

## Housepit 111 Excavation Results

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### **Housepit Location and Description**

Housepit 111 is located on the very northeastern edge of the Keatley Creek site at the present Sagebrush—Ponderosa Pine/Bunchgrass zonal ecotone (Vol. III, Preface, **Fig. 1**). Housepit 111 measures ca. 5.0 m in diameter, and its surficial rim to basin depth is about 0.75 m. Surficially, the depression is circular in plan, and has a bowl-shaped cross-section with gently sloping walls. It is situated on relatively horizontal terrain, and it has a well-pronounced lipped rim along its southwestern aspect. Pot hunting activity was not indicated.

### **Test Trench Excavation Results**

A single excavation unit measuring 2.0 m north-south by 0.5 m east-west was dug into the southern half of the depression. It was designated Square B (**Fig. 1**) (the more northern Sq. A was not excavated). Two use/occupation episodes were identified. The average depth of cultural deposits within the depression extended to about 55 cm BS, and five distinct strata were identified (**Fig. 1**).

### **Stratigraphy**

#### **Stratum I**

Stratum I is a moderately loose, light gray (10 YR 6/2) sandy silt with about 15% granules, 10% pebbles, and 2% cobbles. It represents post-occupational fluvial and aeolian sediment infilling, and extends from

between 0 cm and 4 cm BS. About 20 flakes and two small fire cracked rock (FCR) were recovered.

### **Stratum II**

Stratum II extended from about 4–20 cm BS, and was divided into Substrata IIa and IIb.

#### **Stratum IIa**

Stratum Ia is a moderately loose, light gray (10 YR 5/2) sand silt with 20% granules, 15% pebbles, 30% cobbles, and 10% small boulders that are most pronounced in the northern end of the square (**Fig. 1**). A few flakes and a number of FCR were recovered. It represents the central interior of a large earth oven (see Teit 1900; Pokotylo and Froese 1983; Rousseau and Howe 1986).

#### **Stratum IIb**

Stratum IIb is a moderately compact, medium gray (10 YR 3/1) sandy silt with 20% granules; 10% pebbles, and 10% cobbles. A few flakes and a small number of FCR were recovered. It represents peripheral internal deposits in the earth oven feature.

### **Stratum III**

Stratum III is a moderately compact, light gray brown (2.5 Y 5/2) sandy silt with 15% granules, 5% pebbles, and 2% cobbles. It extended from about 20–40 cm BS, and represents possible roof and/or natural post-occupational infilling of the depression after its initial use (Stratum IV). Recovered cultural

materials include a few scattered flakes and several small pieces of FCR from the northern end of the square.

#### **Stratum IV**

Stratum IV is a compact, dark gray brown sandy silt (5 YR 5/1) with 15% granules, 5% pebbles, and 5% cobbles. It was encountered between about 40 cm and 55 cm BS, and appears to represent possible floor deposits relating to initial use of the depression as a small dwelling.

#### **Stratum V**

Stratum V is a loose, light brown (10 YR 5/4) silt 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 111 revealed that this small depression was of unusual size for the Keatley Creek site, and it contained two use episodes. It was initially used as a possible small dwelling structure, or perhaps a specialized structure (e.g., menstrual isolation lodge, matlodge, storage structure), and later it was modified and used as a large food processing (roasting) pit. No temporally diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the excavated portions of the depression, consequently the antiquity of the two use-episodes remains undisclosed. Its initial occupation could not be conclusively identified as being associated with a winter dwelling structure, and because its age affiliation is unknown, and it has been disturbed by intrusive excavations for the roasting pit, this depression was not subjected to further detailed investigations.

## References

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1900 The Thompson Indians of British Columbia. *Memoirs of the American Museum of Natural History* 2(4).

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## Figures

Figure 1: Housepit 111 north-south profile, and east wall profile test trench B.

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HP 111

