

## Housepit 108 Excavation Results

Mike K. Rousseau

### **Housepit Location and Description**

Housepit 108 is located on the south side of Keatley Creek on the uppermost terrace about 50 m southwest of HP 9 and 107 (Vol. III, Preface, **Fig. 1**). Housepit 108 measures ca. 6.5 m north-south by 6.5 m east-west, and its surficial rim to basin depth is about 1.0 m. Surficially, the house depression is circular in plan, and has a bowl-shaped cross-section with fairly steep walls. It is situated on relatively horizontal terrain, and it has a well-pronounced lipped rim surrounding the entire house. A slight break in the rim exists along the northeast aspect of the rim which possibly represents a side entrance. A pot hunter's hole, about 0.75 m in diameter, is evident near the western edge of the house.

### **Test Trench Excavation Results**

Two test excavation units measuring 2.0 m north-south by 0.5 m east-west were dug into the southern half of the housepit. The northern unit was designated Square A and the southern one Square B. Together they formed a test trench 4.0 m north-south by 0.5 m east-west that extended from the center of the house to its southern rim (**Fig. 1**). Only one occupation episode was identified. The average depth of cultural deposits within the house extended to about 40 cm below surface (BS), and five distinct strata were identified (**Fig. 1**).

### **Stratum I**

Stratum I is a moderately compact, medium gray brown (10 YR 4/2) sandy silt with about 5% granules, 5% pebbles, and 1% cobbles. It was encountered throughout both excavation squares between about 0 and 8 cm BS, and it represents post- occupational fluvial and aeolian sediment infilling. Recovered cultural materials were sparse, consisting of a total of six small flakes and three small fire cracked rocks (FCR).

### **Stratum II**

Stratum II is a moderately compact, medium gray black sandy silt (10 YR 3/3) with 20% granules, 20% pebbles, 10% cobbles, and 2% small boulders. It was encountered in both excavation squares, and its thickness varies between about 8 cm and 25–30 cm BS. It represents a mixture of roof deposits and slopewash sediments. A few flakes and four pieces of FCR were recovered, the latter probably relate to a central hearth (Feature 1) associated with Stratum III below.

### **Stratum III**

Stratum III is a fairly compact, medium gray brown (10 YR 5/4) sandy silt with 20% granules, 30% pebbles, 10% cobbles and 10% small boulders. It extended from about 25–30 cm to 40 cm BS in both excavation squares, and represents house floor deposits (**Fig. 1**). Recovered cultural materials include: a bipolar core fragment; an unformed unifacial flake tool; about 50 flakes; several fish (salmon) and mammal bone fragments; two beaver tooth fragments; a few definite pieces of FCR, and; and some scattered charcoal. The relative thickness of the floor deposits and moderate amount of cultural materials suggest that the occupation of the house may have been

moderately brief (i.e., perhaps only a couple of years). The thickness of the floor may also be due to sediments filtering through a poorly constructed roof.

A central hearth (Feature 1) was identified in the central portion of Square A between about 25 cm and 35 cm BS. It was indicated by fire-reddened matrix mottled with dark gray brown sandy silt and some scattered charcoal. It is basin-shaped in cross-section, and is estimated to measure about 60 cm in diameter and extends about 10 cm into the upper part of Stratum III. That it occupies only the upper part of Stratum III *may* indicate that it was constructed during the latter part of the house occupation episode(s). Several flakes, some FCR, and the uniface were associated with this hearth feature.

#### **Stratum IV**

Stratum IV is a compact, light gray brown sandy silt (10 YR 5/3) with 10% granules, 10% pebbles, and 10% cobbles. It was encountered only within the southern end of Square B between about 5 cm and 32 cm BS. It represents redeposited till and rim-spoil deposits associated with the construction and occupation of the house. Only three flakes were recovered from this stratum.

#### **Stratum V**

Stratum V is a loose, light brown silt (10 YR 5/4) with about 5% pebbles. It represents a culturally sterile aeolian paleosol at the edge of the house.

### **Excavation Summary and Conclusions**

Test trench excavations within HP 108 revealed that this dwelling contained a single occupation horizon which may represent use of the house for only a few years. The central hearth (Feature 1) is unusual in that it contains several small boulders. No temporally diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the excavated portions of the housepit, however, based on the small size and shape of the house, it may date to the Plateau horizon, but this remains to be shown. Because of its unknown age affiliation, and relative paucity of artifactual data, it was not subjected to further detailed investigations.

### **Figures**

Figure 1: Housepit 108 west wall profile

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HP 108

