

## Housepit 8 Test Trench Summary

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### **Housepit Location and Description**

Housepit 8 is a circular pit 18 m in diameter located on the northern bank of Keatley Creek (Vol. III, Preface, **Fig. 1**). It has been excavated into a 15° slope so that its northern rim is much higher than its southern rim. No prominent entrance occurs in the rim. The floor is shallowly concave.

The test trench (**Fig. 1**) was located so as to crosscut a rocky surface mound in the northeast quadrant of the housepit. It was thought that this mound might have been an architectural feature, but the internal stratigraphy revealed in the trench did not reveal such a feature.

The occupational history of HP 8 appears to be fairly simple; at least two cycles of occupation and collapse, and a later phase of use as a brief camp spot are represented in the test trench.

### **Test Trench Excavation Results**

There is only one main floor, most likely of Plateau horizon age, overlying or formed from basal till. The floor is very indistinct, but it can be traced in places to the edges of the housepit where typical rim spoils occur. In Square C the floor cannot be followed at all, and here the roof deposits appear to lie directly on sterile. In Squares A and D the floor is only evident as compacted and/or slightly stained sterile material. Only in Square BB is the floor well defined by a contiguous layer of compacted cultural material. It was in this square that a distal tip of a probable Plateau horizon knife was found on the floor. Also, two-corner notched Plateau horizon points were found close to sterile in the southern half of Square B.

Overlying this floor and the rim spoil are the roof deposits. The roof deposits are very thick and complicated in the northern rim where post-occupational collapse and slumping appear to have redistributed this material downslope in various lenses. In the southern rim the roof can be defined by a single stratum.

In the surface layer, in a zone 1–10 cm thick, side-notched Kamloops horizon points were found in Squares B and BB. Here, near the surface, there are fire hearths probably associated with post-occupational camps in the housepit.

Thus, the stratigraphical and artifactual evidence suggests that the last major occupation occurred during the Plateau horizon. After abandonment of the Plateau house, the roof collapsed and the depression was used as a brief camp/activity area during the Kamloops horizon.

As mentioned earlier, the stratigraphy near the northern rim is very complex. Square BB contains two lenses of typical rim spoil material, which are separated horizontally by a well-sorted yellow silt lens. One possible interpretation views the silt as a cultural deposit laid down over the rim spoil during construction of the housepit only to be buried subsequently by slumping, or cultural deposition, of the upper rim spoil at a later date.

As one moves south, a brown, gravelly material appears above the floor and thickens toward Pit Feature 5. Above the post in Pit Feature, 5 this lens abuts abruptly against another lens of similar material, which then thins to the south and ends in Square AA above sterile. This arrangement of lenses has been interpreted as pit material deposited around the post (the remains of this post were excavated in situ) during an occupational event.

In the center of the housepit, in Square B, no clearly definable roof material is present. Here a black silty surface layer lies directly over the floor. The roof material picks up in the last quarter of Square B and thickens, as a single lens, to the southern rim. Below the roof deposits, on the rim, is a lens of stained, redeposited basal till overlying sterile. This material probably represents material from the original housepit excavation.

### **Excavation Summary and Conclusions**

In summary, the major occupation of HP 8 was during the Plateau horizon, but during the Kamloops horizon the housepit was used as a camp spot.

In general, the floor in this housepit is not clearly definable. In some places the floor was defined on the basis of apparent induration, in others by a slight variation in color. Only in Square BB was the floor expressed as a coherent silty layer  $\pm$  5 cm thick and lighter in color than the roof material.

### Figure Captions

Figure 1: Housepit 8 east wall profile and floor plan.

#### Figure 1: Stratum Legend for Housepit 8

- I Surface: black (10 YR 2/1) sandy loam with pea gravels, highly organic.
- II Roof: very dark grayish brown (10 YR 3/2) angular cobbles and gravel in a sandy loam.
- III Rim spoil: dark brown (7.5 YR 3/2) loose, dry gravels; very organic.
- IV Rim component: olive brown (2.5 Y 4/4) well-sorted silts.
- V Rim component: dark brown (10 YR 3/3) disturbed till.
- VI Floor: black (5 YR 2.5/1) compacted loam or basal till.
- VII Pit fill: black (7.5 YR -2/0) angular cobbles and gravel in a sandy loam.
- VIII Post packing: dark brown (10 YR 3/1) pea gravels in a sandy loam.
- IX Post packing: dark brown (10 YR 3/1) pea gravels in a sandy loam.
- X Pit fill: dark brown (7 YR 3/2) pea gravels in a sandy loam.
- XI Post-in situ: charred on the outside.

Figure 1. Housepit 8 east wall profile and floor plan.

