

Extra Housepit Excavation 3 Summary

Ian Kuijt

Excavation of EHPE 3 (see this Volume, Preface, **Fig. 1**) has revealed information suggestive of multiple reuse of the cultural depression in which the square was situated. Stratigraphic and excavation data indicate that at least three, possibly four, occupations occurred in this area. Initial occupation, represented by Strata V (see **Fig. 1**), appears to have been a semi-subterranean dwelling/structure. This structure was relatively shallow, (approximately 50 cm deep) and may have been rectangular in form. Walls are steep and very well defined. After this occupation, a second reuse of this area occurred. This second occupation, represented by Strata II, was in the form of a semi-subterranean structure, similar to that described in ethnographic accounts by Teit (1900, 1909) and Ray (1939). The structure appears to have been circular about 8 m from rim to rim. This structure has been constructed by filling in the previous dwelling with sediments. A third possible occupation, is suggested by a burn zone (Strata IV) located outside of the structure indicative of the initial occupation. This strata is on top of sterile material and appears to have been truncated by Structure 1, thereby placing it earlier in time than initial construction of Structure 1. Due to limits of excavation, it is unclear if this burn zone predates or was simultaneous with Structure 1. Evidence for another occupation of this area is found in Strata II, in the form of a root-roasting pit. This pit feature is intrusive into Stratum II.

References

Ray, Verne

1939 *Cultural Relations on the Plateau of Northwestern America*. Frederick Webb Hodge Anniversary Publication fund, Vol. III, Los Angeles.

Teit, James A.

1909 The Shuswap. *American Museum of Natural History Memoirs* Vol. II, Part 7:447-789.

1900 The Jesup North Pacific expedition, IV: The Thompson Indians of British Columbia. *American Museum of Natural History Memoirs* Vol. II

Figures

Figure 1: Extra-Housepit Excavation 3 stratigraphic profile

Figure 1: Stratum Legend

- I: Surface zone: fine sands/silts, dark brown and finely sorted, clasts being subrounded and small in size (less than 3 cm.) likely brought in through natural agents such as slopewash.
- II: Occupation zone (second occupation). Likely consists of roof fall and floor zone on top of Strata III. Dark brown/black in color. Sandy matrix with angular to subrounded clasts of wide size range. intrusive into this strata is Feature 1, likely a root roasting pit.
- III: Fill (?) material light brown in color; sands with gravel and pebble matrix. Homogeneity of deposits and random orientation of particles suggests a secondary context.
- IV: Burn zone including some fire reddening underneath dark black carbon lens. This may represent a small fire or hearth and appears to be truncated by Strata V.
- V: Initial occupation. Brown/black in color; sediments are sand/silts with angular-subangular clasts as gravels. High amounts of clasts separate this zone from Strata III.
- VI: Sterile till.

EXTRA HOUSEPIT EXCAVATION 3 STRATIGRAPHIC PROFILE

Figure 1. Extra-Housepit Excavation 3 stratigraphic profile

