

Excavation of Housepit 7

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Introduction

This report briefly summarizes the results of excavations in HP 7. This was one of the largest housepits at Keatley Creek, measuring 17 m from rim crest to rim crest, and it is situated on the northeastern periphery of the site core at the base of a slope leading up to terrace 1 (Vol. III, Preface, **Fig. 1**). Discussion focuses on the interpretation of strata and features uncovered during the 1989 field season (May 8 to August 14). Since this report was written prior to any analysis of the 1989 collections and without a detailed examination of all the field notes, the following should be viewed as an impressionistic overview. I have attempted to relate the result of the previous three seasons of excavation at HP 7 to the 1989 results.

Purpose and Extent of 1989 Excavations

The goal of the 1989 project was to complete excavations of the floor of HP 7. Prior to the 1989 field season, 120.75 square meters of the housepit were excavated (**Fig. 1**), primarily in the center of the housepit and in the rim deposits along the eastern edge. In 1989, an additional 44 square meters were excavated in the area between the housepit wall and the previously excavated area in the center of the housepit.

Except for a few subsquares (50 x 50 cm units) along the extreme outer edge, all of the housepit floor was excavated by the end of the 1989 season (**Fig. 2**). I am confident that all major cache pits and hearths have been exposed, as well as most of the postholes used to support the roof structure and any internal house features.

Methodology

The housepit was covered by a four square meter grid of squares which were consecutively designated with a letter of the alphabet as they were excavated. In 1989 we began excavations in Squares JJ to WW and continued work in the previously designated Squares of U and Y.

Each square was divided into 16 subsquares, 50 cm on a side, numbered from 1 to 16. Each subsquare was excavated separately using a trowel and dustpan, and the soil was screened through 1/4 inch mesh. All bone, debitage, and judgmental samples of the larger floral remains were collected and bagged by stratum and level for each subsquare. One liter flotation samples were collected from the floor of four subsquares in each square to acquire a systematic sample of debitage, fauna, and flora lost through the use of the large screen mesh. Flotation samples were also collected from each of the fill units in the pit features and from most of the larger postholes.

Detailed profiles were drawn of each of the walls of the squares and the exposed outer edges of the excavation. A rough sketch of one wall of each subsquare was also made prior to excavation, to indicate natural strata and arbitrary excavation levels.

As in previous years, the deposits were excavated according to visible stratigraphic zones or strata. In the 1989 excavation, the most commonly encountered strata were: surface (I), roof (V), floor (II), rim spoil (XIII), rim slump (XVI), and dump material (XXVI). Surface was generally removed as one level, irrespective of its thickness, although in the beginning, it was sometimes divided into 5 cm arbitrary levels contoured to the surface. The floor was excavated in 5 cm arbitrary levels contoured to the floor surface.

Rim spoil, rim slump, and dump material were not divided into arbitrary levels.

Initially, in the 1989 season, all roof deposits were excavated in three arbitrary levels. The top 5 cm of the roof (contoured to the roof surface) was excavated as Level 1 and designated "roof surface." The bottom 5 cm (contoured to the underlying floor stratum) was excavated as Level 3 and designated "roof bottom." The matrix between the top and bottom 5 cm levels, no matter what thickness, was excavated as Level 2 and designated "roof fill."

After two to three weeks of excavation it became obvious that there was considerable variation within the roof stratum (see discussion of roof stratum). In excavating most of the roof stratum as a single level (Level 2—"roof fill"), we felt we were losing considerable information about how the roof had been constructed and eventually collapsed. Moreover, we came to the conclusion that the top of the roof stratum was not actually formed when the roof initially collapsed, but was colluvium deposited subsequent to the collapse. Therefore, Level 1 did not represent the surface of the roof where the inhabitants of the housepit originally conducted their activities and consequently Level 1 could not be expected to reflect activity areas on the roof—the reason for excavating "roof surface" as a separate 5 cm level. However, we also wanted the level and strata designation scheme to be consistent with our initial work and, as far as we could determine, the work of previous excavators in HP 7. As a result, we maintained the same stratum and level designation, but added the designation "layer" to distinguish between the different matrices that we could see in the roof. The nature and number of layers varied between squares.

The result was a system whereby, the top 5 cm and bottom 5 cm of the roof were still excavated and bagged separately with the designated Level 1 (roof surface) and Level 3 (roof bottom). However, in addition they were also given a layer designation (**Fig. 3**). Level 2—roof fill was subdivided into different layers with each layer being excavated and bagged separately. In most cases the top 5 cm of the layer which appeared most likely to represent the initial roof collapse was also bagged separately. All bags from Level 2 were labeled “roof fill” no matter what layer they came from.

The following is a schematic drawing to illustrate the excavation scheme:

This roof would be excavated and labeled accordingly:

- Stratum V—Level 1 (0-5 cm) roof surface—layer 1
- Stratum V—Level 2 (5-10 cm) roof fill— layer 1
- Stratum V—Level 2 (10-15 cm) roof fill — layer 2
- Stratum V—Level 2 (15-30 cm) roof fill — layer 2
- Stratum V—Level 2 (30-35 cm) roof fill — layer 3
- Stratum V—Level 3 (35-40 cm) roof bottom— layer 3

This scheme was used in all the 1989 excavations except in Square NN. In this square the stratigraphy was much more complex and to simplify excavations, each separately excavated level was given a different number and the layer designations added after the square was complete. Therefore, the only difference to the above example would be that the levels in Square NN would be numbered one to six rather than one to three.

Provenience for the artifacts and other cultural remains from the site is according to stratum, level, and layer within each subsquare. A plan view of the cultural remains was only made for the floor deposits, with each 5 cm

level of the floor having a separate plan (in a few subsquares, all levels of the floor are plotted on one plan view). All flakes, tools, bone, charcoal, and features were plotted on these plan views, as well as any fire-altered rocks or unaltered rocks greater than 4 cm in maximum dimension. The stratigraphic cross-sections can be seen in **Figure 4**.

Housepit Excavation Results

Surface Stratum

In examining the field notes and reports from previous years, it became obvious that the definition of surface has varied considerably according to the excavator and year of excavation. Three separate definitions of surface seem to exist:

- 1) the modern A horizon, i.e., the littermat, including any vegetation, roots, and loose humic soil;
- 2) the colluvial deposits, i.e., the littermat and all of the deposits below it which contain 5–15% clasts (greater than granule size) and appear to lie over a matrix with a much higher clast content that is usually interpreted as the initial roof collapse, and;
- 3) the modern surface, which is the definition we used in 1989 and describe in detail below.

In 1989, we defined surface as the modern surface or the littermat, and soil deposited since the last occupation in the housepit. These deposits are typically a dark grayish brown sandy loam with ca. 8–15% pebbles and less than 5% cobbles. Most clasts are angular and appear to be fire-altered. Although aeolian deposition is probably responsible for some of this soil build up, the size of the clasts suggests that most of the surface is the result

of colluvial deposition. The main agents causing soil movement into the housepit are probably slopewash and gravity bringing soil into the center of the depression from the rim as well as disturbance by cattle and horses which use the area to graze. The soil is typically very loose near the surface where roots and other organic matter is abundant, and on the steeper slopes where the deposits are less stable. Closer to the center of the housepit, and with depth, the surface becomes more compact. These deposits are rarely more than 12 cm, or less than 5 cm, thick.

Little or no charcoal or faunal material is found in the surface stratum, nor is there any evidence of fire-reddening. Presumably, the weathering and movement of the deposits has destroyed any evidence of these remains. Few flakes or stone tools are found in the Surface, with 5–15 being typical of a 5 cm level. Similar frequencies of fire-altered rock are encountered. In general the frequency of artifacts and rocks is greater on the gentler slopes. Many of the stone artifacts are patinated, especially those exposed to weathering in the loose surface deposits.

The surface is distinguished from the underlying layer 1 of the roof Stratum by the slightly lighter color, fewer clasts, and the presence of a post-housepit abandonment occupation in layer 1.

The deposition of aeolian and colluvial deposits in the housepits at the site has probably accelerated since Euro-Canadian contact. The introduction of cattle and horses, and the corresponding decrease in wild grasses due to overgrazing (Tisdale 1947, Brayshaw 1970), would no doubt have increased erosion on the site as a result of more surface exposure and more animal activity. In some of the housepits (e.g., HP 101), recent surface deposition has been extensive.

Given the origin of the surface deposits, it is unlikely that any of the cultural material found in these deposits are in their original context (except refuse from transitory campers that used housepit depressions after the structures had been abandoned and the roofs collapsed). The spatial patterning of the artifacts is more likely to reflect the random effects of natural depositional processes than cultural patterning.

Roof Stratum

The thickness, texture, and cultural content of the roof deposits vary considerably with depth within any given square, as well as between squares. This variation may be accounted for by five factors:

- (1) gravity and animal activity moving roof deposits from higher to lower slopes after the initial collapse of the pithouse roof;
- (2) temporary, post-collapse occupations in the housepit depression;
- (3) the regularity and speed of the initial roof collapse before, during, and after burning;
- (4) the thickness and composition of the roofing materials;
- (5) "pulling down" roof soil towards the base of the roof prior to structure abandonment and burning (see Vol. I, Chap. 17); and,
- (6) cultural activities that took place on the roof during the pithouse occupation.

The following section of the report will attempt to explain the variability recognized in the roof stratum according to these factors.

This discussion will also clarify why I think that any cultural patterning that may have resulted from cultural activities on the roof or from storage of materials in the roof rafters during the pithouse occupation would have

been largely destroyed by the roof collapse and subsequent cultural and natural events. Moreover, inconsistencies in the method of excavating the roof stratum will have further disguised any such potential cultural patterning in the roof. Despite these limitations, Spafford (Vol. I, Chap. 14) has been able to document some very general roof activity areas.

In general, the thickest roof deposits and the greatest number of recognizable layers exist in the roof stratum in the northeast corner of the housepit. The thinnest roof deposits, which often lack any clear layering, occur in the center of the housepit and in the southwest corner. Overall, the deposits are thicker along the eastern edge of the housepit where the wall was cut into the hill slope, and at the base of the slope formed by the wall and rim of the housepit.

Where layering is visible in the roof stratum, three layers are generally recognized. For the purpose of this discussion, these layers are called the post-collapse layer, the initial roof collapse layer, and the filtered roof collapse layer. The post-collapse layer occurs directly under the surface stratum and is characterized by a relatively fine texture and the presence of a post-abandonment occupation. This layer covers the coarse textured initial roof collapse layer which frequently contains burnt roof beams and other roofing material toward its bottom. Finally, the relatively finely textured filtered roof collapse layer may occur just above the floor deposits.

Post-Collapse Layer

The post-collapse layer (generally called layer 1) is very similar to the surface stratum as defined earlier in this report. In general, this layer is a firm, dark grayish brown sandy loam with ca. 10–15% pebbles, and ca. 5%

cobbles. Most clasts are angular and appear to be fire-altered. In many squares, the differences between the surface stratum and the post-collapse layer are very subtle with the layer being only slightly darker, firmer, and more coarsely textured. In some parts of the housepit, especially closer to the rim and along the eastern side, there is a thin (ca. 2–3 cm) dark layer at the boundary between the two strata. This dark layer may be a horizon suggesting a more stable surface at one time, perhaps before Euro-Canadians introduced livestock onto the site.

In all the 1989 excavations (except Sq. U), the surface stratum was excavated separately from the post-collapse layer. The top 5 cm of the post-collapse layer was designated "roof surface" and excavated and bagged separately from underlying roof deposits. In some cases, especially in the western portion of the housepit, the post-collapse layer was only ca. 5 cm thick and the entire layer was excavated as the roof surface. In most parts of the housepit, this layer was more than 5 cm thick and the lower portion was excavated as part of the roof fill but kept separate from underlying layers.

In general, the post-collapse layer is like the surface stratum in terms of texture, color, and cultural content, with little or no charcoal and bone, and low frequencies of artifacts (some with patination) and fire altered rock. Based on this evidence, I suggest that, for the most part, the cultural material in the post-collapse layer has the same history of deposition as the surface stratum, i.e., colluvial redeposition of materials from the rim of the housepit many years after the initial roof collapse and housepit abandonment. However, the top 5 cm of this layer also contain evidence of an occupation which occurred in the housepit depression after much of this colluvial deposition took place.

Evidence for this post-housepit abandonment occupation (PHAO) was found in the center and on the lower slopes of the housepit. This evidence included:

- (1) relatively high frequencies of fire-altered rock (ca. 15–20%) and lithics;
- (2) high frequencies of unburnt, broken, and cut deer bones;
- (3) occasional fish vertebra;
- (4) localized concentrations of fire altered rock with charcoal staining and flecking, and;
- (5) two pit features excavated down to sterile deposits from the top of the post-collapse layer.

Both pit features contained large quantities of charcoal and fire altered rock overlying fire-reddened soil suggesting use as either a hearth or, more likely, a roasting oven. These ovens were typically used to cook large quantities of plant foods, indicating the use of the site as a base camp for plant collection and processing. The tools and deer bone suggest deer hunting and processing activities.

It is possible that the PHAO represents an outdoor activity area used by the occupants of a nearby pithouse while the village was still in use. However, all of the radiocarbon dates from the housepit occupations predate 1,000 BP, while the presence of a historic metal point from the PHAO indicates an early historic date for this occupation. The presence of some fish bone and large quantities of deer bone in good condition also suggests a relatively recent date for the PHAO, since bone, especially fish species and unweathered mammal bone, is uncommon in the older roof

deposits. This good bone preservation may also have been the result of quick burial by colluvial deposition stimulated by historic livestock activity.

The temporal and artifactual evidence suggests the PHAO was an early historic deer and plant processing base camp. Some form of temporary lodge shelter would be expected at such a base camp and it is possible that such a structure may have been built near, or in, the housepit depression. However, given the excavation techniques employed (i.e., no plan view of cultural material) for these deposits, it is unlikely that evidence for a lodge would be detected. No postholes were detected in this stratum.

In summary, the patterning of cultural material in the post-collapse layer should reflect: 1) the random distribution of materials produced by colluvial deposition, and; 2) the activities conducted in the housepit during the PHAO. It is extremely unlikely that the patterning has any relationship to the activities conducted on the surface of the roof during the pithouse occupation.

Initial Roof Collapse Layer

The initial roof collapse layer is very different from the post-collapse layer, with more clasts, charcoal, fire altered rock, bone, and lithics. Typically, the initial roof collapse layer is a loosely compacted, very dark grayish brown sandy loam. The percentage of different sized clasts can vary considerably, even within a square, with granules comprising 20–30%, pebbles 15–40%, and cobbles 5–10%. However, in all cases, the frequencies are higher than those found in the adjacent post-collapse layer. Moreover, the size and frequency of charcoal fragments is greater, especially in the lower portions of the initial roof collapse layer. In the southeast corner of the housepit,

burnt beams and other roofing material from the pithouse superstructure are common in these lower deposits. A few large beam fragments are also scattered in other parts of the housepit. Fire-altered rock is common and many of the granules and pebbles appear to be fire-altered. Lithic frequencies are higher and, unlike the surface stratum and post-collapse layer, these artifacts are not patinated, thus suggesting a rapid burial.

The nature and content of these deposits leave little doubt that they represent the beam and roof debris from the last occupation of the pithouse. Ethnographic accounts describe a roof comprised of beams and branches covered with soil (Vol. I, Chap. 17; Vol. II, Chap. 2). Fire-altered rock, lithics, and bone from the cleaning of hearths and floors inside the house were also expected to be dumped on the roof. The archaeological evidence supports this model with burnt beams (some covered with smaller poles and branches) at the bottom of the layer and generally high, but uneven distributions of lithics, bone, and fire altered rock.

If any of the roof deposits can be expected to contain cultural material reflecting the *in situ* activities which took place on the roof during the pithouse occupation, that deposit would be the top 5 cm of the initial roof collapse layer. However, if the cultural material from the top 5 cm of the initial roof collapse layer can be examined separately, I doubt that these deposits have enough integrity to reveal roof top activity areas in any greater detail than documented by Spafford (Vol. I, Chap. 14). Photographs of abandoned pithouses from the early historic period illustrate that the roof collapses unevenly. For example, entire roof segments from the door to the rim may fall in before adjoining sections, parts of the earthen roof and support poles may fall in before the beams collapse, and soil covering the

central portion of the roof may move down or be pulled down the slope of the roof before falling into the housepit depression. Burnt beams and fire-reddened soil in the initial roof collapse layer clearly indicate that HP 7 was burned and did not just collapse through weathering as indicated in the photographs. On the other hand, HP 7 may have been subject to weathering for many years prior to burning. Even if the pithouse was burned immediately after abandonment, one would not expect the entire structure to burn evenly and collapse as a single unit. In fact the roof deposits from HP 7 suggest anything but an orderly collapse of the roof.

The initial roof collapse layer varies in thickness from as little as 5 cm in the center of the housepit to as much as 30 cm at the base of the wall or rim (**Fig. 4**). This configuration suggests that most of the soil deposited on the roof had moved to (or was dumped at) the base of the roof slope prior to the pithouse collapse, and that these deposits then slumped into the depression accumulating at the base of the slope. In some localities, the initial roof collapse deposits seem to be mounded while the later colluvial deposits have filled in the surrounding depressions. These mounds may have been produced by roof deposits falling through holes in the roof structure prior to the final collapse. Although charred beams are common in the southeast corner of the housepit, they only occur sporadically in other areas. The paucity of beams and charred post bases in some areas suggests the possibility that some beams and posts were removed from the structure for reuse prior to burning; such a practice would also have heavily disturbed the integrity of the deposits. All this evidence suggests that any patterning of cultural material in the top 5 cm of the initial roof collapse deposits that may have resulted from activities undertaken on the roof during occupation

would have been heavily disturbed (it should also be remembered that the roof deposits appear to contain artifacts from earlier occupations).

Based on the same evidence it is unlikely that artifact storage in the rafters of the pithouse would retain their original spatial distribution during the roof collapse. However, in those parts of the roof deposits where burnt beams are common, the beams usually lie directly above the floor deposits and are surrounded by fire-reddened soil. This evidence suggests that these sections of roof collapsed largely intact and burned after collapse. In these localities the material left on the roof surface or stored in the rafters may be expected to be found more or less in their original locations at the top and bottom of the initial roof collapse layer. In most cases, the bottom 5 cm of this layer were excavated separately and designated as roof bottom. Exceptions occur where a filtered roof collapse layer is found under the initial roof collapse layer and the bottom 5 cm of the former was excavated as roof bottom.

Filtered Roof Collapse Layer

The filtered roof collapse layer only occurs in a few areas of the housepit and only at the base of the wall or rim. It is found above the floor deposits but below the initial roof collapse and resembles the latter except that it contains fewer large clasts. The filtered roof collapse is interpreted to be roof material which has filtered through the beams prior to the final collapse of the roof. These deposits may reflect the use of finer textured soil in the lower part of the roof deposits. It often occurs in areas where rim slump overrides the floor deposits suggesting the possibility that it

originates from deposits which slumped into the housepit from the area where the roof and wall met.

The numbering of the roof layers varies from one square to another, depending on the number of visible layers in the square. For example, in the southeast corner of the housepit, the initial roof collapse layer was sometimes divided into layers 2 and 3 to distinguish between those deposits which contained many beams and fire-reddening and those which lacked these characteristics. In the northeast corner of the housepit, the initial roof collapse layer is called layer 3b. In this case, layer 3a and layer 1 both appear to be post-collapse roof deposits or colluvium, although layer 3a has a higher silt content. Layer 2 resembles the initial roof collapse layer, but given its location between two colluvial deposits, it seems to be best interpreted as redeposited initial roof collapse that slumped into the housepit from higher elevations.

Rim Slump Stratum

The rim slump stratum is interpreted as redeposited rim spoil. It may occur either under the surface stratum and above the initial roof collapse, or between the initial roof collapse and the floor stratum. In all cases, the rim slump is found near the outer edge of the housepit floor. The texture and cultural content is similar to rim spoil with high frequencies of fire-altered rock, bone, lithics, charcoal, and floral remains. The main difference seems to be that the rim slump is more compact than rim spoil, although still loosely compacted and powdery compared to other strata. Rim slump deposits located above the roof deposits are only found along the eastern wall and are assumed to have been dislodged from their original

position on higher slopes by gravity and animal activity. Rim slump deposits under the roof are probably the results of the unconsolidated rim spoil falling into the housepit from its original position on the edge of the pithouse, under the roof. In this case, both gravity and the initial collapse of the roof are seen as causal factors for the soil movement.

Rim Spoil Stratum

Very little of the rim spoil was excavated in 1989 since the floor deposits ended where the rim spoil began. For a detailed description of the nature and origin of the stratum, the reader is referred to Chapter 6 of this volume.

Floor Stratum

The floor deposits also vary considerably in thickness, content, and texture depending on their location in the housepit. This variation has been produced by six possible factors:

- (1) the nature of the underlying sterile matrix;
- (2) cultural activities which took place inside the pithouse, including the construction, use, and burial of hearths and storage pits;
- (3) cleaning practices of the pithouse dwellers;
- (4) the possible use of elevated wooden benches around the perimeter of the pithouse;
- (5) the excavation and removal of earlier floor deposits prior to pithouse reconstruction, and;
- (6) the excavation or re-excavation of storage pits as well as their filling with surrounding floor soil; and,
- (7) the use of dump material to produce a level living surface.

In the following discussion I will attempt to show how these factors may have produced the variations seen in the floor deposits. The discussion will also point out how many of the subfloor features and some of the deeper floor deposits represent activities from earlier occupations of the housepit.

In most parts of HP 7, the floor stratum consisted of a dark grayish brown sandy loam, ca. 3–5 cm thick. The ease of recognizing the top of the floor deposits depended on similarities between the floor and overlying deposits. In most cases, the texture, color, or compaction of the overlying deposits was sufficiently different to isolate the floor deposits with relative ease, although the nature of these differences could vary even between adjoining subsquares. Difficulties commonly arose where the overlying deposits were relatively fine textured, where the infilling of pit or post features produced unusually loose and coarsely textured floor deposits, or where the floor thinned at the western edge of the housepit. Except in those localities where hearths occurred, charcoal chunks, fire altered rock, and cobbles were rare in the floor deposits. Lithics and bones displayed clustered distributions reflecting activity areas inside the pithouse (Vol. II, Chaps. 7 and 11). In addition to soil characteristics, three types of artifactual evidence are commonly associated with floors and were used to distinguish them from overlying strata:

- (1) burnt roof beams immediately above the floor in the roof deposits (**Fig. 5**);
- (2) large, horizontally aligned lithics at the top of the floor, and;
- (3) the presence of fish bones, rarely found in the roof deposits but common in the floor stratum.

For the most part, the floor deposits appear to constitute an accumulation surface representing a single occupation. This occupation would include all the activities that took place in the pithouse subsequent to the last roof construction. Based on ethnographic evidence, these activities may have included 20 to 30 years of seasonal reuse (Vol. I, Chap. 17; Vol. II, Chap. 2) of the pithouse by a group of families of varying size and composition (this assumes that the floor was cleared down to sterile prior to each roof construction). Almost all of the projectile points found on the floor are Kamloops in style which is consistent with the radiocarbon date of $1,080 \pm 70$ BP (SFU 1002) derived from a burnt beam and the concept that the floor represents a single occupation (Vol. I, Chap. 2).

However, along the eastern edge of the housepit where benches have been excavated into the hillside, there are floor deposits which appear to date from an earlier occupation. These floor deposits are compact, laminated with dark organic lenses and sterile-like deposits, and occur below the more typical floor deposits. The lithics from the lower floors are different in that exotics are more common, debitage occurs in higher densities, many lithics are covered with a white patina, and, based on initial impressions, the tool forms are somewhat different from those in the other floor deposits. A Plateau point (Square LL—Ssq. 9) from these floor deposits supports the concept that these deposits predate the last occupation.

Many of the postholes, hearths, and storage pits also date to an earlier occupation (**Fig. 2**). A number of the large fire-reddened areas, interpreted as hearths, are under floor deposits which contain no evidence

of charcoal or fire-altered rock concentrations, thus indicating that the "hearth" was removed before the last occupation. Similarly, most postholes are under the floor deposits and predate the Kamloops occupation. In fact, almost all of the small postholes along the eastern side of the housepit, typically interpreted as bench supports, are under the Kamloops floor. Many of the eight large storage pits (greater than 50 cm deep and 50 cm wide) found inside the housepit were filled in prior to the deposition of the Kamloops floor. The four largest storage pits in the northwest corner contain Plateau points and one also produced a Shuswap point. Moreover some of the storage pits had a hearth (in one case with a Kamloops point) built over the pits.

Time constraints prohibited examination of the distribution of postholes in any detail. Ideally, postholes which are clearly below the floor deposits and associated with earlier occupations should be examined separately from Kamloops age postholes. Taking all the postholes as a single data set, I am left with the following impressions:

- (1) the large postholes (greater than 20 cm deep) tend to cluster in four areas (roughly Sq.'s JJ, J, B, and Z) and are ca. 2–2.5 m from the wall of the housepit;
- (2) one set of the smaller postholes cluster along the edge of the earth benches, within 1 m. of the wall;
- (3) most of the other small postholes cluster near the large postholes, and;
- (4) few large or small postholes occur near the center of the housepit.

This evidence suggests that the pithouse was constructed in a pattern similar to that seen in the ethnographic record, with four main support beams and

an open general activity area in the center. For a more detailed reconstruction, see Volume II, Chapter 15. The doorway may have been located in the center of the roof since no side entrance was located. Many of the small postholes close to the east wall are associated with the early floor deposits; they may have been used to support a relatively narrow bench platform in this area. More recent benches may have been wider with small post supports set close to the main beams. Other evidence used to support the idea of a wooden bench includes the remains of wooden planks and the presence of large lithics and bones in the floor deposits at the edge of the floor, as well as "lines" of small debitage which appear as though they had fallen between planks to the floor.

For the most part, the large pits and hearths are in either the northwest or southwest corners within 2 m of the wall. This evidence suggests that the western half of the housepit was heavily used for cooking and storage and perhaps that a bench was not constructed in this area. Most of the pits contained large quantities of salmon bone near the bottom indicating a food storage function. However, two of the large pits in the northwest corner each contain the remains of five or more dogs at the bottom suggesting they were also used as a disposal location for dog remains, and in particular, dog skulls. The intentional burial of dog remains in pits (and the placement of a single dog skull in the center of the house floor) indicates a possible ritualistic importance for these animals (see Vol. II, Chap. 10).

Since the eastern half of the housepit was excavated into the hillside, the eastern margin of the housepit was easily recognized by the presence of a sterile wall. However, the western edge was more difficult to define since the sterile deposits ran horizontally under the rim and floor deposits.

Therefore, the western edge of the housepit, as shown on the floor plan, was delineated as the area where the floor deposits clearly ended or became very difficult to recognize and/or where the rim spoil began.

Dump Material Stratum

In the northwest corner of the housepit, the sterile subfloor matrix dips lower than the surrounding area, unlike other parts of the housepit where the sterile deposits rise slightly as they approach the wall. In the same area, large mounds of soil were dumped over the sterile deposits and, in some cases, over the floor deposits. The dip in the sterile deposits is interpreted as the edge of an earlier housepit depression that was intersected by the original excavation of HP 7. The dumps are interpreted as soil placed over the dip to make the floor surface level with the rest of the housepit floor or to raise the perimeter of the floor up under bench areas.

The dump material varies from sterile-like, gravely deposits to charcoal-rich deposits, possibly from a hearth cleaning. In most places, the floor deposits can be clearly seen above or between these dumping events.

Lochnore Occupation

Below the floor stratum in the southwest corner and under the northern rim are the remains of a Lochnore occupation in a matrix comprised largely of aeolian silt. This material is believed to be the intact remains of an earlier occupation surface. In **Figure 6**, I have tried to illustrate the relationship between the soil deposits which existed on the site prior to the excavation of HP 7 and the configuration of the original housepit excavation. Prior to construction of HP 7, I believe the stratigraphy of the site consisted of a Lochnore occupation in largely aeolian silts, lying

over a gravely till that covered thick silty clay deposits, that, in turn, covered a series of gravely till deposits. The housepit excavation cut through these deposits removing all of the Lochnore occupation except for that portion in the southwest corner and under the northern rim. This activity also produced a subfloor matrix which varies from gravels in the east and extreme west, to clays in the west-central portions (I strongly doubt that the clay represents, as suggested by one excavator, an artificially created dance floor).

The Lochnore component has produced about four Lochnore points. Similar components have been found under rim deposits in HP 5 together with numerous microblades. One Shuswap point was also recovered from a pit found under rim stratum and dump material along the northern edge of HP 7. Altogether, this evidence suggests the possibility that the remains of a Lochnore housepit or lodge exist below HP 7 deposits in the northwest corner.

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Figures

Figure 1: (A) Square designations of HP 7 and areas excavated by year. (B) Square designations and corresponding structural features.

Figure 2: The overall floor plan of HP 7.

Figure 3: The recording system of strata, levels and layers used in 1989.

Figure 4: Stratigraphic cross-sections for HP 7.

Figure 5: A charred roof beam lying at the interface of roof and floor deposits in HP 7. The north arrow lies on sterile till, while the darker floor deposits can be seen continuing under the lighter roof deposits in the section immediately to the left of the excavated subsquare.

Figure 6: An idealized view of the suggested relationship between the earlier Lochnore occupation deposits and the HP 7 occupation deposits.

Figure 1. (A) Square designations of HP 7 and areas excavated by year. (B) Square designations and corresponding structural features.

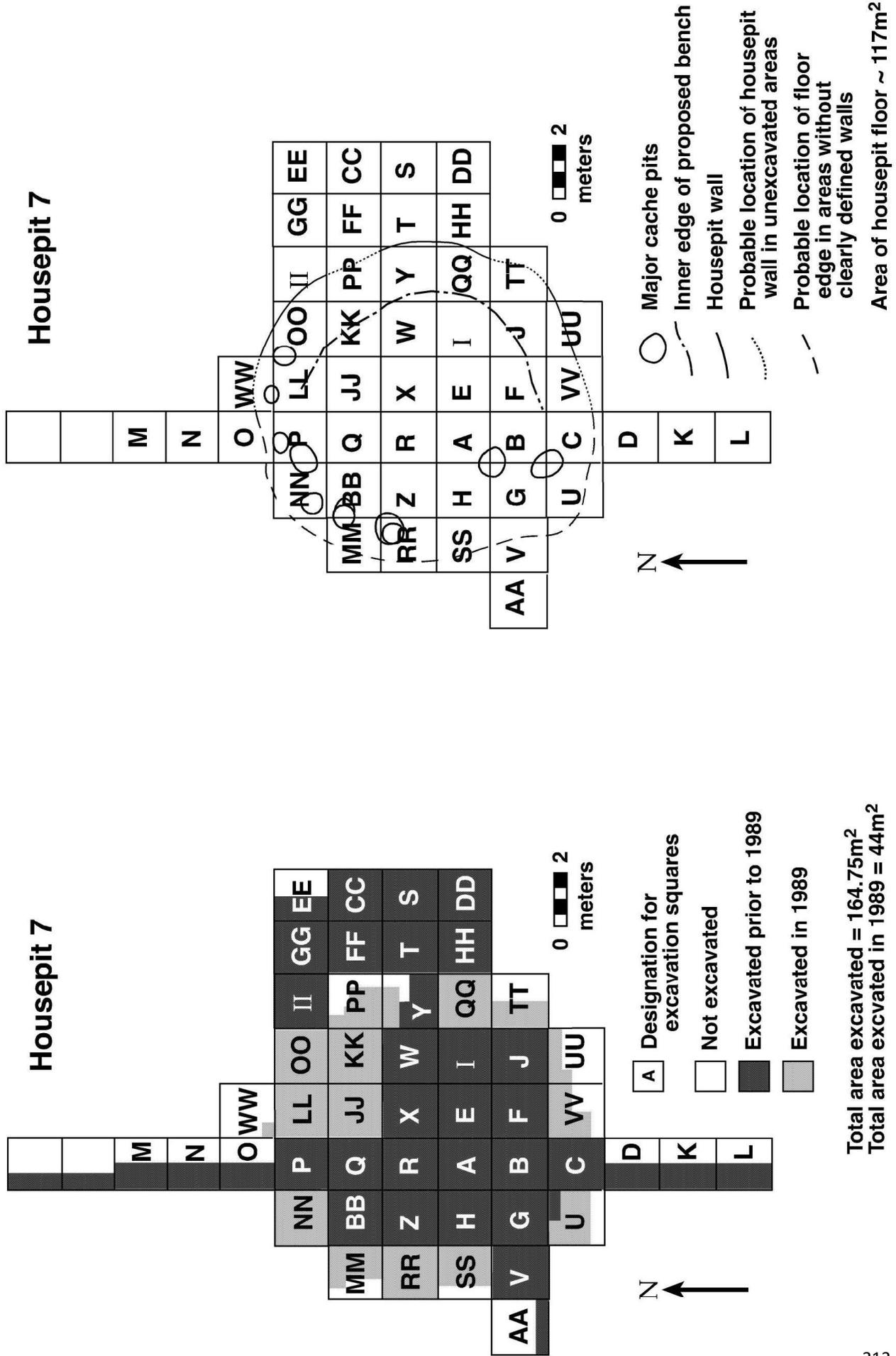


Figure 2. The overall floor plan of HP 7.

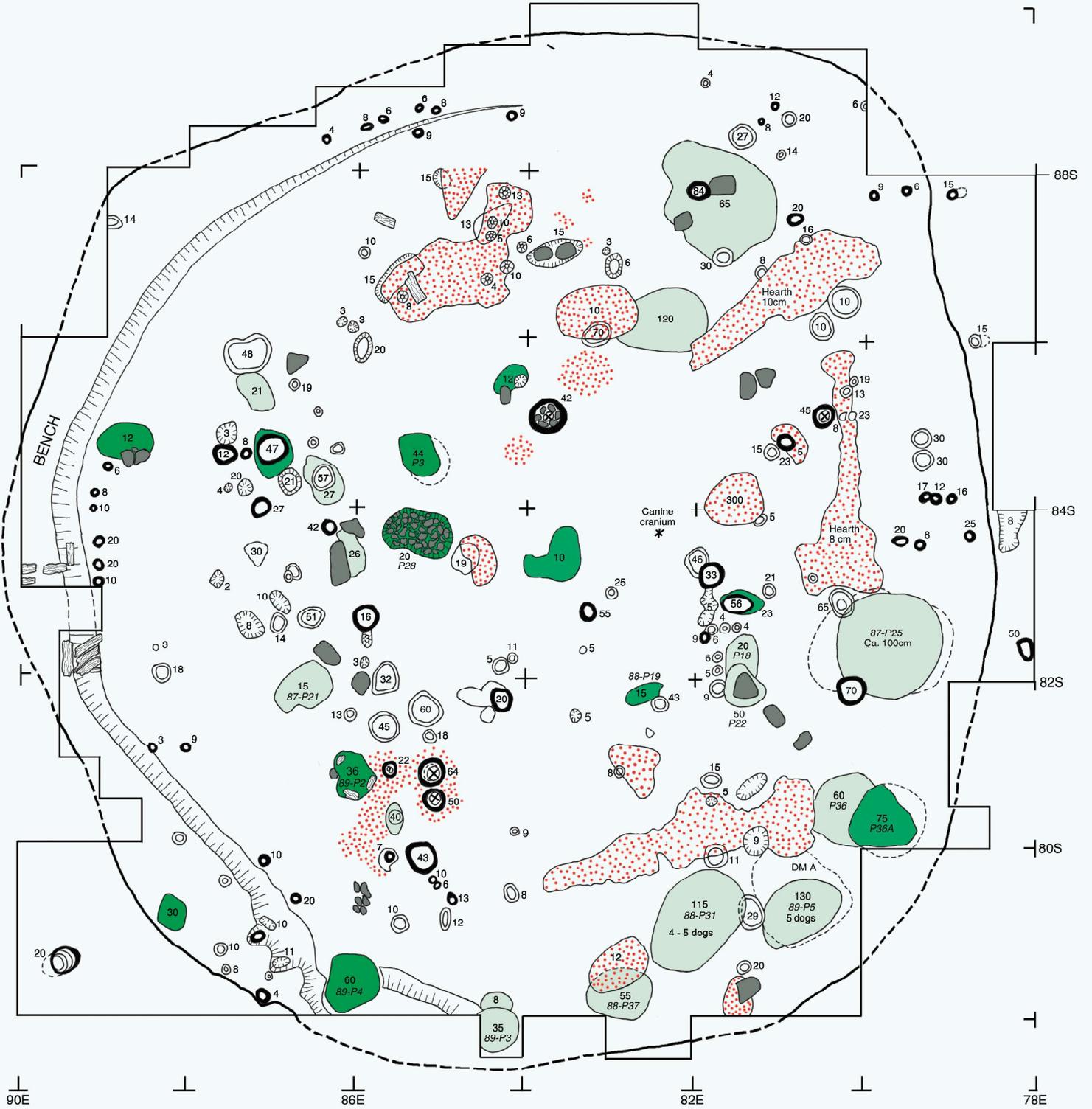
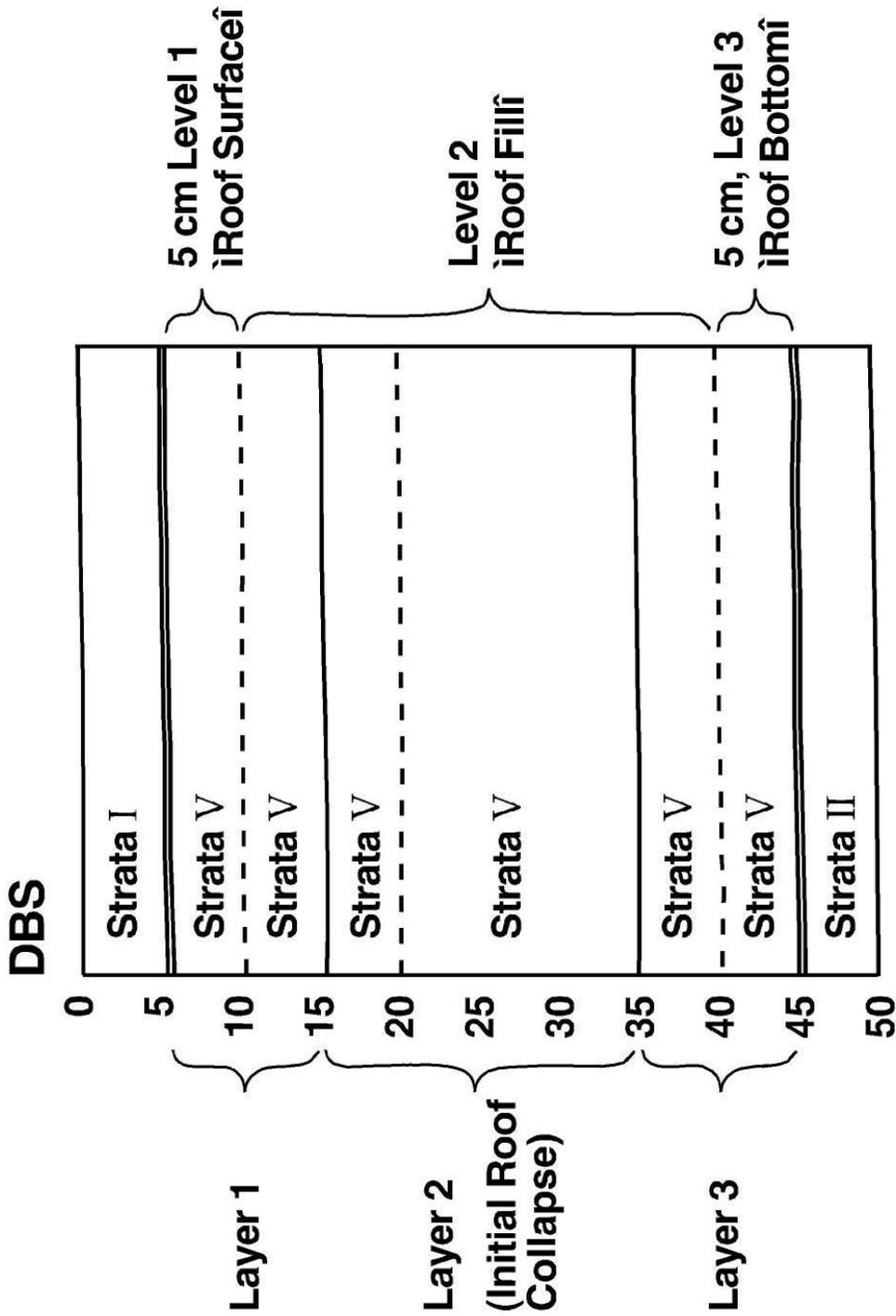


Figure 3. The recording system of strata, levels, and layers used in 1989.



This roof would be excavated and labelled accordingly:

- Stratum V - Level 1 (0 - 5 cm) Roof Surface - Layer 1
- Stratum V - Level 2 (5 - 10 cm) Roof Fill - Layer 1
- Stratum V - Level 2 (10 - 15 cm) Roof Fill - Layer 2
- Stratum V - Level 2 (15 - 30 cm) Roof Fill - Layer 2
- Stratum V - Level 2 (30 - 35 cm) Roof Fill - Layer 3
- Stratum V - Level 3 (35 - 40 cm) Roof Bottom - Layer 3

Figure 5. A charred roof beam lying at the interface of roof and floor deposits in HP 7. The north arrow lies on sterile till, while the darker floor deposits can be seen continuing under the lighter roof deposits in the section immediately to the left of the excavated subsquare.



Figure 6. An idealized view of the suggested relationship between the earlier Lochnore occupation deposits and the HP 7 occupation deposits.

