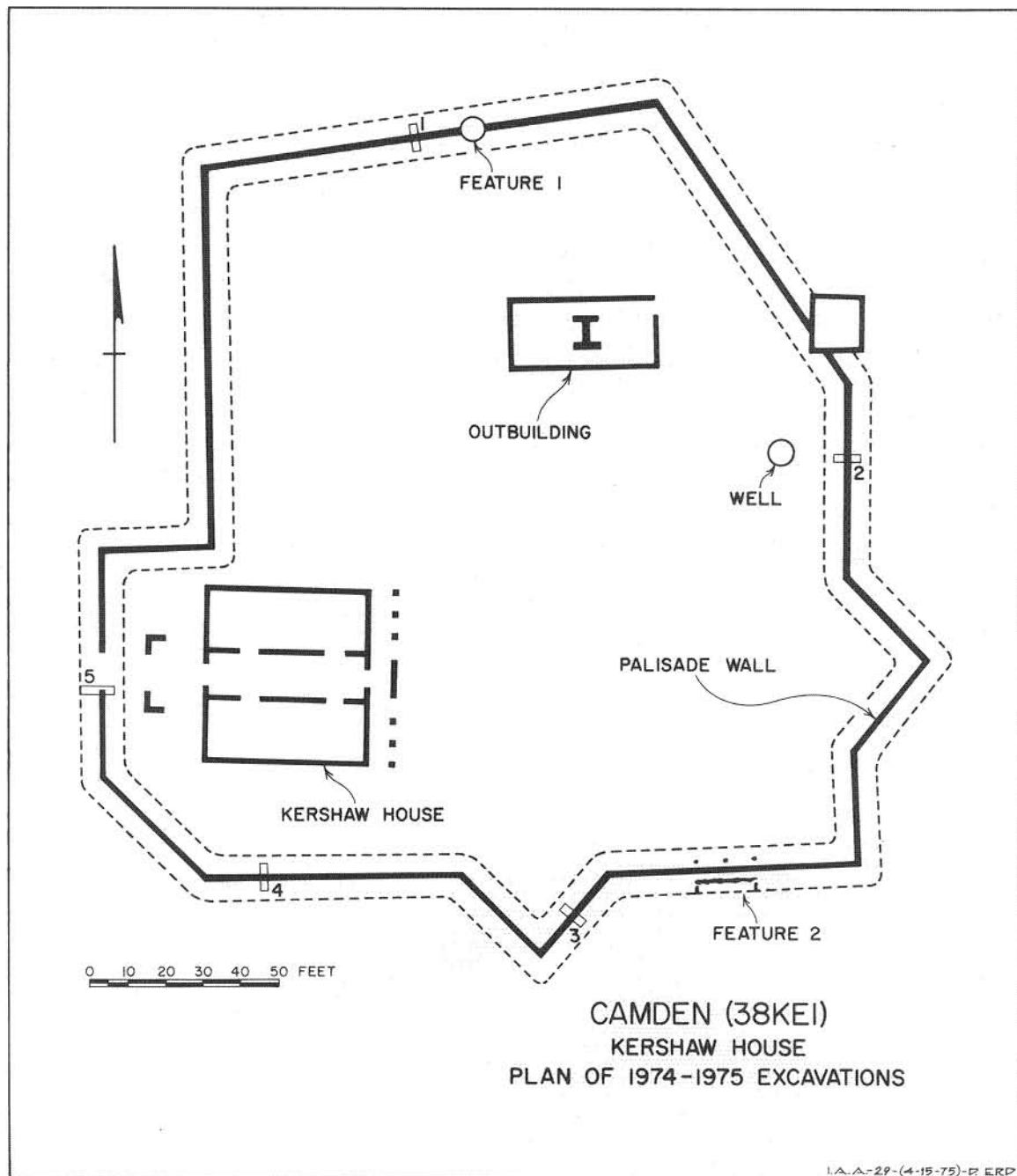


FIGURE 2: Kershaw House, plan of the 1974-75 excavations.

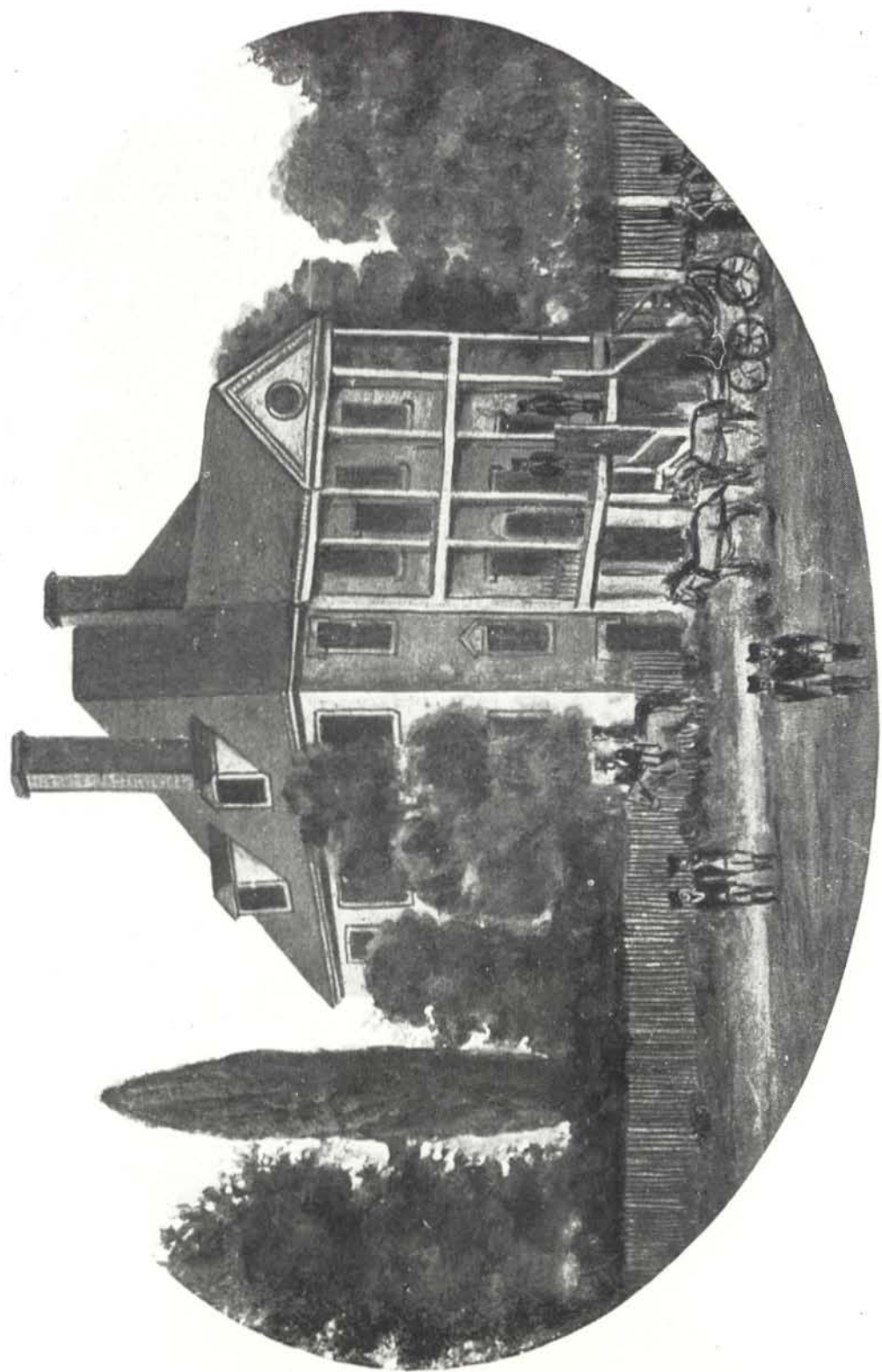
Quaker immigrants who set up scattered plantations along the Wateree, a British occupation was established. It soon gained prominence as the inland trading center of Pine Tree Hill when the Charleston mercantile firm of Ancrum, Loocock, Lance and Kershaw opened a store there in 1758 under the proprietorship of Joseph Kershaw. Traditionally, the site of the store was on Pine Tree Hill, or Magazine Hill, just east of the developing town (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 11). The town served as a distribution point for imported goods and the collection of frontier commodities. Its strategic position in the inland transportation network allowed it to grow and take on many of the functions of an urban center (Ernst and Merrens 1973). It served as the focal point of social, political, and economic activities for a wide frontier area. This role was fully taken advantage of in 1780 by the British, who occupied and fortified Camden as a major supply center linking the port of Charleston with their field armies. British military forces were moving inland from South Carolina in an attempt to open a southern front late in the Revolutionary War (Tarleton 1967: 158-159).

By the 1770's Joseph Kershaw had grown wealthy as a result of his many business ventures centered in Camden and reaching elsewhere in the Carolina backcountry, and built a large frame house for his family on Magazine Hill (Fig. 3). Kirkland and Kennedy (1905: 274) describe it as:

... a large, and, for the times, very elegant, mansion of many rooms and passages, three stories high, with spacious attics. The materials of which it was constructed are said to have been imported, but were more probably of native timbers sawn at Colonel Kershaw's own mills, the so-called "English" brick being made perhaps on the place....

Tall poplars and other handsome trees and shrubs adorned the surrounding grounds, which were extensive and beautiful.

FIGURE 3: Old painting of the Kershaw House as it appeared in the late eighteenth century. The date of the painting is unknown.



Cornucallis House. (From an Old Painting.)

The house was not quite completed in June, 1780 when the British Army marched into Camden and their commander, Lieutenant General Earl Cornwallis, took possession of Kershaw's new house for his headquarters. For this reason, the house later became known as the Cornwallis House (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 274) although Cornwallis later relinquished the command at Camden to Lord Rawdon. During the British occupation, which lasted for nearly a year, the grounds of the house were fortified by a palisade wall with two bastions. It formed one of eight fortified positions surrounding the palisaded town of Camden as illustrated in a plan of Camden as it was at the time of the American re-occupation in 1781 (Greene to Continental Congress, May 12, 1781/GP/155/II: 161). This plan (Fig. 4) shows two structures, the Kershaw House and a smaller outbuilding to the northeast surrounded by a palisade wall but lacking the ramparts, ditch, and abatis which surround many of the other detached fortifications. The shape of the wall is somewhat incorrectly shown, however, omitting the southwest and northeast angles and the east bastion located by the archeological excavations (Strickland 1971: 68 and Fig. 2).

Following the Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden and the capture of Fort Watson, which formed a crucial supply and communications link with Charleston, the British found their position at Camden untenable. They burned the public buildings, many private houses, and much of their own supplies and retreated down the Santee River toward the coast (Ramsay 1968/II: 247). The Kershaw House escaped the destruction that accompanied the abandonment of the town, however, and was soon re-occupied by the Kershaw family (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 277). It is probable that by this time the palisade wall was removed, for the defensive works at Camden were dis-

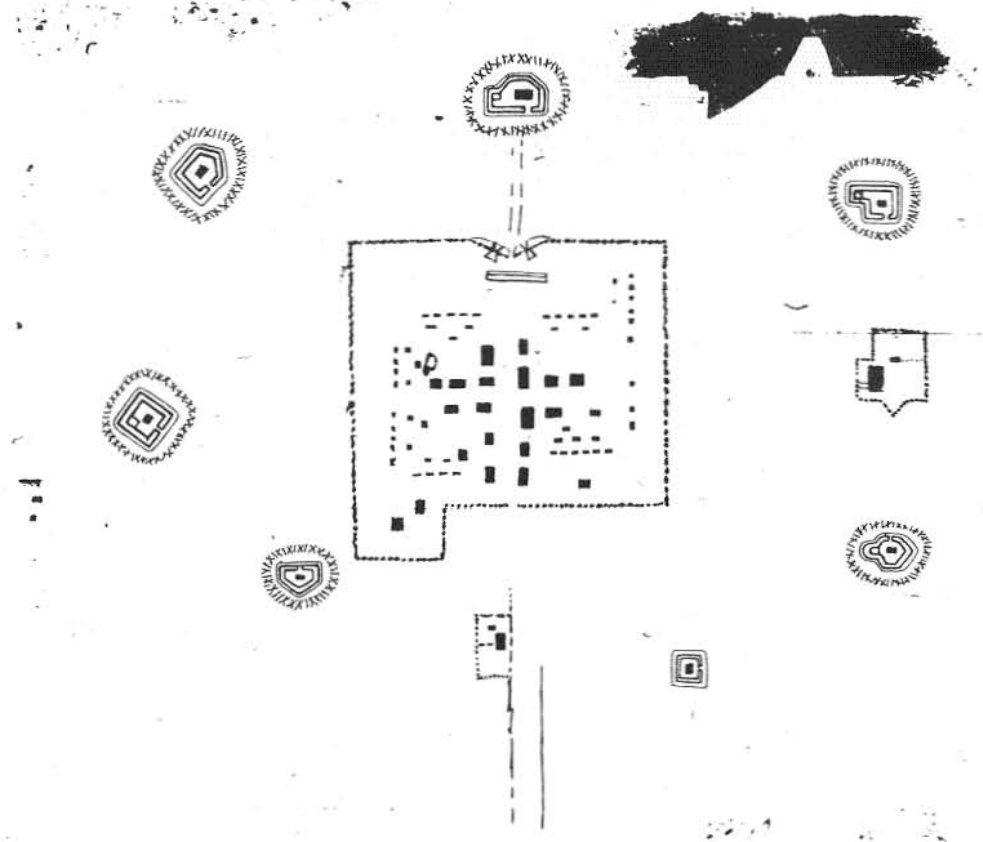


FIGURE 4: The Greene Map showing the positions of the Revolutionary War fortifications.

mantled both by the retreating British (Rawdon to Cornwallis, May 24, 1781 CW/30/11: 66) and the advancing Americans (Greene to Continental Congress, May 14, 1781 /GP/155/II: 59).

After the Revolution, the house remained in the hands of the Kershaws only briefly. Joseph Kershaw died there in 1791, and the house was sold at auction shortly thereafter. From 1805 to 1822, it was the home of the Camden Orphan Society and thereafter passed through several hands in the second quarter of the nineteenth century (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 278). By 1853 Camden had moved northward leaving the old house (Fig. 5) at:

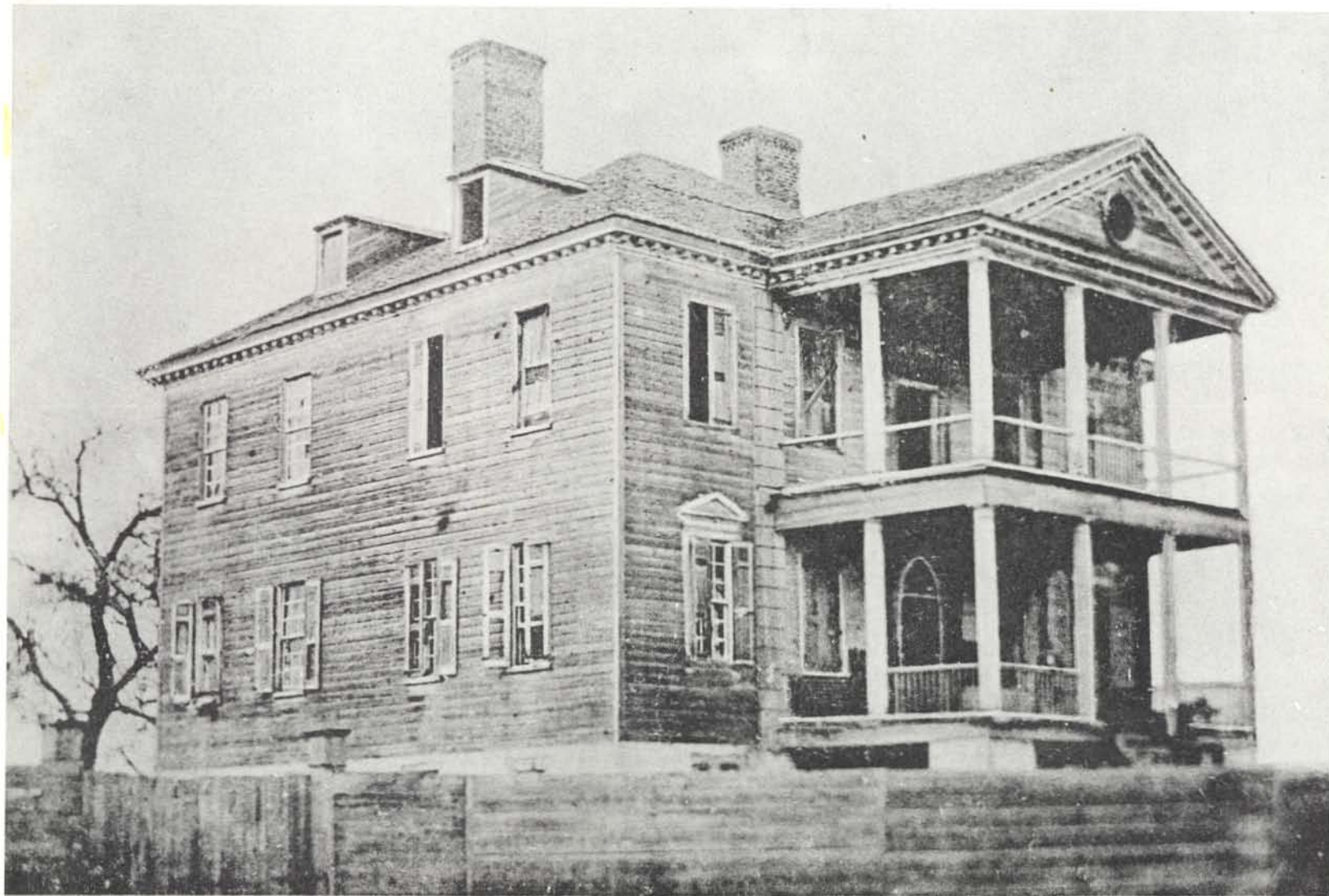
... the extreme south end of the town, a locality deserted on account of its supposed insalubrity. This fine large, but dilapidated building is now tenantless and forsaken. The sounds of wassail and mirth have given place to the hootings of the owl and flapping of the bat.... (Teal 1961: 19).

During the American Civil War, the deserted old building was used as a storehouse for Confederate government supplies. In February, 1865 the building was fired by the Confederate commissary to prevent the sugar stored inside from falling into the hands of advancing Union forces under General W. T. Sherman (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 279).

ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Locating the Palisade Wall

The first phase of the present archeological work at the Kershaw House was ascertaining the location of the palisade wall trench previously uncovered by Strickland. This was accomplished by first measuring the distances from the stabilized Kershaw House ruin to points along the palisade as indicated on his base map of the house site. Tapes were



"CORNWALLIS HOUSE"

CAMDEN, S. C.

FIGURE 5: The Kershaw House in the period prior to the Civil War. The date of the photograph is unknown.

used to calculate similar distances on the actual site and short exploratory trenches were then dug through the recent overburden to re-expose the top of the wall trench. The palisade trench stood out plainly because its red clay fill contrasted markedly with the surrounding yellow soil. In most places the trench measured 1.2 feet in width (Fig. 6). A series of such slot trenches ~~was~~ excavated along each face of the palisade wall and in each angle of the two bastions. By extrapolating the line of each wall, the locations of corners were approximated and then exposed by excavation. With the positions of the wall corners known, it was then a relatively simple matter to expose the intervening sections of palisade trench utilizing heavy equipment.

Clearing the Wall

The stripping away of overburden covering the palisade trench was a relatively simple operation involving the removal of earth between the exposed wall corners. This was done mechanically utilizing a road grader which could easily peel away the shallow layer of fill covering the site (Fig. 7). In several places, mostly along the east side of the palisade, evidence of the wall was buried under a much deeper layer of overburden up to 1.0 foot in depth. Here the use of a small bulldozer was necessary to remove the fill prior to shovel-clearing the surface (Fig. 8). In this manner, nearly all of the palisade trench was rapidly exposed.

Several interpretive problems, however, arose in connection with the stripping operation. The first occurred while attempting to expose the wall trench in the area directly west of the Kershaw House. This area was explored by Calmes in 1967, at which time it revealed an opening in front of the Kershaw House porch approximately ten feet across (Calmes 1968: 17, Fig. 9). When exposed by the road grader's blade, the old

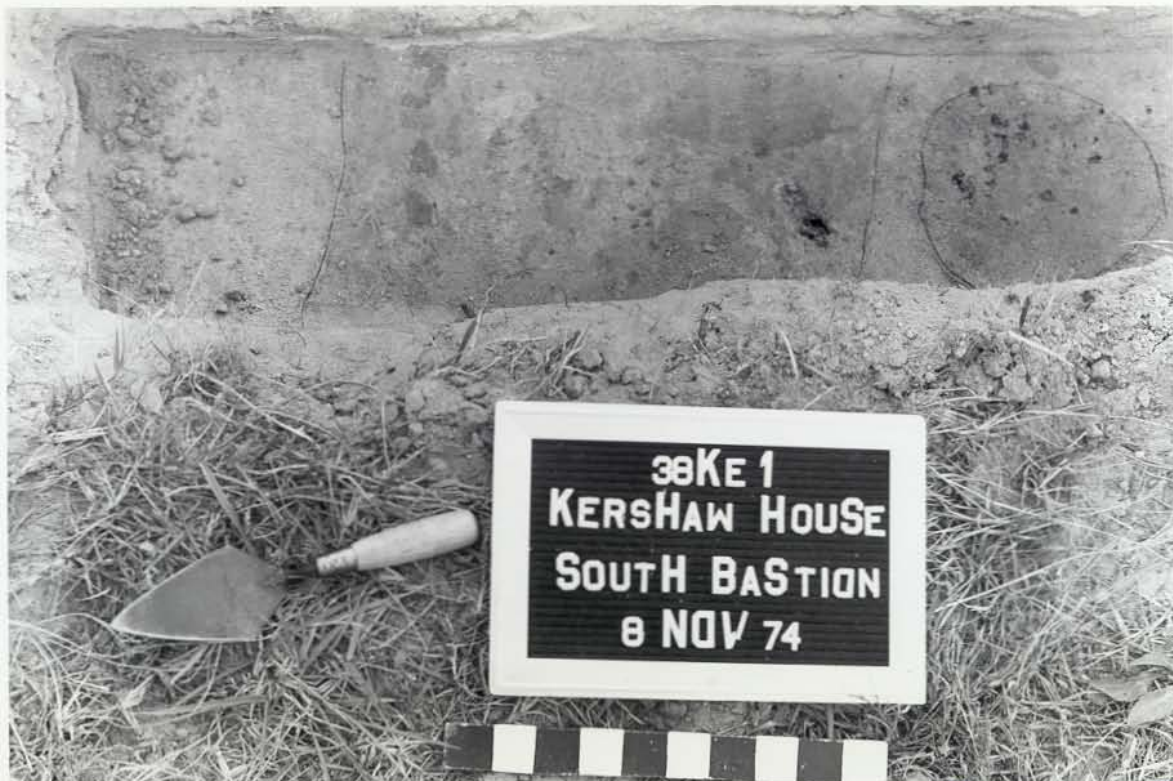


FIGURE 6: Section of the eighteenth century palisade wall trench exposed by exploratory trench.



FIGURE 7: Road grader removing overburden covering the palisade trench.



FIGURE 8: Crew members are beginning to shovel-clean the 18th century surface exposed by the bulldozer. The palisade wall trench is visible in the left foreground.



FIGURE 9: Excavation by backhoe to expose cross-sections of the palisade wall trench.

excavated surface was difficult to recognize, and the palisade trench, clearly visible to the north and south of this section of wall, became very unclear here. In order to investigate this situation further, it was necessary to cut several exploratory trenches (Fig. 9) across the assumed location of wall line. These would reveal immediately the presence or absence of the palisade ditch.

Knowing that the width of the opening was approximately ten feet wide, it was decided to attempt to locate both sides of the opening by spacing the trenches 10 feet apart and opposite the inside corners of the two stabilized front porch supports. The vertical profiles exposed by these two trenches clearly revealed the two sides of the palisade gate. These are illustrated in the profiles of Trench 5 cut at the south side of the gate (Fig. 10A). On its north profile, a depression is visible, representing an abrupt dip in the ground at the location of the gate. The lower layer of fill is white sand of the type used to seal areas of the site excavated at that time. It is overlain by a heavy layer of grey fill dirt containing modern debris.

The south profile plainly exposed the base of the palisade trench (Fig. 10A). This portion of the palisade trench appears to have been previously excavated because the sandy clay palisade trench fill is absent, having been replaced with recent sediment which later drained into the open ditch. Just above the wall trench, a slight depression with two low points is visible in the profile. A layer of white sand is present at the depression's base and is covered by a thick layer of recent grey fill.

The presence of the depression on both sides of the profile accounts for the apparent disappearance of the palisade ditch at the graded surface

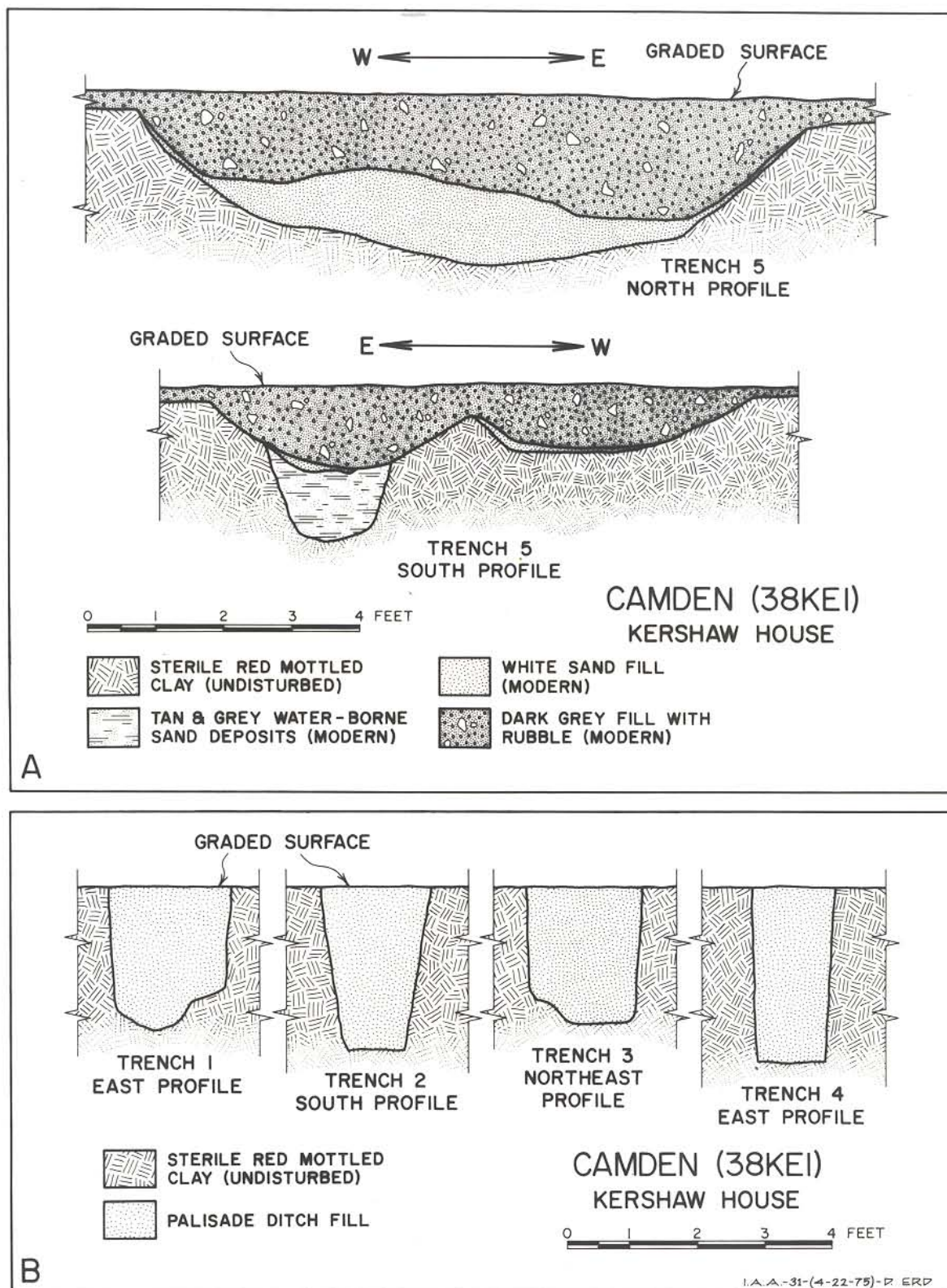


FIGURE 10: Profiles of cross-sections of the palisade wall trench:
A. North and south profiles of the gate in the west wall; B. Profiles of sections of the palisade trench

in front of the Kershaw House. The origin of these depressions is uncertain, but the shallowness of the palisade indicates that the ground level here was originally higher and that the depression came into existence later than the palisade trench obliterating part of the latter. The depression may in fact be associated with the shoulder of Lyttleton Street, a dirt road which until recently ran along the west side of the Kershaw House Site (Fig. 2).

The second problem concerned the north wall of the palisade. At a point 70 feet east of the northwest corner of the palisade, the trench became difficult to define. The trench appeared to broaden abruptly and become somewhat indistinct here. A closer examination revealed a circular feature superimposed upon the wall trench at this location. It will be discussed separately elsewhere in this report as Feature 1.

The Excavation of the Palisade Trench

During previous excavations at the Kershaw House, several sections of the palisade trench were dug out to ascertain its profile and depth (Strickland, personal communication). These excavations revealed a straight-walled trench the base of which varied from 2.0 to 3.0 feet below the present-day surface. Three feet is the depth recommended for securing palisade stakes (Muller 1968: 227). The base of the palisade trench appears to have been left flat in some places which in others the outside edge of the trench had been dug deeper. The trench was filled with a homogeneous, compact, red mottled, sandy clay.

In order to examine the palisade trench profile throughout its entire length, a number of cross-trenches were excavated along each face of the wall (Fig. 2). The profiles exposed by these excavations

were identical to those found earlier by Strickland. In most places, the trench tapered slightly to a flat bottom and only in two profiles was a deepening of the outer edge present (Fig. 10B). The occurrence of the deepened base does not follow a particular pattern and does not appear to be associated with a particular physiographic feature such as the more pronounced slope to the east of the Kershaw House. Such a deepening could easily be the result of setting the stakes into place during the erection of the wall and probably does not constitute a significant construction feature.

Several sections of the palisade were excavated by hand to investigate possible anomalies in the wall construction, the presence of remains of the original palisade which might provide clues to its construction, and the occurrence of artifacts which might help determine the dates of the wall's existence. These excavations indicated an absence not only of datable artifacts but of wall materials as well. Even postmolds, which would almost certainly be present if a palisade had deteriorated in place, were not in evidence here. The archeology revealed only the outline of the footing trench as illustrated in the view of a portion of the east bastion (Fig. 11). This evidence, combined with the homogeneous nature of the fill material, suggests that the palisade was removed and the open trench immediately refilled. Apparently, the fill material was taken from a nearby deep excavation, for it is composed of the same red sandy clay that forms the deep subsoil in the Camden area. The virtual absence of artifacts and other refuse is also somewhat surprising in that an open ditch would have made an ideal trash pit, especially considering the amount of debris which would have been associated

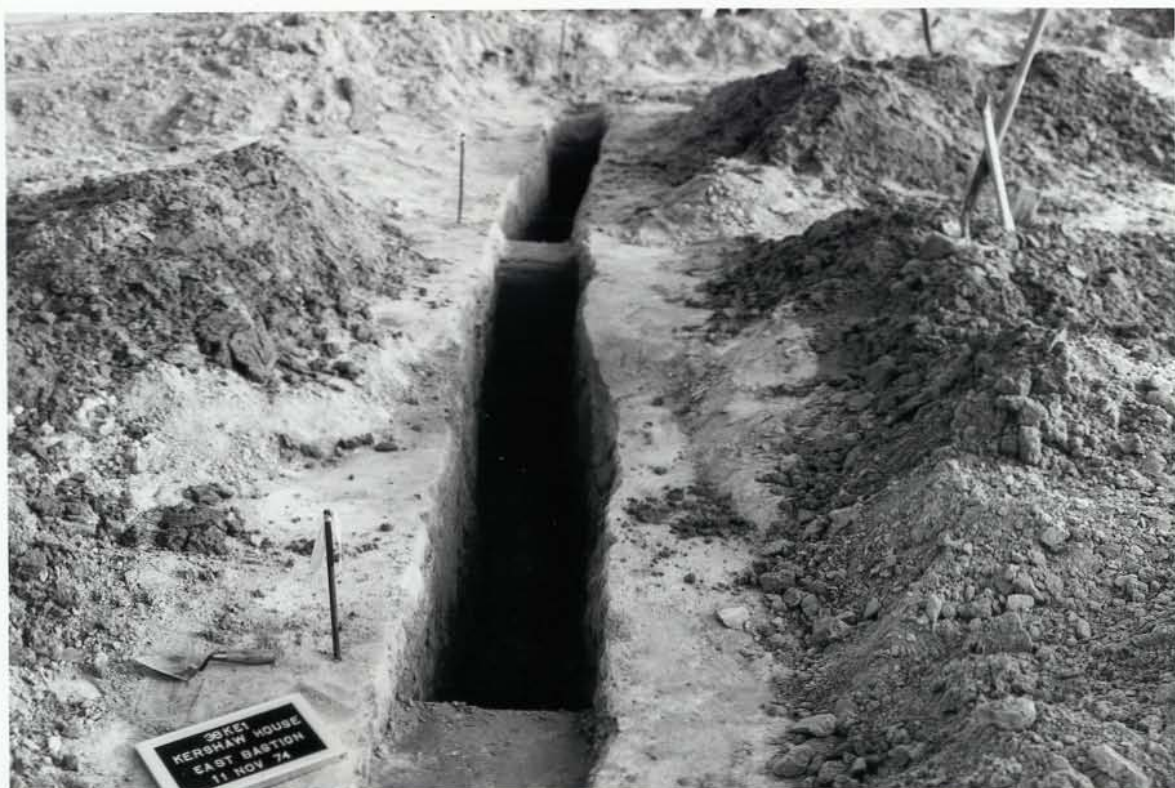


FIGURE 11: Excavated section of the palisade trench in the east bastion.



FIGURE 12: Removal of the palisade trench fill by machine.

with the restoration of the house following the British evacuation in 1781 (Kirkland and Kennedy 1905: 277). A decaying palisade would also tend to form a low area or ditch susceptible to the accumulation of refuse.

At this point it was decided to utilize mechanical means to complete the excavation of the palisade trench for the following reasons: the apparent removal of the palisade wall and its immediate re-filling appeared to have left little potential information concerning the wall's construction; the virtual absence of artifacts would provide no clues to the dates of the palisade's existence or removal; no significant features, which might be destroyed by mechanical excavation, appeared to be associated with the trench; and, finally, the compact clayey nature of the fill itself made the palisade trench extremely difficult to excavate by hand and sift for artifacts.

The ~~excavation~~ of the palisade trench was accomplished through the use of a track-driven belt trenching machine (Fig. 12). Its blades cut a trench approximately 1.0 foot wide allowing it to accurately remove the fill from the trench without disturbing the surrounding soil. An examination of the fill removed by machine was conducted to determine the artifact content. As ~~expected~~, the palisade trench yielded few artifacts making it difficult to assign a date to this feature. No additional construction features were found to be associated with the wall although several non-contemporaneous features were uncovered during the course of the ~~excavations~~. These will be discussed in a later section of this report. In order to facilitate the reconstruction of the palisade wall the actual excavation of the trench was conducted in segments, enabling the placement of the stakes immediately upon removal of the trench fill.

The Reconstruction of the Palisade

Following the excavation of the palisade trench the erection of the new palisade wall began. It was designed to resemble as closely as possible an eighteenth century defensive stake wall. John Muller (1968: 227), a British expert on fortification, wrote in 1746 that palisades "are a kind of stakes made of strong split wood about 9 feet long, fixed 3 feet deep in the ground in rows..." To simulate this type of wall, 10 foot long creosoted posts were cut to the appropriate length and sharpened prior to mounting. They were placed in the 3.5 foot deep mechanical dug trench atop 0.5 foot of gravel which permitted the drainage of ground water (Fig. 13). The stakes were then secured in place by packed earth (Fig. 14).

Features Associated with the Wall

Two distinct features were encountered during the excavations of the palisade trench. Neither appears to have been integral with the wall's structure and only the one which lay directly on the wall trench was investigated at this time.

The first feature (Feature 1) was discovered in the center of the north palisade during the course of exposing that wall trench (Fig. 2). It first appeared as an abrupt widening of the trench itself but upon careful cleaning was seen to be a circular pit containing light grey sandy fill surrounded by dark grey sand with some brick rubble (Figs. 15 and 17A). On the south side of this feature a slight protrusion was present into which the bottom several inches of an open modern posthole protruded.

Feature 1 was excavated as a single unit because of the homogeneous nature of its fill. Below the few inches this material was consistently



FIGURE 13: Pouring layer of gravel into the palisade trench prior to the erection of the wall.

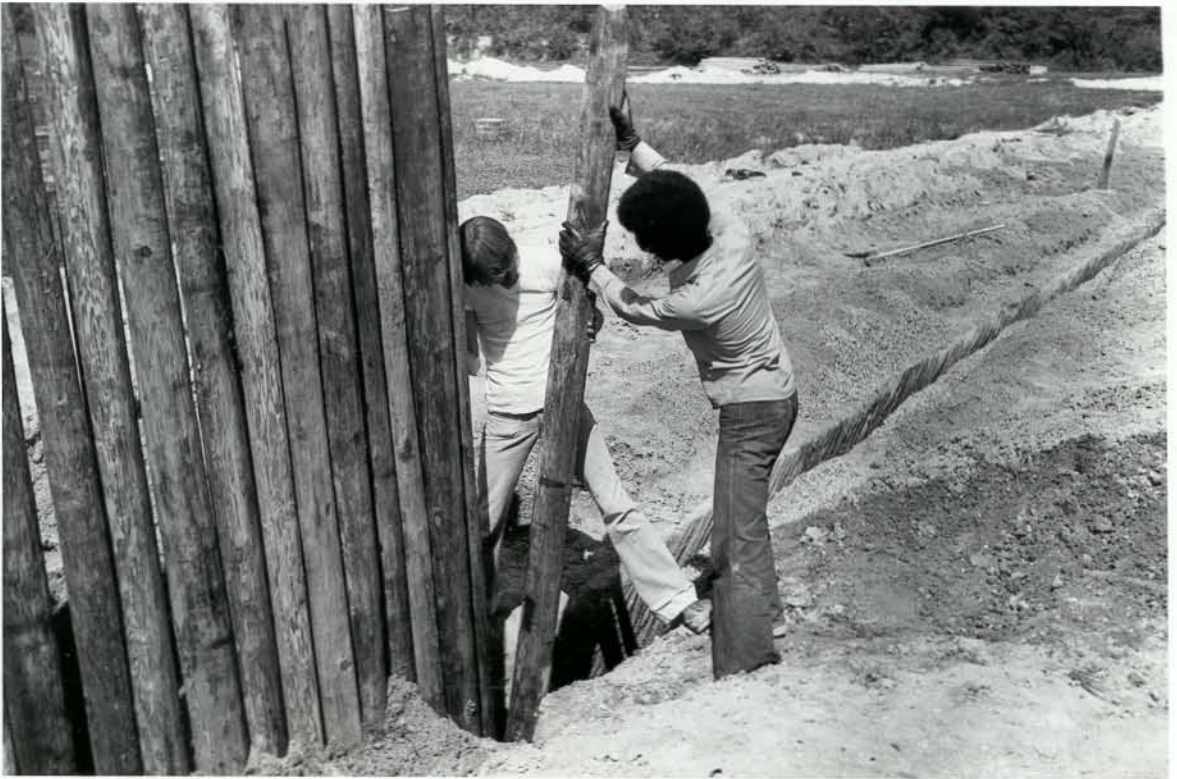


FIGURE 14: Placing the stakes of the palisade wall into the trench.

dark grey in color and contained a great deal of artifacts. Although the fill appeared to represent a single deposition it was removed in arbitrary one foot levels in order to determine artifact variability within this layer. All material was sifted through a screen with a 1/4 by 1/4 inch mesh. Artifacts were collected and bagged separately by arbitrary 1.0 foot levels. The excavations revealed an unlined, circular shaft approximately 4.0 feet in diameter descending beneath the depth of the wall trench. It is assumed that this feature is an unlined well because of its uniform construction and depth. Unfortunately inclement weather and limitations in time forced the excavations to be abandoned at a depth of 5.0 feet. Probing at this depth indicated that the bottom of Feature 1 was well below this level. In order to prevent damage to the well by the subsequent excavation of the palisade trench and reconstruction of the wall, Feature 1 was sealed at the close of the archeological work.

It is immediately apparent that Feature 1 was intrusive upon the palisade ditch and for this reason would be likely to date after the removal of the palisade and very likely after the filling of the wall trench. The clay subsoil is quite difficult to excavate here and it is probable that the palisade trench was chosen as a starting point for the well because the removal of earth would be easier, at least to the depth of the trench. If this is the case the well would have to have been dug while the location of the trench was still known. Therefore, we may assume that Feature 1 was excavated not long after the palisade trench was closed. As the absence of debris or erosion fill in the base of the trench indicated the latter was deliberately filled immediately upon the removal of the stakes, the use dates of Feature 1 should provide a terminus ante quem date for the palisade wall.

From documentary sources we know the wall was constructed during

the Revolutionary War in 1780. If it was deliberately torn down upon the Kershaw family's reoccupation of the house after the British departure in 1781 it may be hypothesized that Feature 1 represents the Kershaw post-war occupation. This hypothesis may be tested by examining the artifacts contained in Feature 1. If they date from the late 1780's then the hypothesis regarding the construction and use of the feature by the post-war Kershaw household is supported and the immediate removal of the palisade following the war may be demonstrated. On the other hand, a much later date may indicate that the well was dug at another time and that the removal of the palisade wall may have taken place some time after the war.

Several types of artifacts may be used to provide dates for the archeological context in which they are found with different degrees of accuracy. Perhaps the most precise dates are yielded by ceramics. A method of calculating the mean date of seventeenth and eighteenth century British colonial sites based upon the increase and decrease of known ceramic types through time has been developed by Stanley South (1972a). By measuring the popularity curves of the different types through time, median dates, representing the greatest popularity of each, have been calculated. A mean date for an archeological context containing a number of ceramic types may be arrived at by considering the frequency of occurrence of each type together with its median date. (For the derivation of the dates for Feature 1 see Appendix B.) The mean dates derived for the five arbitrary levels cover an 8 year period from 1785 to 1793 with the upper three levels each yielding a mean date of 1793. When treated as a single unit the mean date for the entire well fill is 1790.

The absence of stratigraphy in the well, which if present would reflect separate stages of deposition, suggests a single filling with the



FIGURE 15: Feature 1 prior to excavation, as viewed from the southeast.



FIGURE 16: Feature 2 fully exposed prior to the excavation of the palisade wall trench. Viewed from the northeast.

well's closing. Such a one-time deposition utilizing all available trash was the usual practice in filling colonial wells because an open shaft would present a danger to humans and livestock (Noel Hume 1969: 144-145). If we assume this to be the case at the Kershaw House then a mean date of 1790 would represent the closing date for the well. Because this date is subsequent to the close of the Revolution and falls within the period of the Kershaw reoccupation of the house, the well must be associated with this occupation. Although it was not possible to examine material from the base of the well, the intrusive nature of the latter upon a palisade trench dating post-1780 and the closing date for the well being barely a decade later indicated that this apparently short-lived well probably was not dug long after the British departure in 1781.

A second feature at the Kershaw House was uncovered during the clearing of the south palisade trench. Approximately 25 feet west of the southeast corner of the wall trench evidence of a linear structure appeared, protruding from the edge of the grader cut and crossing the line of the palisade trench (Fig. 2). Feature 2 consists of a stain of dark grey soil which stood out markedly from the yellow sandy soil in which it lies (Fig. 16). It appears to represent one complete wall about 15 feet in length with portions of two other walls protruding from the edge of the grader cut. Three postholes approximately 7 feet apart are situated opposite the complete wall at a distance of 3.5 feet with the palisade trench passing between the postholes and the wall (Fig. 17B). No artifacts or brick rubble are associated with this feature.

The greater part of the structure obviously lies outside of the area of excavation and an adequate investigation of this feature would require extensive additional work apart from that on the palisade. Because such work was not feasible within the limits of this project, Feature 2

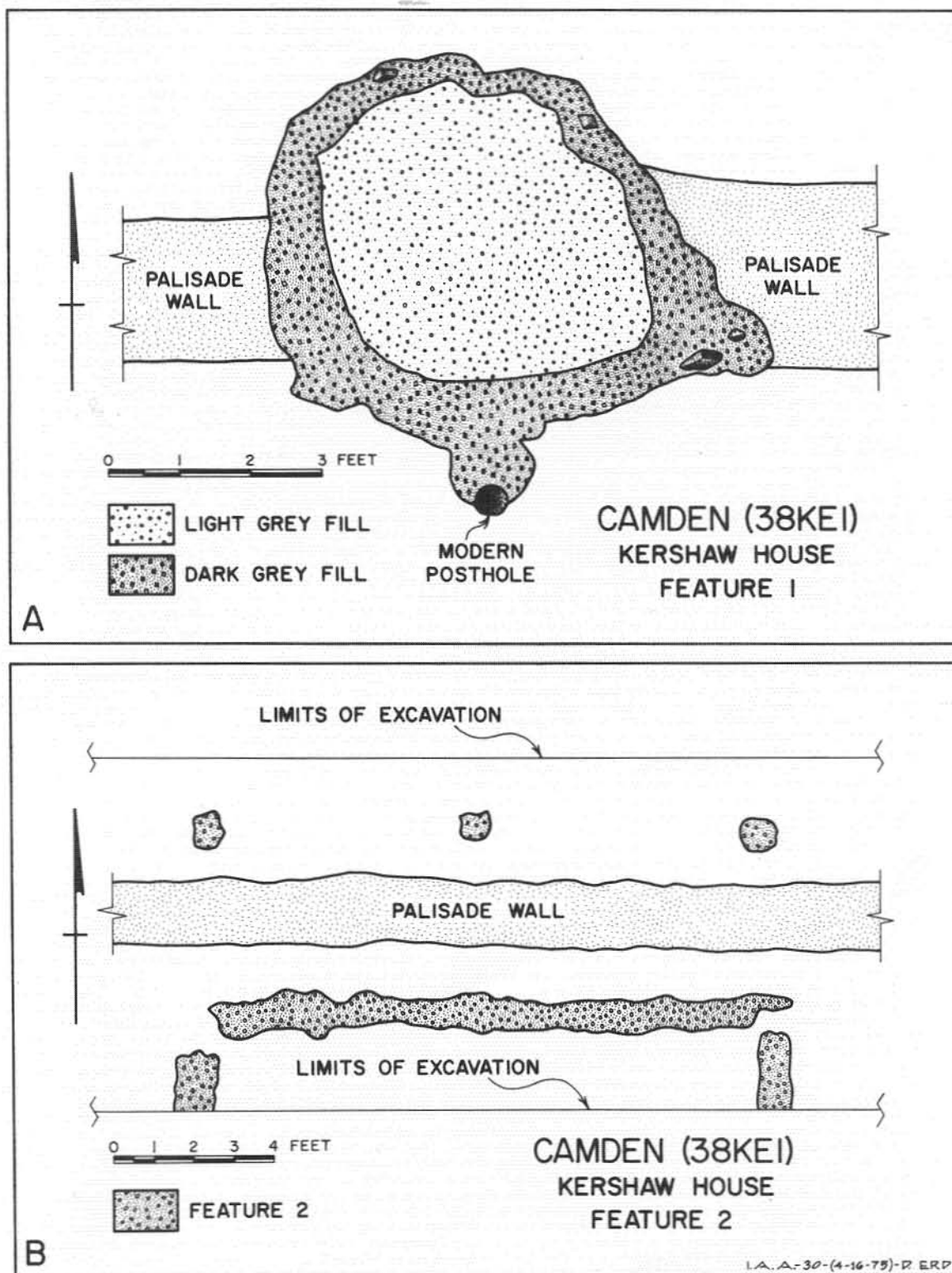


FIGURE 17: Plan of features at the Kershaw House palisade.
A: Feature 1; B: Feature 2.

was not investigated further. It very likely represents a wooden structure, the even tiered horizontal foundation members of which were placed directly on the ground. The presence of a gap near the corners suggests the use of either a shallow corner-post or the "hog-trough" method of corner construction. In the first case the horizontal members would have been set in grooved or morticed vertical posts, while in the second the horizontal members of two walls were secured by spikes or pegs to a vertical "trough" of heavy planks with its apex set in the corner. Horizontal construction with corner posts is generally found in those parts of the United States contiguous to Canada, however, it also occurs in the southern states of Tennessee and Virginia where it was apparently imported from Europe by German immigrants (Kniffen and Glassie 1966: 50-51).

The uneven nature of the stains also suggests the possibility of a vertical log wall composed of puncheons set side by side. The use of vertical planking to provide structural support in place of studding has English precedents, but was used most extensively in America by the French (Weslager 1969: 81). It is likely that the corners would be well-defined on structures of this type as the footing ditch in which the vertical planks were set would have to surround the entire structure except for entryways (see Maxwell and Binford 1961: 80).

Due to the limited nature of the investigation of Feature 2 during the 1974 field season it is not possible to draw definite conclusions about the construction, form, dates of occupation, or possible functions of this structure. Its enigmatic outline is not common on sites of this period in South Carolina and for this reason should be investigated further to determine its complete architectural morphology. Because of the historical significance of the Pine Tree Hill area as the probable

location of Joseph Kershaw's early activities near Camden, all structural remains here are potentially useful to the investigator seeking to analyze and interpret the development of this frontier community. It is recommended that any future archeological work at the Kershaw House site include a detailed examination of the structure associated with Feature 2.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Archeological investigations conducted at the site of the Kershaw House in Camden re-defined the eighteenth century palisade trench surrounding the house and immediate grounds. Previous excavations had exposed the trench several years earlier and the present work was designed primarily to examine it prior to the reconstruction of the palisade. Structurally, the wall was built as a single row palisade without accompanying defensive works such as those present in the bastions. The palisade formed a rough pentagon with an extension directly in front of the Kershaw House containing a gate. Two bastions were present, one on the east and the other on the south side. Figure 18 illustrates the palisade as it probably appeared during the 1780-1781 British occupation of Camden. The entire palisade was set in a trench about 2.5 to 3 feet deep. The absence of remains of the wall or post-molds implies that the palisade was removed, probably not long after the British evacuation in 1781.

Two cultural features associated with the palisade trench were uncovered during the 1974-75 excavations. Neither apparently was directly linked functionally to the wall itself. Feature 1, located on the north wall, is a well which was dug through the filled wall trench. Its filling date of 1790 suggests that it was constructed shortly after the

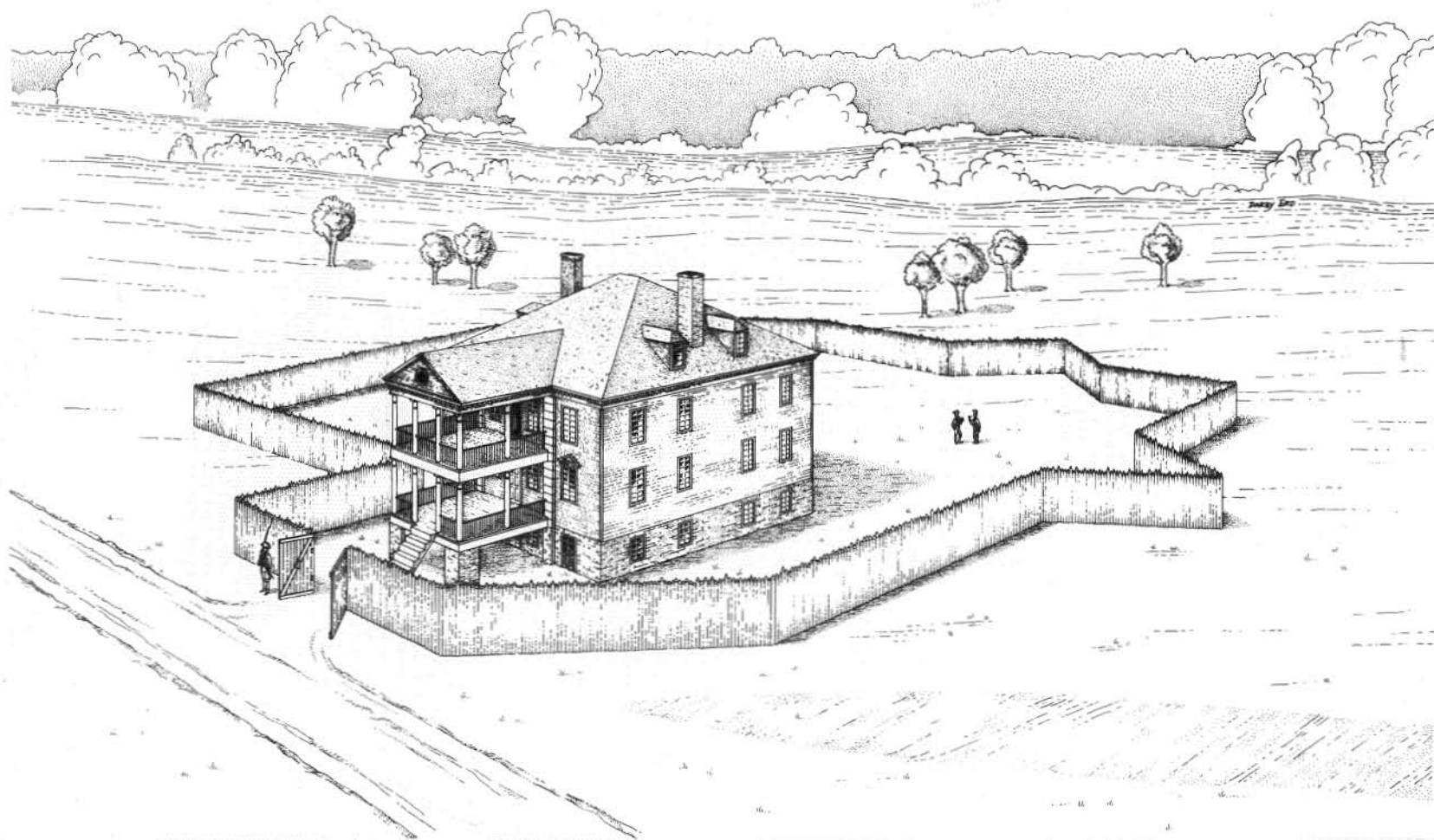


FIGURE 18: Conjectural view of the Kershaw House and palisade as they appeared during the British occupation of Camden, 1780-1781

Kershaw family's reoccupation of the house in the 1780's. The second feature represents a portion of a structure part of which was built across the palisade trench. The unique construction of this building warrants attention in future archeological work.

Documentary sources indicate that the palisade was part of the extensive fortification erected around Camden by the British Army in 1780. Because the Kershaw House was utilized as their headquarters, it was fortified separately, although apparently not as a strong defensive position. As indicated above, the palisade does not seem to have long outlasted the British occupation of the town. With the return of the Kershaw family in the 1780's this unsightly reminder of the recent war must have been rapidly taken down to make room for household activities.

With the completion of the present archeological excavations the reconstruction of the palisade was undertaken to complete the immediate interpretive exhibit at the Kershaw House. Previously a number of other structural features not discussed in this report had been excavated in the area surrounded by the Kershaw House palisade several of which would lend themselves to interpretive exhibition if stabilized. The discovery of Feature 2 demonstrates also the presence of structures that are not contemporaneous with the Revolutionary War occupation on Pine Tree Hill. Some of these may date from the early colonial occupation of Camden, a period not well known in terms of documentary evidence. Any plan for the future investigation of Camden should certainly take into consideration the investigation of those non-Revolutionary War period remains on Pine Tree Hill, because they hold a potential for shedding light on the early economic and social development of this early center of the South Carolina backcountry.

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APPENDIX A

CREAM-COLORED EARTHENWARE FROM THE KERSHAW HOUSE PALISADE

Feature 1 at the Kershaw House palisade yielded a number of ceramic specimens which were produced by a colonial pottery industry centered in Camden. The scope and nature of this manufacturing activity are still for the most part unknown; however, due to scanty documentary evidence and very limited archeological data. The purpose of this section is to present those specimens of locally-made pottery recovered during the recent excavations at the Kershaw House together with background information concerning the early South Carolina pottery industry. These data are presented in the hope that they will, first, add to our knowledge of the ceramic forms themselves and, second, help to place these ceramics within a more closely definable temporal context.

The manufacture of ceramics at Camden is associated with the names of John Bartlam and William Ellis who pioneered the production of cream-colored earthenware in America. Bartlam's name first appears in 1765 in the correspondence of Josiah Wedgwood, the British potter whose development of a white paste creamware revolutionized the manufacture of earthenware in the mid-eighteenth century. In a letter to Sir William Meredith, Wedgwood complained that the ceramic trade to Britain's American colonies was threatened by the establishment of a "potworks" in Charleston, South Carolina by John Bartlam, an unsuccessful master potter (Finer and Savage 1965: 29 and Wedgwood 1783: 4). In 1770 Bartlam announced the opening of his factory in Charleston and the following year advertised "Queensware [creamware], equal to any imported" (Ramsay 1947: 97-98). At the same time Bartlam solicited samples of clay from plantations

of the interior. Perhaps subsequent experimentation led to the removal of his pottery to the inland town of Camden within the next few years. An advertisement for a Camden potter who was producing "Queen's and other Earthen Ware" in the South Carolina Gazette on April 11, 1774 very likely refers to Bartlam's business for he is reported to have operated the only pottery industry there prior to the Revolution (Ramsay 1809: 597 and Mills 1972: 589). Bartlam's name appears in entries in Joseph Kershaw's account book twice in April, 1777 (JKP/1777). James Clitherall, a traveller who passed through Camden in 1776, remarked on the "exceeding good Pans, etc." at the local potter and attested to the widespread demand for his products in the colony (Clitherall 1776). Bartlam manufactured pottery at Camden up to the time of the British occupation of the town in 1780 as witnessed by accounts for his delivery of earthenware as late as December, 1779 (UAB/1779/24, 25, 27). The coming of the war to the Carolina backcountry brought an end to Bartlam's pottery enterprise as well as to other small industries at Camden (Mills 1972: 590). Bartlam apparently moved back to Charleston where he died in 1781 (Inventories/100: 373). The final sale of his "5 valuable lots in Camden" six years later seems to mark the end of his association with the town. These lots included numbers 639-643 (JCD/B: 132) which lie north and south of King Street just east of its intersection with Lyttleton Street (Fig. 1). It is not known if his kiln was located on his property and a cursory surface survey failed to yield evidence of pottery-making activities.

In the fall of 1773 at least one potter from Camden appeared in the Moravian settlement of Salem, North Carolina, where he instructed the potter, Gottfried Aust, in the manufacture of cream-colored earthenwares, principally Queensware and tortoise shell ware. The latter is distinguished

by the presence of underglaze stippled decoration in various colors (Noël Hume 1970: 125). This man is identified as William Allen and William Ellis (Fries 1968/II: 763, 775). By the time he left the following spring both cream-colored wares and stoneware were being manufactured at Salem (Fries 1968/II: 817). The production of these ceramics at Salem has been demonstrated archeologically (South 1971: 172) and it may be assumed that since the art of making these wares was learned from a Camden potter, William Ellis, the Salem specimens and those manufactured at Camden should have much in common.

In the course of the previous archeological work at the Kershaw House both the undecorated cream-colored wares and tortoise shell wares have been recovered (South 1971: 176). The high fired ware found at Salem, however, was absent at Camden. The cream-colored ware from Camden varies from light cream to a rich buff color. Both it and the tortoise shell ware exhibit relief decoration similar to specimens manufactured in North Carolina. The clay from which they were made contains small inclusions which form reddish blotches on the surface of the white paste when exposed to water. This condition does not occur in specimens made in Britain or North Carolina. Camden cream-colored ware has also been recovered in excavations at the British colonial sites of Ninety Six, Fort Watson, and Long Bluff in South Carolina (South 1972b, Ferguson 1975), but is conspicuously absent from the Revolutionary War occupation at Fort Moultrie in Charleston harbor (South 1974: 181). The presence of large quantities in Charleston prior to the war, however, suggests that the Camden wares were distributed quite widely in the Carolinas.

Twenty-one specimens of locally-made cream-colored ware were recovered from Feature 1 during the recent excavations at the Kershaw House palisade.

All exhibit a deep cream color and the past is similar to the other Camden specimens. Two sherds exhibit the mottled underglaze decoration characteristic of tortoise shell ware, one specimen being green and the other purple (Fig. 19). It is difficult to determine the forms of the vessels represented by these fragments due to the small size of the latter. Cups, bowls, and plates are definitely represented. A teapot is indicated by a single sherd which contains a portion of the spout and strainer (Fig. 19). Three of the holes through which the tea passed are still intact. The spout itself appears not to have been round in cross-section, for the edge between two flat surfaces is visible. The faceted spout was apparently hand-carved to simulate a molded piece as were specimens from teapots manufactured in Bethabara, North Carolina (South 1967: 46, Fig. 6). The only decorative elements present on the collection of cream-colored sherds are pearl gadrooning, on what appear to be vertical-walled vessels, and the feather edge motif molded in relief on plate edges. Both of these decorative elements have been found on cream-colored wares made in North Carolina and on those found previously at Camden (South 1971: 177).

The proximity of the Kershaw House to the site of pottery-making activities at Camden is indicated by the occurrence of unglazed bisque-fired sherds in Feature 1. One plate or bowl fragment is glazed on the interior only and several specimens exhibit only light or intermittent glazing while others are not glazed at all. Similar bisque-fired sherds were noted in the earlier excavations at the Kershaw House (South 1971: 176). The affiliation of these sherds, probably wasters from a nearby kiln perhaps located on Bartlam's property one block to the north, with the domestic occupation of the Kershaw House is unclear. It is unlikely that a kiln waster dump would have formed in Joseph Kershaw's yard as the

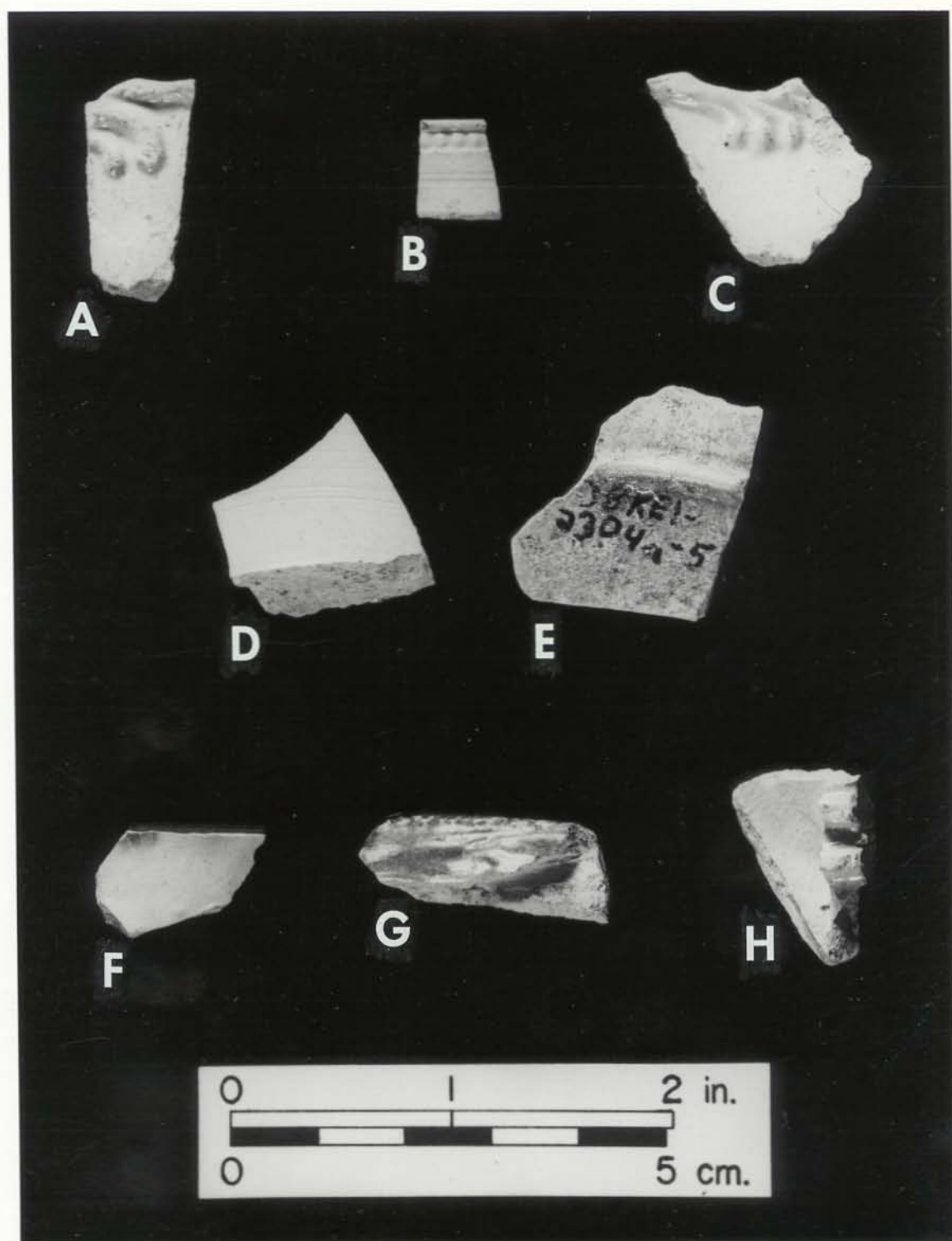


FIGURE 19: Carolina Cream-colored Ware from the Kershaw House: A) Feather-edge relief molding on plate rims; B) Pearl gadroon relief molding below rim; C) Feather-edge relief molding on plate rim; D) Parallel incised lines on vessel exterior; E) Bisque plate base with portion of ring foot visible; F) Monochrome mottled underglaze decoration on vessel exterior; G) Polychrome mottled underglaze decoration on vessel rim; H) Teapot strainer and portion of spout. Straining holes are visible along right edge.

result of activities associated with the household. Bisque-fired pottery would have been useless for most domestic activities because of its tendency to absorb liquids. The sherds, however, may have had other uses. Perhaps if the kiln and its accompanying waster dump were located in the vicinity of the house, Kershaw may have utilized the waster dump as a handy source of road metal. Kiln wasters from William Roger's kiln in Yorktown, Virginia were used in this manner on a large scale during the second quarter of the eighteenth century (Watkins and Noël Hume 1967: 110).

The 1785-1793 dates for the well's filling post-dates the closing date of Bartlam's pottery operation by only a few years. The glazed sherds of locally-made cream-colored ware recovered from it in a context post-dating the period of Bartlam's production very likely represent the remains of vessels discarded when they were broken or became otherwise unusable. The presence of many different vessel types within such a small sample illustrates the variety of locally-produced ceramic products employed in a large household. Because they comprise only 6% of the total ceramics, however, it appears that they served only to supplement the European ceramics which were imported in large quantities.

In summary, we may conclude that the specimens of colonial cream-colored earthenware from Feature 1 at the Kershaw House were made by Bartlam's pottery at Camden between 1773 and the British occupation of the town in 1780. The ceramics from Camden are nearly identical to those made by the Moravian potters in North Carolina who had learned the technique of their manufacture from one of Bartlam's potters, William Ellis. Differences in the past may be due to the presence of impurities in the local clay. The specimens from Feature 1 are similar to those recovered elsewhere at the Kershaw House and all presumably date from

the same period. Little new information has arisen concerning the location of the kiln itself, however, the presence of bisque sherds at the Kershaw House seems to indicate that it may not have been situated far from the site of the house on Pine Tree Hill.

APPENDIX B

CALCULATION OF MEAN CERAMIC DATES BY LEVEL, FEATURE 1, KERSHAW HOUSE, CAMDEN

The following formula is designed to derive the mean manufacture date for the group of colonial British ceramic types recovered from a historic site by taking into consideration the frequency of occurrence of fragments of the types (see South 1972a). Where the mean ceramic date, Y , is expressed:

$$Y = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \cdot f_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n f_i}$$

Where:

x_i = the median date of manufacture of each ceramic type.

f_i = the frequency of each ceramic type.

n = the number of ceramic types in the sample.

The calculation of the mean ceramic date for Level 1 (0-1.0') of Feature 1 at the Kershaw House palisade would be as follows.

<u>Type Description</u>	<u>Type Median 1700(x_i)</u>	<u>Sherd Count (f_i)</u>	<u>Product ($x_i \cdot f_i$)</u>
Decorated delftware	50	4	200
Debased Rouen faience	88	3	264
White salt-glazed stoneware	53	4	212
Westerwald stoneware	38	1	38
British brown stoneware	33	2	66
English porcelain	70	3	210
Creamware	98	61	5978
Mottled glaze wares	55	1	55

APPENDIX B (CONTINUED)

Type Description	Type Median <u>1700(x_i)</u>	Sherd Count (f _i)	Product (x _i f _i)
Underglaze hand-painted pearlware	100	3	300
Edged pearlware	105	1	105
Annular wares	105	2	210
Undecorated pearlware	105	<u>13</u>	<u>1365</u>
TOTALS		98	9003

$$\frac{x_i \cdot f_i}{f_i} = \frac{9003}{98} = 91.8 + 1700 = 1791.8 = 1792$$

The calculations of the mean ceramic dates for the other levels of Feature 1 are presented in abbreviated form below. For the frequencies of the individual types present see Appendix C, Provenience of Artifacts.

$$\text{Level 2} \quad \frac{6626}{71} = 93.0 + 1700 = 1793$$

$$\text{Level 3} \quad \frac{3184}{34} = 93.6 + 1700 = 1793.6 = 1794$$

$$\text{Level 4} \quad \frac{6281}{70} = 89.7 + 1700 = 1789.7 = 1790$$

$$\text{Level 5} \quad \frac{5120}{60} = 85.3 + 1700 = 1785.3 = 1785$$

The mean ceramic date for Feature 1 with all levels combined is:

$$\frac{30214}{333} = 90.7 + 1700 = 1790.7 = 1791$$

APPENDIX C

PROVENIENCE OF ARTIFACTS* FEATURE 1, KERSHAW HOUSE, CAMDEN

Level 1

Pipe stems	1 (5/64")
Pipe bowl fragment	2
Case bottle fragment	12
Wine bottle fragment	31
Window glass	46
Brass button, plain, 18 mm	1
Lead sprue	1
Brick fragment	4
Wrought nail fragment	83
Unidentified bone frag.	<u>37</u>
Total	218

Level 4

Pipe stems	2
Pipe bowl fragment	2
Case bottle fragments	5
Wine bottle fragments	16
Wine glass stem	1
Window glass	4
Light green glass	1
Bone handle	1
Brick fragment	3
Unidentified iron fragments	4
Unidentified bone fragments	<u>16</u>
Total	55

Level 2

Pipe stems	5 (5/64")
Pipe stems	1 (6/64")
Case bottle fragments	19
Wine bottle fragments	14
Clear bottle fragments	1
Glass stopper	1
Window glass	27
Clear glass	6
Gunflint fragments	1
Wrought nail fragments	57
Unidentified bone frag.	<u>19</u>
Total	151

Level 5

Pipe stems	1 (4/64")
Pipe stems	2 (5/64")
Pipe bowl fragments	2
Case bottle fragments	16
Wine bottle fragments	30
Window glass	2
Lead sprue	1
Wrought nail fragments	60
Unidentified bone fragments	<u>54</u>
Total	168

Level 3

Pipe stems	3 (5/64")
Pipe bowl fragment	1
Indian pipe stem frag.	1
Wine bottle fragment	47
Window glass	31
Light green glass	4
Clear glass	1
White glass	12
Musket ball .69 (distorted)	1
Metal sleeve button, 10 mm	1
Wrought nail fragment	90
Unidentified bone frag.	<u>20</u>

Total Non-ceramic Artifacts = 804

Total Ceramic Artifacts = 333

Total Artifacts 1,137

212

*Totals do not reflect ceramics which are listed separately in the accompanying table. Also not included are corroded iron fragments.

APPENDIX D

PROVENIENCE OF CERAMIC ARTIFACTS IN FEATURE 1,
KERSHAW HOUSE PALISADE, CAMDEN (38KE1)

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	TOTALS
Lead glazed combed slipware					1	1
Buckley ware		1				1
Debased Rouen faience	3			1		4
Decorated delftware	4	5	2	6	6	23
Westerwald stoneware	1				1	2
British brown stoneware	2			1	3	6
White salt-glazed stoneware	4	3		5	2	14
Unglazed red stoneware			2		1	3
Creamware	61	50	27	54	35	227
Mottled glaze wares	1					1
Annular wares	2	2				4
Undecorated pearlware	13	6			7	26
Hand painted pearlware	3		3		2	8
Edged pearlware	1	1		1	2	5
English porcelain	3			1		4
Chinese porcelain		3		1		4
TOTALS	98	71	34	70	60	333