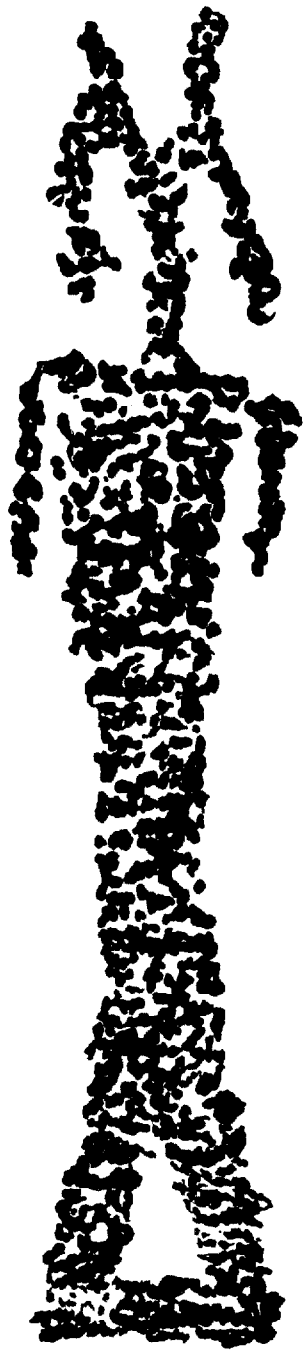
THE MAINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC. BULLETIN



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Permanent Address of the Society:

Maine Archaeological Society, Incorporated
P.O. Box 982
Augusta, Maine 04330

MAINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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Cover Design by Mark Hedden

Anthropomorph with stylized antler(?) headdress. On SE face of shelving redtinted shale bedrock, SE shore of Hog Island. 1/2 size

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity to extend greetings to the membership of The Maine Archaeological Society, Inc. on behalf of the Directors and myself. The coming year will be busy, from an archaeological point of view, and I urge you to become involved. Volunteers will be needed at several sites this summer. The newsletter you will be receiving in May will give further information. A field school is being conducted by Steve Cox and Diane Kopec on the coast and is a chance to improve archaeological skills and have fun at the same time. Other worthwhile activities include photographing extant collections and gathering provenence data. I'm sure the recent flood gouged out many river bank sites and I would encourage you to walk the river banks keeping a sharp eye on the ground. Erosion often deposits archaeological materials along the low-water banks. Many important sites have been found just that way and we should be sensitive to the opportunity that the recent disaster affords.

No matter what you do be sure to communicate your results to the archaeological community. This can be done in an article in the Bulletin or by buttonholing people at the semi-annual meetings. We cannot operate in a vacuum if we are to be responsible stewards of the archaeological resources of Maine.

My own summer plans include finishing my current graduate school project, and seeing as much of Maine as I can from my canoe. I am eagerly anticipating the time I will spend on the rivers and lakes and expect that the flood of '87 may be of some use.

I hope to see you at the Spring '87 meeting at the University in the Maine Center for the Performing Arts. If you have not yet seen this impressive facility, and the excellent Hudson Museum, they alone are worth the trip.

Best wishes,

David S. Cook, President
The Maine Archaeological Society

PETROGLYPHS ON HOG ISLAND, MACHIAS BAY

Mark Hedden February, 1987

In October, 1981, accompanied by Kris Larsen of East Machias and with the boat and guidance of Michael Pinkham, Coastal Warden, I made a quick survey of Hog Island in Machias Bay in search of petroglyphs reported by Garrick Mallery (1893). Three panels were located on the southeastern, southwestern and northwestern exposures of the island. These are designated as Maine sites 62.25, 62.24 and 62.23, respectively, and are described in detail below.

62.25: The cover drawing represents the largest and most distinctive representational petroglyph on the island, an anthropormorphic figure wearing a headdress that suggests antlers--possibly those of a moose. The figure is very clearly dinted on reddish shale near the current high tide level. The shelving bedrock ledge faces to the southeast. The long narrow torso, constricted at the waist, and the abbreviated arms and head are characteristic of other human forms recorded at larger petroglyph concentrations on the mainland WSW of Hog Island (Sites 62.1 & 62.11). However, the antlered? headdress and line joining both ends of the short legs are unique details for anthropomorphic petroglyphs I have recorded in the area. Associated above right (Figure 1) were two smaller linear petroglyphs which feature, respectively, 1) a bifurcated or horned headdress, arms akimbo or, alternately, an ovoid outline around the upper torso, and linear feet oriented to the viewer's right (figure's left); 2) a trifurcated (horned?) headdress, thickened body line, arms curved out and in, with the left arm extended towards the crotch and grasping his penis or tail, and extraordinarily bowed legs with linear feet turned in. Separated from this group above and to the right (Figure 2), a third figure features a sharply angled constricted waist with an oval outline/arms akimbo from shoulders to constricted waist, a knob head with a beaklike projection to the viewer's right (figure's left) and parallel linear legs ending in linear feet also oriented to the figure's left.

Despite the location of this panel close to the tide line, there is little evidence of erosion. The edges are sharp and clear and the designs executed with relatively thin lines similar to the latest designs on the western end of the Main Ledge at Clark Point (62.1). The solidly dinted out torsos of the antlered figure and the smaller separate anthropomorph correspond to the solidly dinted out hourglass bodies of late anthropomorphs at both mainland sites (62.1 & 62.11). These features indicate a relatively late placement for this set of designs on Hog Island.

Interpretation: The antlered hourglass figure on the cover represents a late variant in the tradition of shaman or spirit figures that seems to take its earliest form on the Outer Ledge at 62.1 (Cf: "The Form of the Cosmos in the Body of the Shaman" Hedden, 1984a). I have previously interpreted the hourglass shape as signifying the shaman's supposed ability to make his body a vessel to receive spiritual influences from above and below the plane of the earth. The use of an antlered headdress may

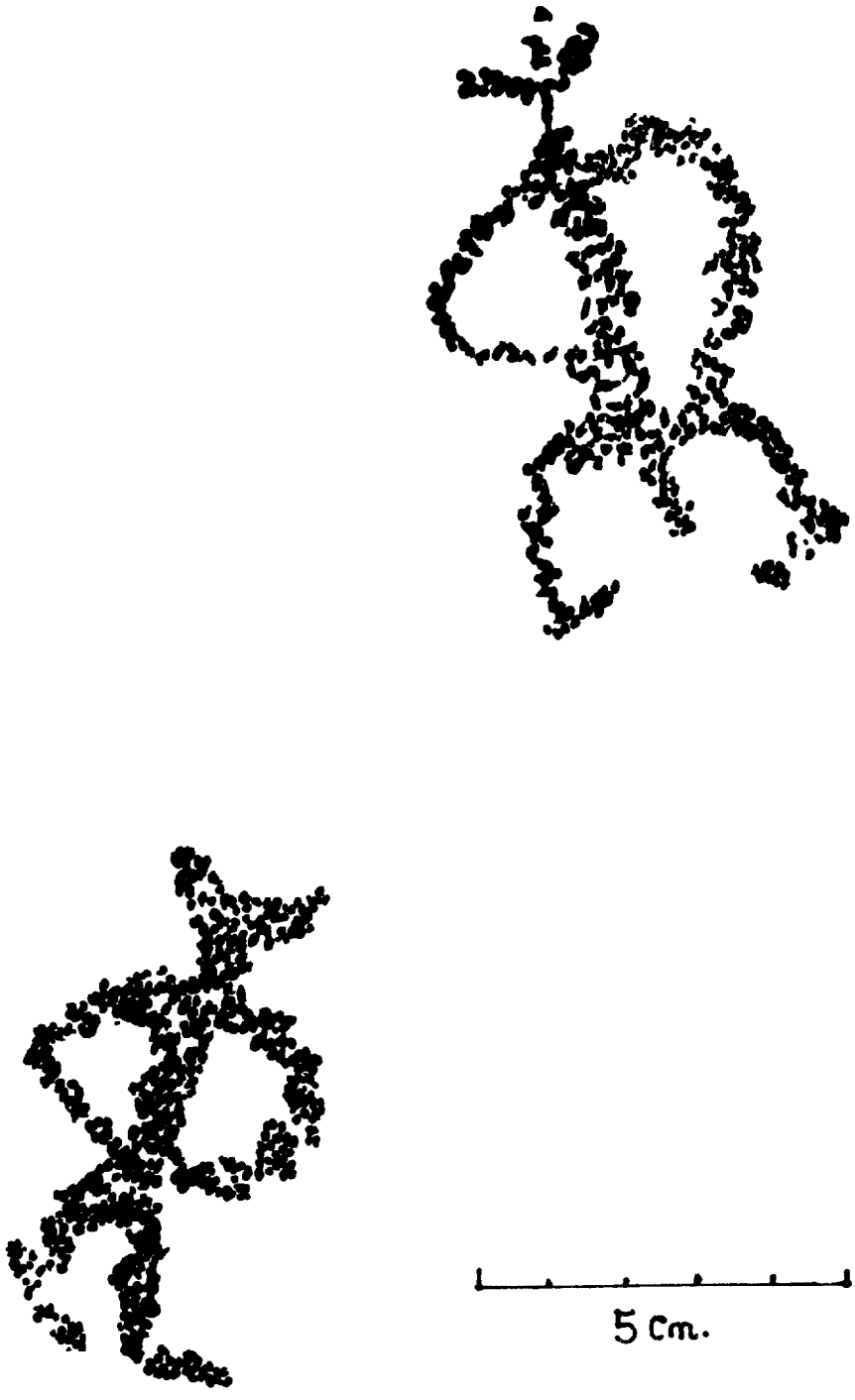

Figure 1: Smaller horned (?) anthropomorphs located 25 and 45 cm, respectively, above and to right of antlered anthropomorph (Panel 1)

Figure 2: Birdheaded(?) anthropomorph with "hourglass" torso and "arms" akimbo, located ca. one meter above and to right of complex represented on Cover and in Figure 1.

reflect a special preoccupation in aiding hunters in their search for game--in this case, probably moose (Cf: Hedden 1986b). If so, this is in keeping with the exponential increase in moose representations on the most recent prehistoric panel at Clark Point (Cf. Hedden 1983a).

The two smaller horned figures above and to the right (shaman figures left) are less readily explained, but, as all four figures seemed to have been executed by the same hand, it would seem reasonable to try to understand them as a complex. While there are no exact correspondences to the Machias Bay petroglyphs, Ojibwa drawings of shamans with round bellies illustrated by Schoolcraft (1851: Pl. 53, Fig. 42; Pl. 58, Fig. 27) are said to represent the power to provide in abundance. Horns on any figure are an expression of spiritual potency. Hence, I suspect, given the smaller size of these images when compared to the antlered shaman, that these may represent the shaman's familiars or messengers to the spirit world (Cf. the smaller lizardlike forms around the large shaman at Clark Point, Hedden 1983b). In this light, the peculiar right-angle hip joints and the pigeon-toed bowlegged stance of the second horned figure who seems to be grasping his penis or tail would be consistent with the odd half-animal, half-human nature of spirit figures and shaman's familiars in certain oral traditions.

The separate smaller anthropormorph combines the hourglass torso and oval/arms akimbo in a single figure, possibly signifying both the ability to summon spirits and to provide (or whatever the arms akimbo motif actually signifies).

62.24: The second set of petroglyphs was discovered quite fortuitously. As I was standing on what appeared to be a weathered surface near the southwest edge of the island looking out for other examples of designs on the smoother rocks below, I realized that my foot was tilting into shallow depressions on the surface. Many prior experiences have taught me to regard any such irregularities as potential petroglyphs. A "surface print" (rubbing on cloth using a very soft brayer) soon brought out another unusual set of figures.

This set consists of three blocky anthropomorphs with very thick rectanguloid bodies slightly tapered from shoulders to hip. Linear legs are well spaced and slightly angled from the body, ending without feet indicated. Where represented, arms are short, extending straight out from the shoulders in the lowermost, slightly curved down in the middle figure and totally absent from the third. The head varies, respectively, from a bump between the shoulders to a knob on an elongated neck to another bump. A diagonal line from the crotch seems to connect the lowermost figure to a spalled area on the surface and another line from his left shoulder connects with the crotch of the smaller figure above. Between the head of the middle figure and the left shoulder of the third figure, another dinted line appears which does not connect at either end. Directly above the knob head of the middle figure is what might be a mirror image of the knob head and neck--ending in a second knob to form a dumbbell shape.

As indicated by the circumstances of the discovery, the dinted lines and forms of this set had patinated to a color identical with the surrounding matrix rock. The rounded edges of the lines reinforced an impression of some age for the complex. This is consistent with all examples of anthropomorphs with rectanguloid or boxlike body forms recorded in the Machias Bay area (Cf. Hedden 1984b; 1986).

Interpretation: Again we seem to have a complex of several figures, apparently executed by the same hand, with smaller figures located above a larger lower figure. In this case, lines seem to connect or partially connect the three figures. The lack of clear head forms on

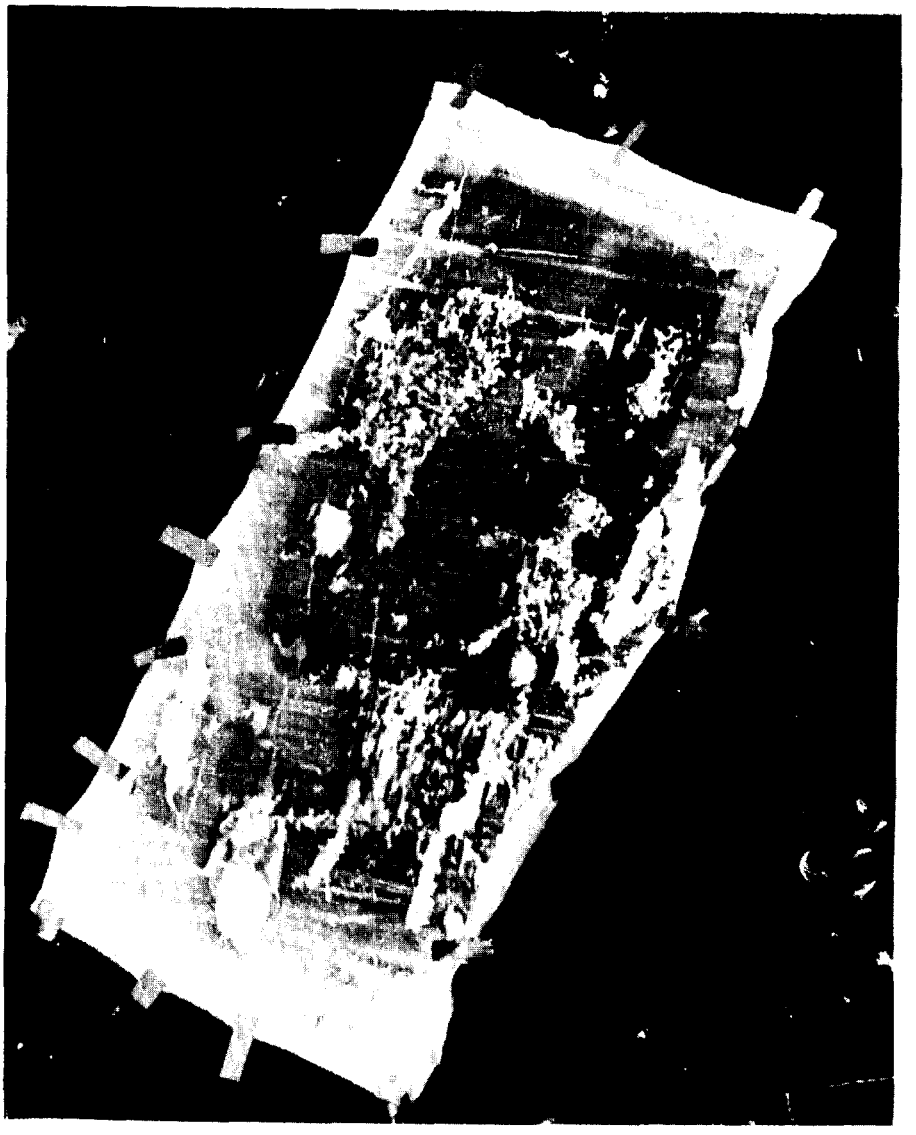

Figure 3: Photograph of "surface print" in situ of well weathered complex of anthropomorphs on SW angle of Hog Island (Panel 2).

two of the anthropomorphs may be significant. Headless figures recorded among the Ojibway by Schoolcraft (1851: Pl. 52 #21; Pl. 53 #48) are identifed as shamans or dead persons. The head reduced to a short point projecting above the shoulders represents an arrow, usually associated with bird attributes (wings, tail) and was interpreted for Schoolcraft (Ibid: Pl. 53 #5 & #10) as representing "a good hunter" (i.e. someone who could see his prey as though he were a bird and strike accurately). The head is sometimes obscured or reduced to linear projections (horns?) on other possible shaman representations in Machias Bay (Cf. Hedden 1984a). What we may have here is an earlier version of the shaman with spirit messengers represented in the first panel and on the Main Ledge at 62.1, focused, as seems generally the case, on the hunt.

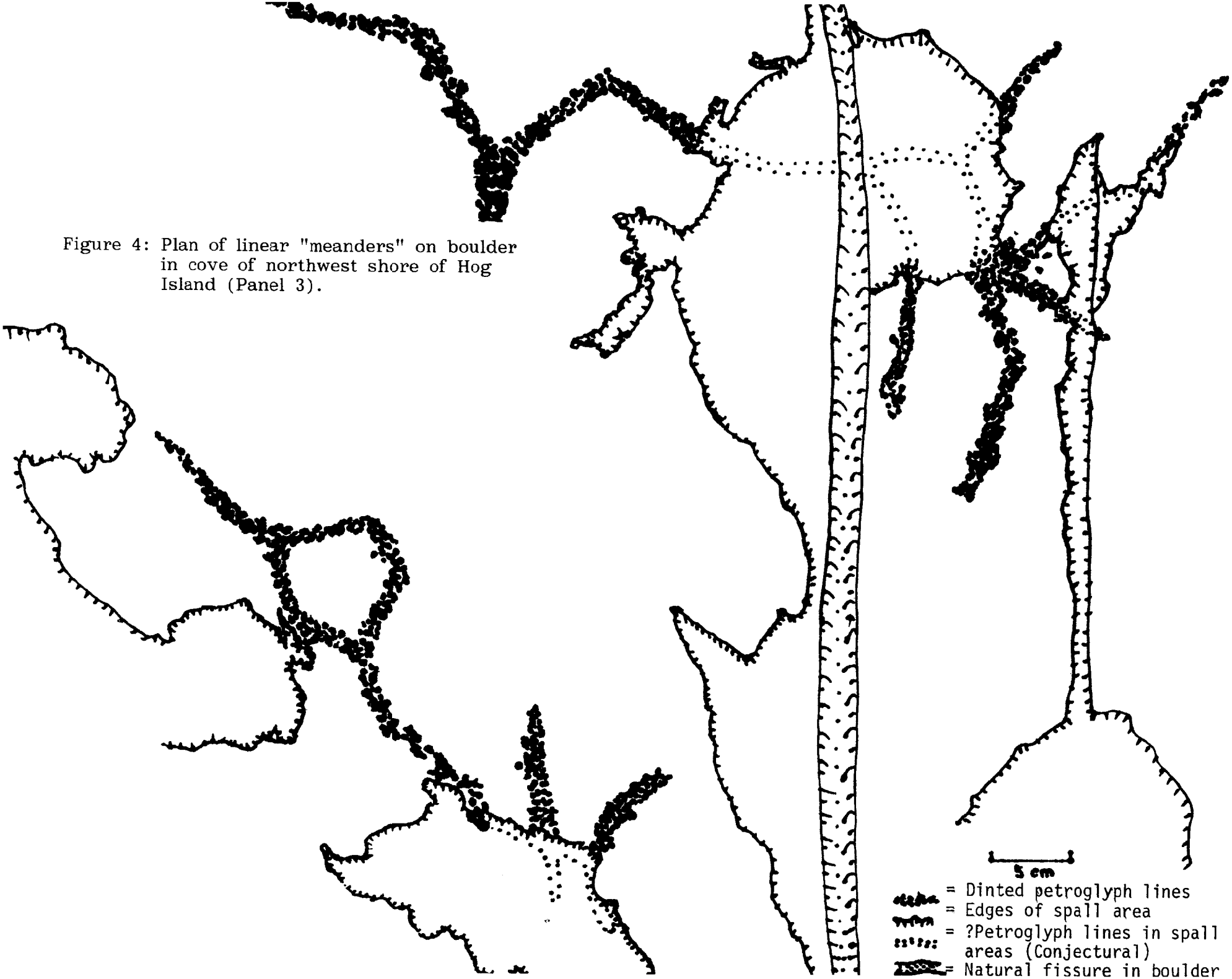

Figure 4: Plan of linear "meanders" on boulder in cove of northwest shore of Hog Island (Panel 3).

62.23: The third petroglyph panel noted in 1981 appears on a tidewashed boulder near a shallow cove on the northwest shore of Hog Island. All that could be made out by careful examination and a "surface Print" are parts of lines or meanders near the base of the boulder on its western and southern exposures. Spalling of the original working face of the boulder has destroyed parts of the meanders. Dotted lines on Figure 4 indicate a conjectural reconstruction based on "shadows" of the original lines in the exfoliated areas that are visible on the surface print. If the reconstruction is accurate, the meanders run on slightly oblique courses, diverging from angular movement on the northwest towards multiple bifurcations on the southeast. The lower meander has a trapezoidal enclosure near its western end. The upper meander has an acute angle projecting towards the lower meander's enclosure.

The lines are eroded smooth and patinated to the same color as the matrix rock. Two similarly isolated and eroded meanders were noted during the original survey of Site 62.1 in 1977 on exposures 100 meters north of the Main Ledge. I suspect such isolated meanders belong to a relatively early phase of petroglyph activity in Machias Bay. Meanders incorporating representational motifs do appear with later designs on the Main Ledge at Site 62.1. These will be discussed in detail in another article.

No interpretation will be attempted here.

The 1981 visit to Hog Island was necessarily brief and substantial areas of rock exposures were only sketchily covered or overlooked altogether. Other examples of petroglyphs may exist on the island. Special thanks are due to the Coastal Warden Service and Michael Pinkham, the Maine State Museum for its support of the survey and Kris Larsen for his hospitality and the benefit of his knowledge of the area.

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THE ABBE MUSEUM'S FRENCHMAN BAY SURVEY-- AN HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE

Diane Kopec, Curator
The Abbe Museum
Bar Harbor, Maine

INTRODUCTION

The Abbe Museum and archaeological research in the Frenchman Bay area have been interwoven since the Museum's creation. This article presents the Museum's most recent field work--the 1985 survey of Frenchman Bay--and places the survey into an historic perspective. A short history of Robert Abbe and the founding of the Museum precedes an overview of the Museum's early field work, focusing on the Frenchman Bay area. Finally, highlights, conclusions and recommendations from the 1985 survey are discussed. A version of this paper was presented at the 1986 Spring meeting of the Maine Archaeological Society.

THE MUSEUM'S BEGINNINGS

The major figure in the history of the Museum was Dr. Robert Abbe. He was born in New York City in 1851 and later became a summer resident of Bar Harbor. Abbe, a pioneer in the field of plastic surgery, led the medical profession in various surgical procedures. In 1904 he began working with radium and consulted, through visits and correspondence, with Madame and Professor Curie (Lawrence 1935:5-6). Although a surgeon by profession, he was also a man of many diverse talents, interests and aspirations. One of his aspirations was the Museum.

The idea for The Abbe Museum, originally named the Lafayette National Park Museum of Stone Age Antiquities, originated in 1922. Robert Abbe noticed a window display of stone implements while walking on Cottage Street in Bar Harbor. The prehistoric tools aroused his curiosity and inspired him and, as a result, he purchased the collection for study. Later when offered two other large collections from the Frenchman Bay area, he realized the need for a fireproof building for permanent storage (Robert Abbe Museum 1978:14).

The ambience that one feels at the Museum reflects Robert Abbe himself. His goal was ". . .never to enlarge this Collection into a general museum but fix indelibly a fact of incontrovertible history on the minds of the large and rapidly growing travelling public. My aim has been to create a permanent classic 'one show' historic incident in the path of the 'Madding Crowd' and to make it as perfect as possible." He planned for a museum ". . .which will be for all time both fascinating and educative for thousands who are not accustomed to visit museums of this sort; but who will linger and dream over this small and unique collection" (Lawrence 1935:10).

The dedication of the Museum on August 14, 1928 also served as a memorial to Robert Abbe who had died the previous March. His dream, which began just six years earlier, had been fulfilled. Abbe's sole aim for the Museum, ". . .to collect and preserve local material found on and about Mount Desert Island" (Robert Abbe Museum 1978:15), has resulted in a very specialized and special Museum which now houses the majority of

the excavated collections from the Frenchman Bay area.

While researchers in the Northeast are well aware of the richness and potential of these prehistoric collections from the Frenchman Bay area, many of the visitors (over 30,000 each season) to the Abbe are most impressed by the historic period materials on display. Through generous donations, including some from well-known individuals such as Fannie Hardy Eckstorm, Mary C. Wheelwright and Dr. Isaac W. Kingsbury, the Museum has acquired an outstanding basket collection. Items of clothing, trade beads and jewelry round out the historic period collection.

THE MUSEUM'S EARLY WORK

The Abbe Museum, the first institution in Maine to support archaeological research (Spiess 1985:117-118), sponsored field work throughout much of the state. Its crews surveyed and excavated sites to the north of the St. John, Munsungun and Aroostook Rivers, in the central interior at Passadumkeag, east to Cobscook Bay, and south to the Erkkila site in Warren; however, it focused on Frenchman Bay, particularly the Sorrento-Gouldsboro area (Figure 1).

The first curator of the Museum, Walter B. Smith, a geologist from the University of Maine, had previously worked at the Eddington Bend site on the Penobscot River. He recorded his earliest days at the Museum in a small dairy (Abbe files). In it he wrote of having dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Warren Moorehead upon arriving in Bar Harbor and of "picnic digs" at Fernald Point in Southwest Harbor and at various locations in Blue Hill. (His itemized expenses reflect a very different Bar Harbor--$.55 breakfasts at the Mary Jane Restaurant!)

Under Smith's curatorship, the Museum undertook two of its major excavations, supervised by Warren K. Moorehead. They excavated Jones Cove, located near the stream at the head of the cove on Flanders Bay in West Gouldsboro, for just over one week in 1928 (Smith 1929:4-5) before moving west to Ashville and the Tranquility Farm site (Figure 2). The Museum sponsored the excavation of Tranquility Farm intermittently for the next eight years (Robert Abbe Museum 1978:32) with the final year of excavation conducted by the new curator, Wendell S. Hadlock, who replaced Smith as curator in 1936.

Hadlock's curatorship lasted until 1951 when he became honorary curator and clerk (Robert Abbe Museum 1978:9). As Alice Wellman, the President of the Board of Trustees, reported in 1978, "He (Wendell S. Hadlock) has been the spirit behind virtually every improvement, every research project, and every detail of day to day museum management" (Robert Abbe Museum 1978:9). After completing the excavation at Tranquility Farm, he led the 1939 excavations of the Taft Point site in West Gouldsboro and of the Hall site across Flanders Bay in Sorrento. The following year he returned to Sorrento and excavated the Ewing-Bragdon site, which lies approximately 1/4 mile south of the Hall site (Figure 2).

These Frenchman Bay area excavations produced thousands of artifacts. A great variety of bone points and other bone objects including fishhooks, beads, flutes, incised combs and fleshers complement the abundant stone tools from these sites. These collections also consist of items of shell, copper and pottery, as well as faunal remains. Based on the artifacts recovered at these sites, this area of Frenchman Bay was occupied during the Late Archaic and Ceramic time periods. While most of these sites contain artifacts from the Late Archaic period, the Taft Point site collection contains the greatest number of Late Archaic artifacts (Hadlock 1939).

FRENCHMAN BAY SURVEY

Previous Research

Archaeological work first began in the area in 1867 with Jeffries Wyman's excavations of shell middens on

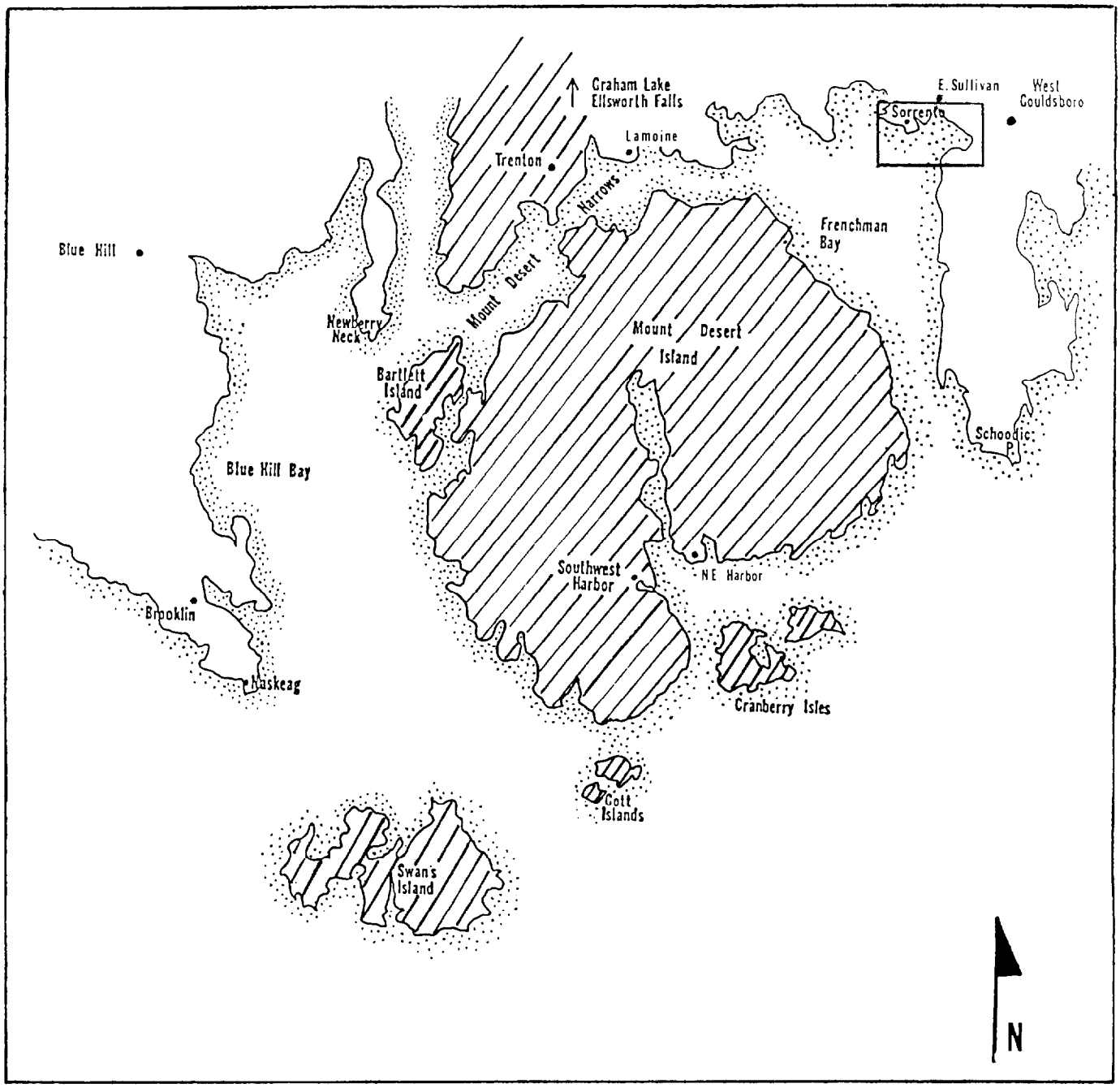

Figure 1. Frenchman Bay -
Study Area (shaded)

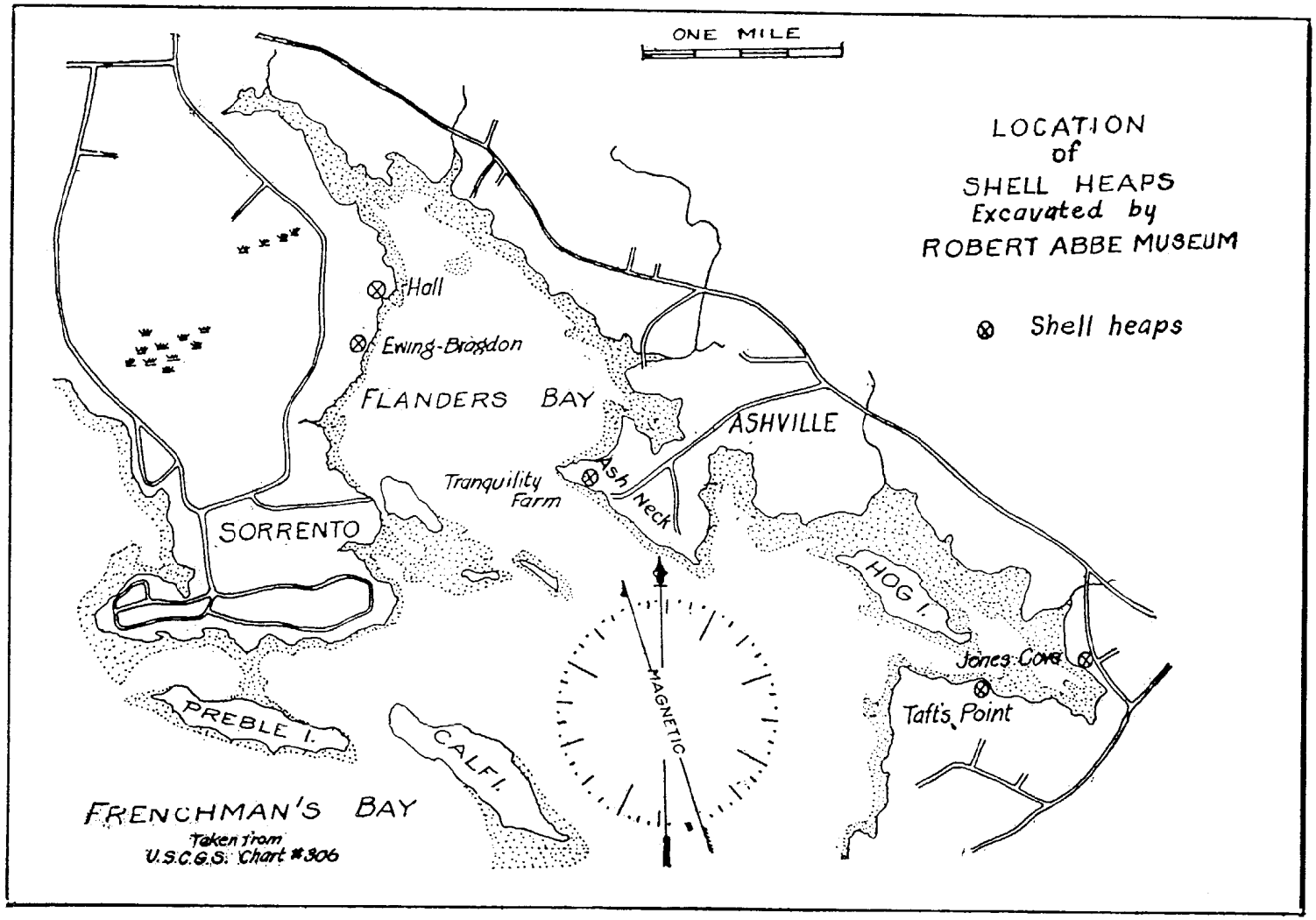

Figure 2. Abbe Museum Excavations
(Reprint, Hadlock 1941)

Frenchman Bay (Wyman 1868). In 1909 Frederic B. Loomis and a party of four excavated sites on several islands in the bay. Their rapid excavation techniques were aimed at examining faunal remains to identify food sources and site seasonality (Loomis and Young 1912; Spiess 1985:111-11[illegible]). Oric Bates and H.E. Winlock also excavated several shell middens along the coast from Gouldsboro to Vinalhaven during this era (Spiess 1985:112).

Warren K. Moorehead conducted surveys and excavations on Mt. Desert Island and adjacent Frenchman Bay shores beginning in 1913. During his first exploration, he mapped at least 75 shell middens within a 15 mile radius of Bar Harbor (Moorehead 1913). His excavations included numerous locations along the northern shore of Frenchman Bay, including sites at Hancock Point, Sullivan Falls, Calf Island, Sorrento and Lamoine (Moorehead 1922:153-166). Moorehead's 1928 excavation of Jones Cove for The Abbe Museum followed these excavations (Smith 1929).

In the 1930's and 40's, John Howland Rowe, Wendell S. Hadlock and Douglas S. Byers, of the Robert S. Peabody Foundation, conducted excavations in the Frenchman Bay area. Rowe excavated the Waterside site in Sorrento (Rowe 1940) while Wendell S. Hadlock conducted excavations at the Tranquility Farm, Tafts Point, Hall and Ewing-Bragdon sites in the Gouldsboro-Sorrento area (Figure 2) (Hadlock 1939, 1941). After Hadlock's initial season at Ellsworth Falls in 1946, he and Douglas S. Byers worked jointly at Ellsworth Falls (Byers 1959) and the Boynton site in Lamoine (Figure 1) (Abbe files).

Walter Bruce, a Connecticut resident, excavated a site at Long Cove on Swans Island (Figure 1) just southwest of Mt. Desert Island. His excavations began in 1960 and continued for portions of the next three summers (Bruce 1975). Bruce, assisted by Swans Island native Ed Wheaton, excavated the entire site (Wheaton, personal communication 1985).

Wendell S. Hadlock surveyed the Frenchman Bay area for the National Park Service in 1963. During this survey, the first on the Bay since Moorehead's 1913 survey, Hadlock mapped, photographed and described historic and prehistoric sites on Park and non-Park lands (Hadlock 1963). Bruce J. Bourque's dissertation research included the Frenchman Bay area. Beginning in 1969 he tested a number of sites and analyzed collections, including those housed at The Abbe Museum (Bourque 1971). The University of Maine at Orono and the National Park Service have subsequently conducted surveys in the area (state survey forms). In the 1970's David Sanger, University of Maine, excavated sites at Frazier Point (Schoodic Peninsula), Duck Harbor (Isle au Haut) and Fernald Point on Mt. Desert Island for the National Park Service (Sanger 1980:2).

Objectives

The Abbe's latest survey of prehistoric sites, conducted during the Fall of 1985 by the author, focused on Mt. Desert Island, Trenton and smaller off-shore islands (Figure 1). The field priority was to locate previously recorded sites for the purposes of verification and further documentation. Additional objectives included: 1) locating and analyzing local collections, 2) identifying and locating sites that produced these collections, 3) locating additional sites, and 4) making recommendations for the testing of sites for possible nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Survey Results

Sixty-two site locations were visited during the 1985 survey. Of these, 30 had been previously recorded but required verification and further documentation; 32 additional sites were located "in route." Severe erosion, compounded by human activity, has greatly impacted sites in the study area (Kopec 1986).

A large number of sites reported to Al

Dekin of New York during a National Park Survey in 1978 (state survey forms) remain visible today only as small patches of shell. For example, the Haynes Point site (43.69) in Trenton (Figure 1) exhibits an extreme case of erosion. Hadlock reported the size of this site as 200 ft. by 50 ft. and its condition as eroding (1963). The steep bank contains no shell today, just 22 years later.

However, erosion is not the only agent destroying the sites; human activity is taking its toll also. The most severe potting occurs at off-shore islands such as Swans and Bartlett (Figure 1). In adition, numerous sites have been disturbed through harbor activities and nine of these have actually been destroyed by town piers, parking lots and private docks.

In general, sites tend to be small with 52% of the sites less than 25 m in length. For this reason, a few of the larger sites, ranging in size from 80 m to 160 m in length, stand out. A site on Great Gott Island (Figure 1) contains 80 m of exposed dense shell. Ruth Moore of Bass Harbor worked at the front of this site intermittently between 1946 and 1960 (see Collections section). A road cut through the bank of the midden for hauling wood is now also being used by all-terrain vehicles. The largest site (43.44), located in Northeast Harbor (Figure 1), is also being impacted. Cement fence posts have been pulled from the ground near the bank, thus exposing the midden to further erosion and inviting potting. An ochre-stained gouge fragment found during the survey, in conjunction with a ground slate spear tip found nearby by a caretaker, suggest a Late Archaic occupation.

Collections

In addition to the field survey, six collections were examined during the survey. The collection of Eugene King of Bar Harbor and Rosalyn Strong, formerly of Bar Harbor, comes from the Northeast Creek site (43.18) located on the north side of Mt. Desert Island at the Narrows (Figure 1). This small Ceramic period collection has been donated to The Abbe Museum.

Edward Wheaton, of Swans Island and Pittsfield, assisted Walter Bruce (see Previous Research section) with the excavation of a number of sites on Swans Island (Figure 1). His collection, a portion of which he donated to the Swans Island library, contains stemmed bifaces of the Susquehanna tradition of the Late Archaic period and stemmed and nonstemmed bifaces, scrapers, bone tools and pottery from the Ceramic period.

Mrs. Roger Smith of Steuben has an extensive collection containing stemmed and nonstemmed bifaces, scrapers, celts, grooved axes, chips and small amounts of bone tools and pottery from sites between Steuben and Machiasport, east of the project area. Her collection representing the Late Archaic and Ceramic periods, should be of interest to researchers in coastal Washington county.

Ruth Moore's collection, except for a celt from the Fernald Point site (43.24) in Southwest Harbor (Figure 1), comes from the Great Gott Island site (31.17). The Great Gott Island site collection contains stemmed (Plates 1 and 2) and nonstemmed bifaces, scrapers, celts, a gouge or celt midsection, dentate and rocker-dentate stamped pottery, bone points, awls, chips and abundant faunal remains. While some of Moore's collection suggests a Late Archaic occupation of the site, most of it demonstrates a Ceramic period occupation.

The largest collection examined belongs to Stanley and Maureen Wass of Southwest Harbor. Although the Wass collection contains artifacts from Burying Island (58.7) (Plate 3) and various locations on Bartlett Island, most of the collection comes from the Butler Point site (58.6). Butler Point lies between Egypt and Taunton Bays, north of the study area. This site, which Moorehead excavated and from which he recovered over 500 artifacts in three days (Moorehead

1922:158), has also been dug by three generations of the Wass family.

Even though artifacts have been distributed among the Wass children, the Butler Point collection of Stanley and Maureen Wass contains approximately 4,000 artifacts including stemmed (Plates 4 through 7) and nonstemmed bifaces, large woodworking tools, scrapers, a whetstone, an incised ground stone object, bone tools including both barbed and incised specimens and a gorget fragment (Plate 8), pottery with cordwrapped stick, dentate and rocker-dentate decoration and faunal remains. Combinations of these tool groups, which have been mounted to plaques, are shown in Plates 9 through 13.

Although the Wass collection suggests intensive occupation, the amount of digging (state survey form 1973) that has taken place at the site dims the research potential of the site. The Butler Point site property, however, has recently been sold and the new owner is considering donating the land to the Nature Conservancy, which may prevent future amateur excavations (Spiess, personal communication 1986).

Of the six collections examined, Jeffrey Smith's collection from the Watson site (59.8) in East Sullivan (Figure 1) holds the greatest research potential. Smith of Seal Harbor led his Sumner High School class in an excavation of the Watson site beginning in 1978. The site, a southeast facing open grass field, lies at the mouth of Flanders Stream where it enters Flanders Bay, a smaller bay within Frenchman Bay (Plate 14). Although Mya arenaria shells are eroding from the bank, the site is predominantly a black, organic-rich, shell-free midden. The site has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Jeffrey Smith collection contains approximately 1,000 artifacts including stemmed and nonstemmed bifaces, celts, hammerstones, abundant scrapers, pottery, chips, bone tools, ground stone tools, one notched copper point, one plummet and faunal remains. Various forms of stemmed bifaces occur in the collection. Plate 15 depicts a sample of side and corner-notched bifaces from the Ceramic period; in addition, some finely-notched specimens (Plate 16, middle row) demonstrate similarities to the Meadowood type of the Early Ceramic period. Bifaces with contracting, straight and slightly expanding stems are also present (Plates 16-19). Of these, one drill and broad contracting stemmed bifaces (Plate 17) represent the Susquehanna tradition, whereas several of the stemmed bifaces (Plates 18 and 19), ground stone tools (Plate 20) and a plummet represent the Moorehead phase. A wide variety of cryptocrystalline quartz occurs in the collection (Plate 21) including crystal quartz (bottom, third from left) and a Ramah chert notched biface base (bottom, left).

Comparisons can be drawn between the Watson site and the Goddard site (Bourque and Cox 1981). The Watson site parallels the Goddard site, located at Naskeag Point on the Blue Hill peninsula (Figure 1), as a multi component, shell-free midden site, containing abundant artifacts from numerous occupations and a variety of non-local lithics.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Most of the study area remains unsurveyed. The sites surveyed tend to be small in size. Severe erosion and the effects of human activity have greatly impacted sites in the study area. Artifacts collected during the survey, and those examined in six collections, document occupation during the Late Archaic (Moorehead phase and Susquehanna tradition) and Ceramic periods.

On the basis of these findings and the high developmental pressures in the area, three recommendations are offered for the Frenchman Bay area:

1. Priority should be given to a

continuing survey of the Frenchman Bay area. Many shell middens previously reported are today either barely visible remnants or have completely vanished. A combination of on-going erosion and increasing developmental pressures will continue this process, making the location and documentation of some of these sites difficult or impossible in the future.

2. Subsurface testing of the three largest sites recorded during the survey should be conducted. Artifacts from two of these sites, Great Gott Island (31.17) and Northeast Harbor (43.44), suggest possible Late Archaic occupations, a time period not well documented in the Mt. Desert Island area of Frenchman Bay. In addition, these sites are being disturbed--a disturbance that will increase with time. This testing would also provide additional data to determine the National Register potential of these sites.

3. Because of its similarities with the Goddard site, the Watson site (59.8) should be further examined for its research potential. The examination should include an inspection of the entire collection and accompanying field notes along with subsurface testing.

Since the conclusion of the survey, Jeffrey Smith has donated his collection from the Watson site to The Abbe Museum. The collection will be entered into the computer catalog system during the winter of 1987. After examination of the entire collection, Steven Cox, Abbe Museum trustee, and the author tested the site and nominated it to the National Register of Historic Places. To date, no other sites resembling the Goddard site have been excavated in Maine. Because the Watson site offers a rare opportunity both to investigate the full range of prehistoric occupations of the central Maine coast and to test hypotheses generated by the Goddard site investigation concerning village development in the late prehistoric period (Bourque and Cox 1981), The Abbe Museum, in conjunction with the Center for Northern Studies and Middlebury College, Vermont, will be conducting an excavation and field school at that site in June, 1987.

SUMMARY

As the first institution in Maine to support archaeological research, the participation of The Abbe Museum has spanned over half a century. Much of its early work was a product of the time when archaeology was still young and undisciplined. As archaeological theory and methodology have matured, so have the aims and purposes of The Abbe Museum. The Museum has emerged from an era of custodianship and hopes to play a role in the future of Maine archaeological research. The 1985 survey and the planned 1987 excavation of the Watson site demonstrate the commitment of the Museum to research in the Frenchman Bay area. At the same time, the goals of Robert Abbe for the Museum are being faithfully pursued. The Abbe Museum still fascinates and educates--and people still come to linger and dream.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 1985 survey was funded by a grant to The Abbe Museum from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission through the U.S. Department of the Interior. I would like to thank the collectors for allowing me to photograph their collections and for providing me with information on their collections and the sites from which they were excavated. Special thanks to Jeffrey Smith and Ruth and Gavin Watson. Smith generously donated the Watson site collection to the Museum and his time to this survey. In addition to their hospitality and interest in the past, Ruth and Gavin Watson have granted permission for the 1987 summer field school on their property.

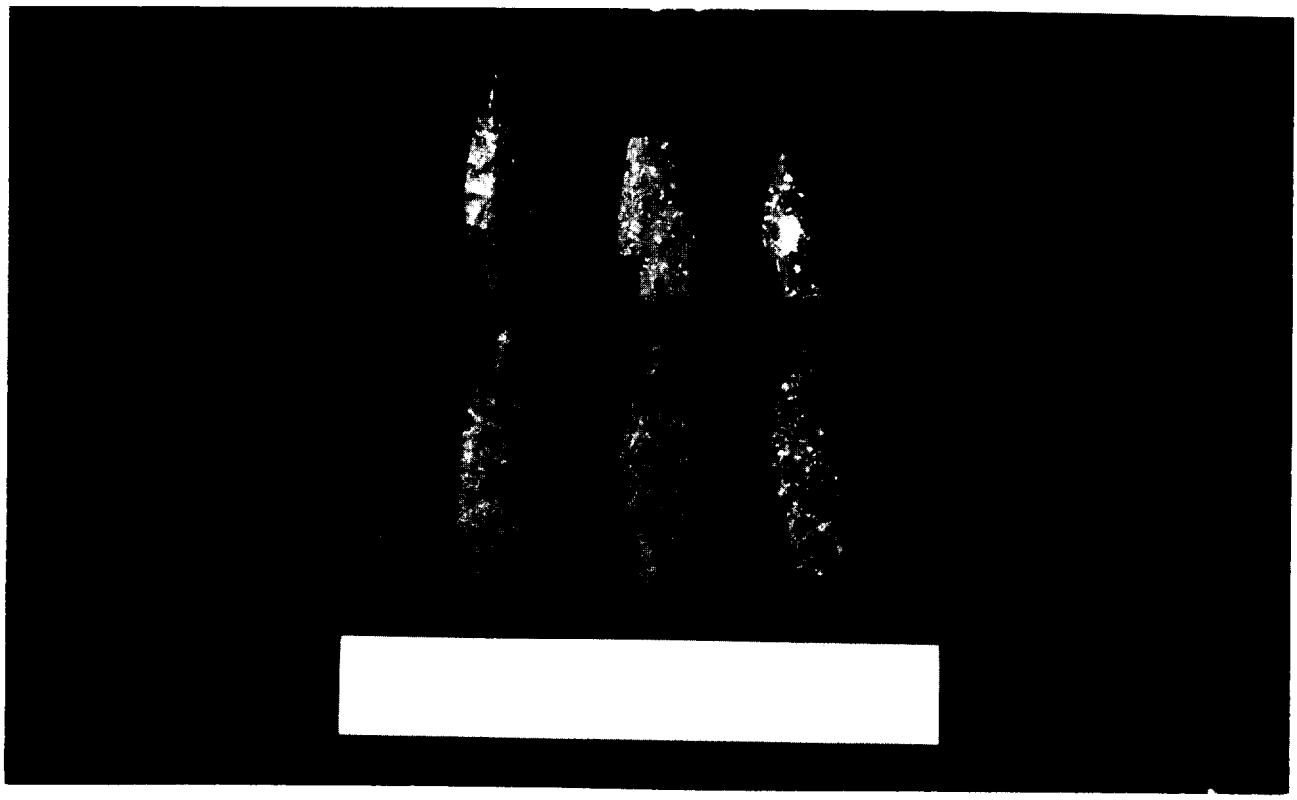

Plate 1. Ruth Moore Collection
Great Gott Island Site 31.17

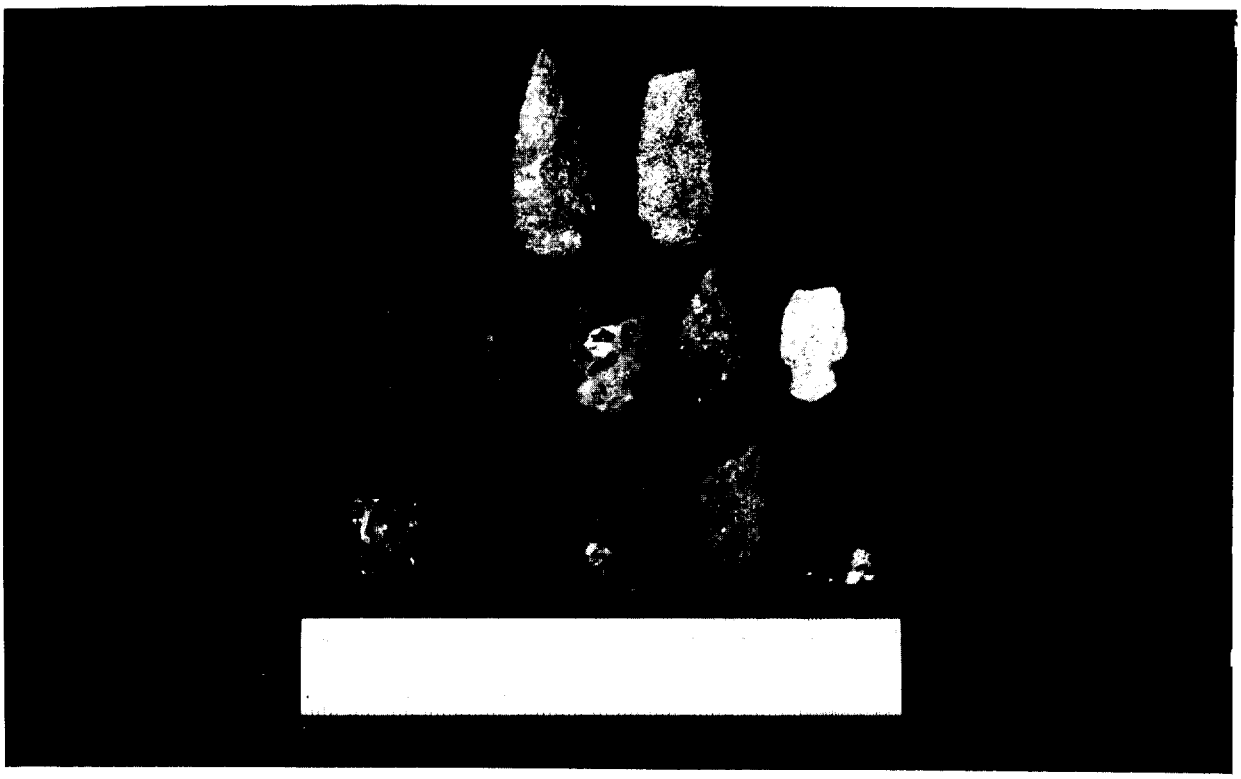

Plate 2. Ruth Moore Collection
Great Gott Island Site 31.17

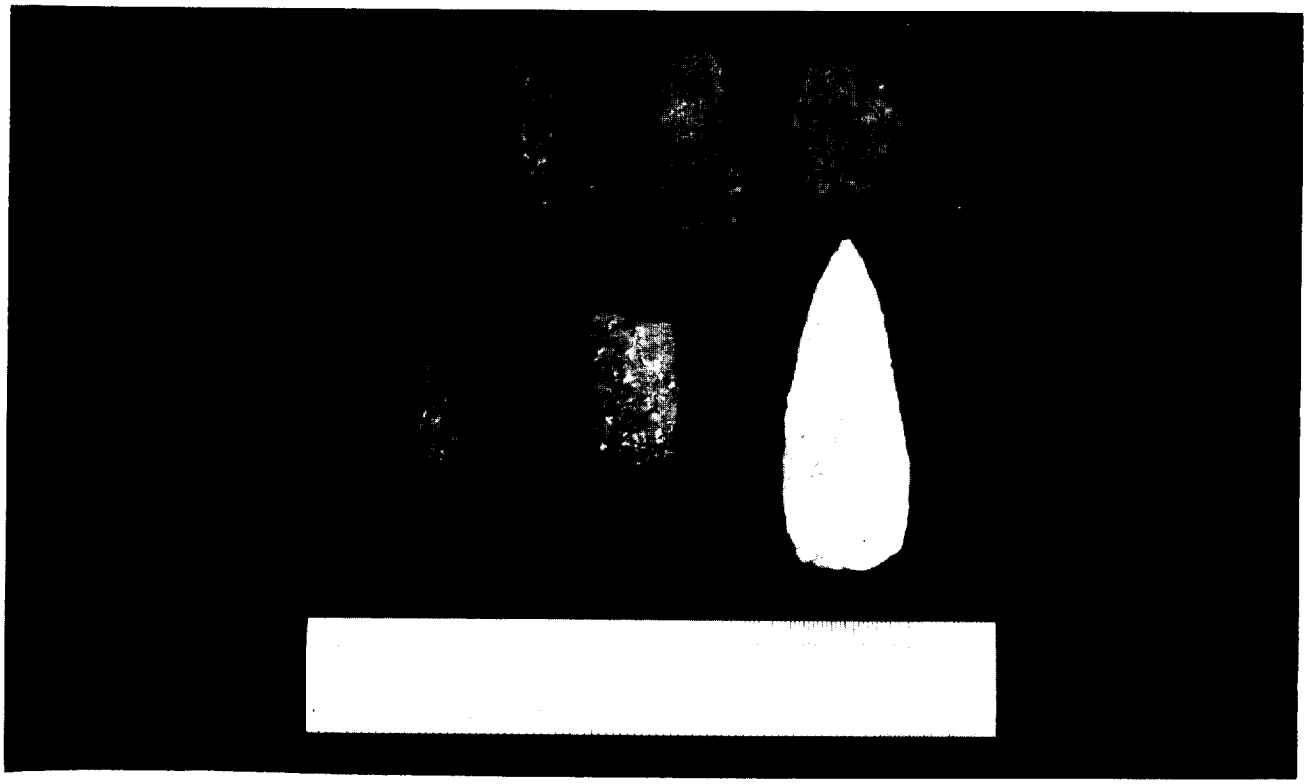

Plate 3. Wass Collection
Burying Island Site 58.7

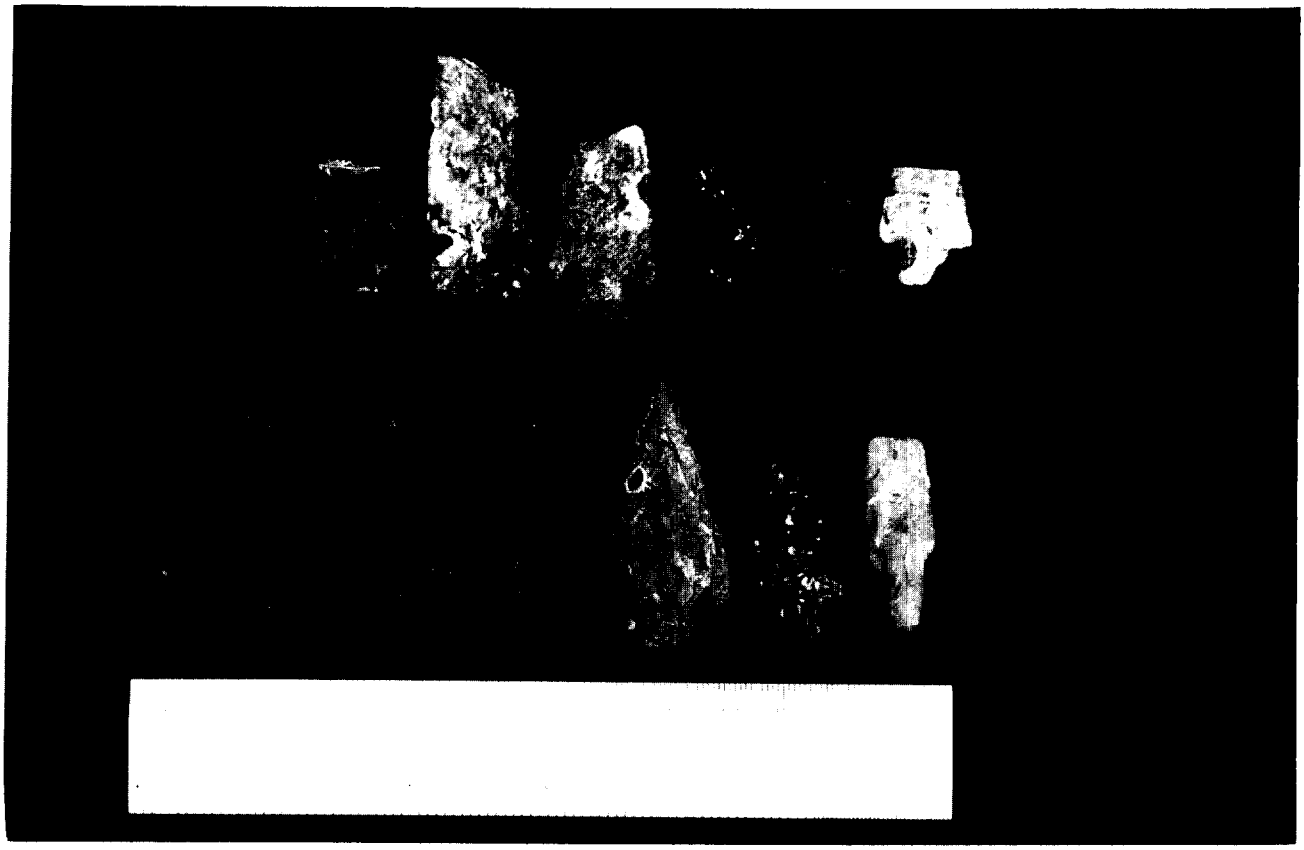

Plate 4. Wass Collection
Butler Point Site 58.6

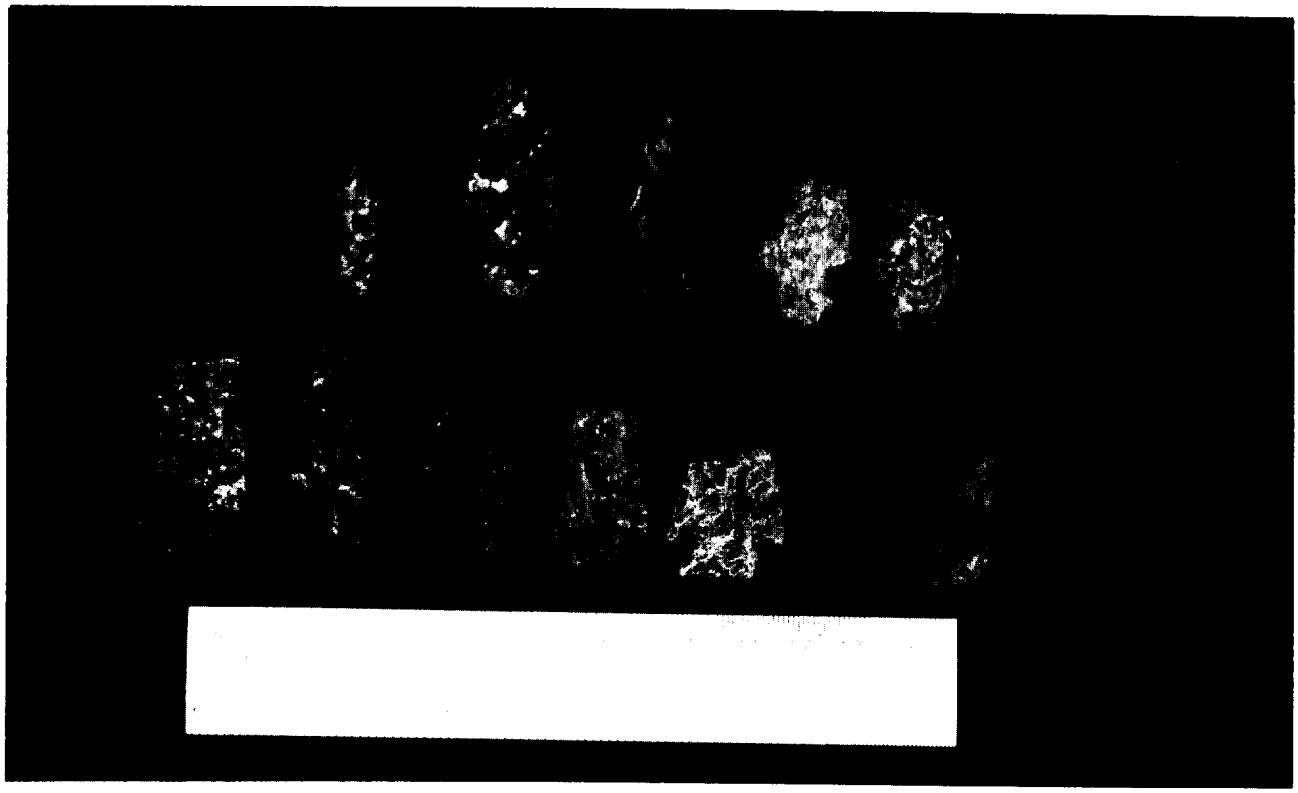

Plate 5. Wass Collection
Butler Point Site 58.6

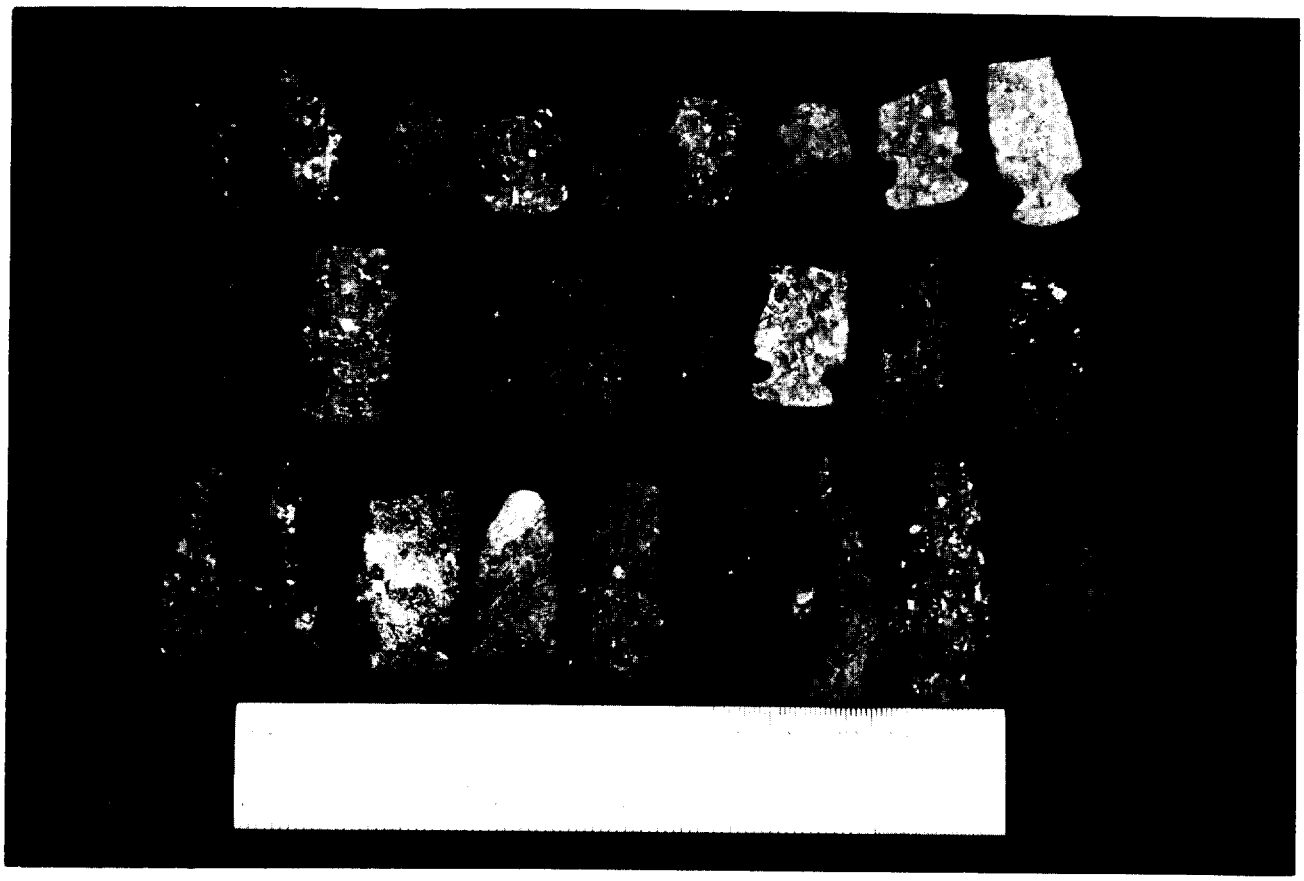

Plate 6. Wass Collection
Butler Point Site 58.6

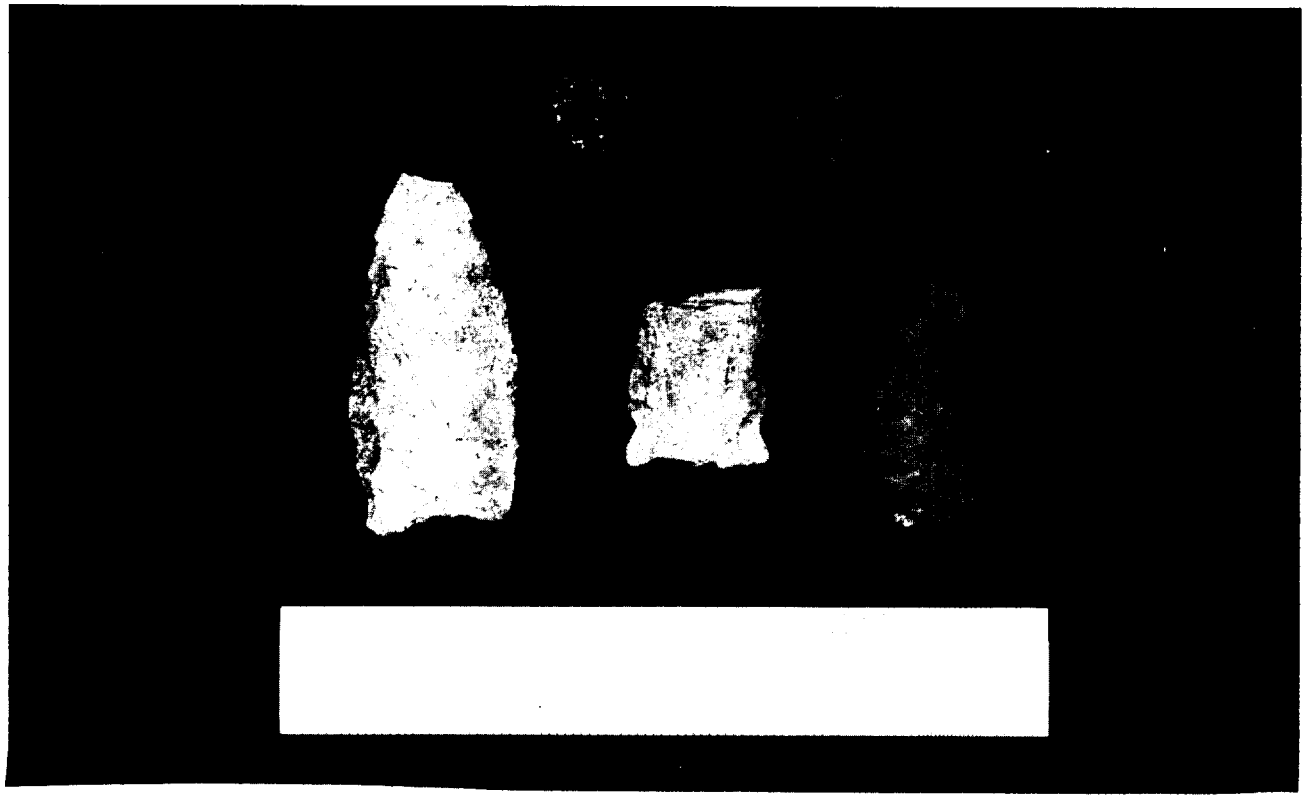

Plate 7. Wass Collection
Butler Point Site 58.6

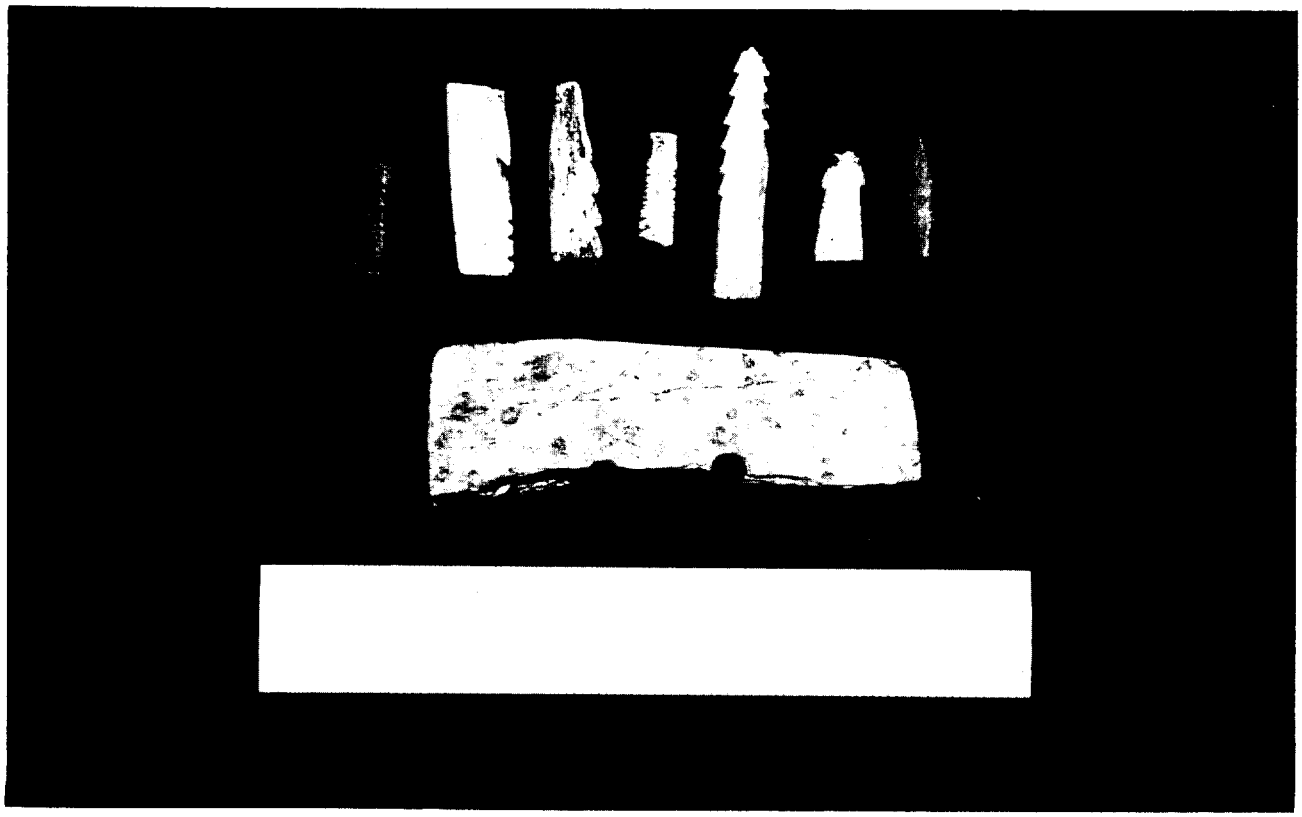

Plate 8. Wass Collection
Butler Point Site 58.6

Plate 9. Wass Collection
Butler Point Site 58.6

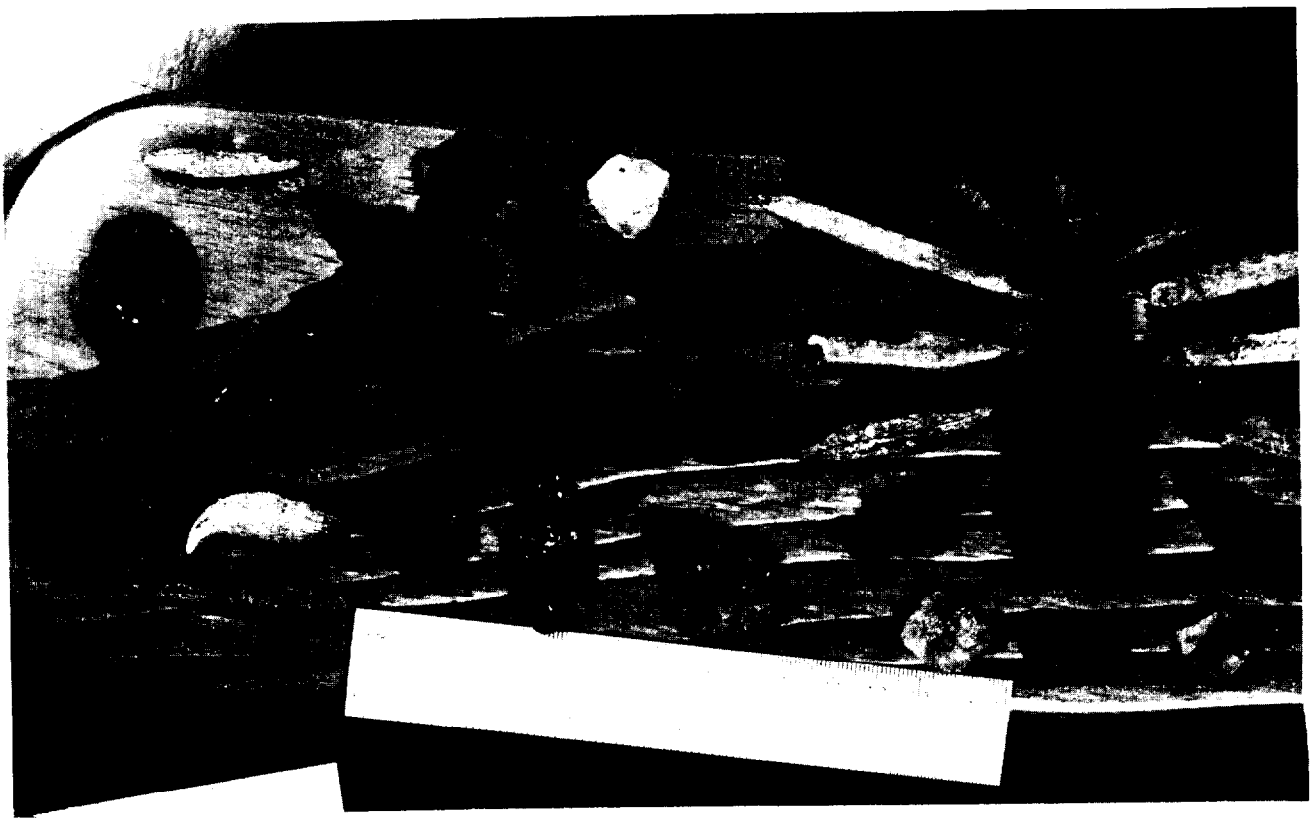

Plate 10. Wass Collection
Butler Point Site 58.6

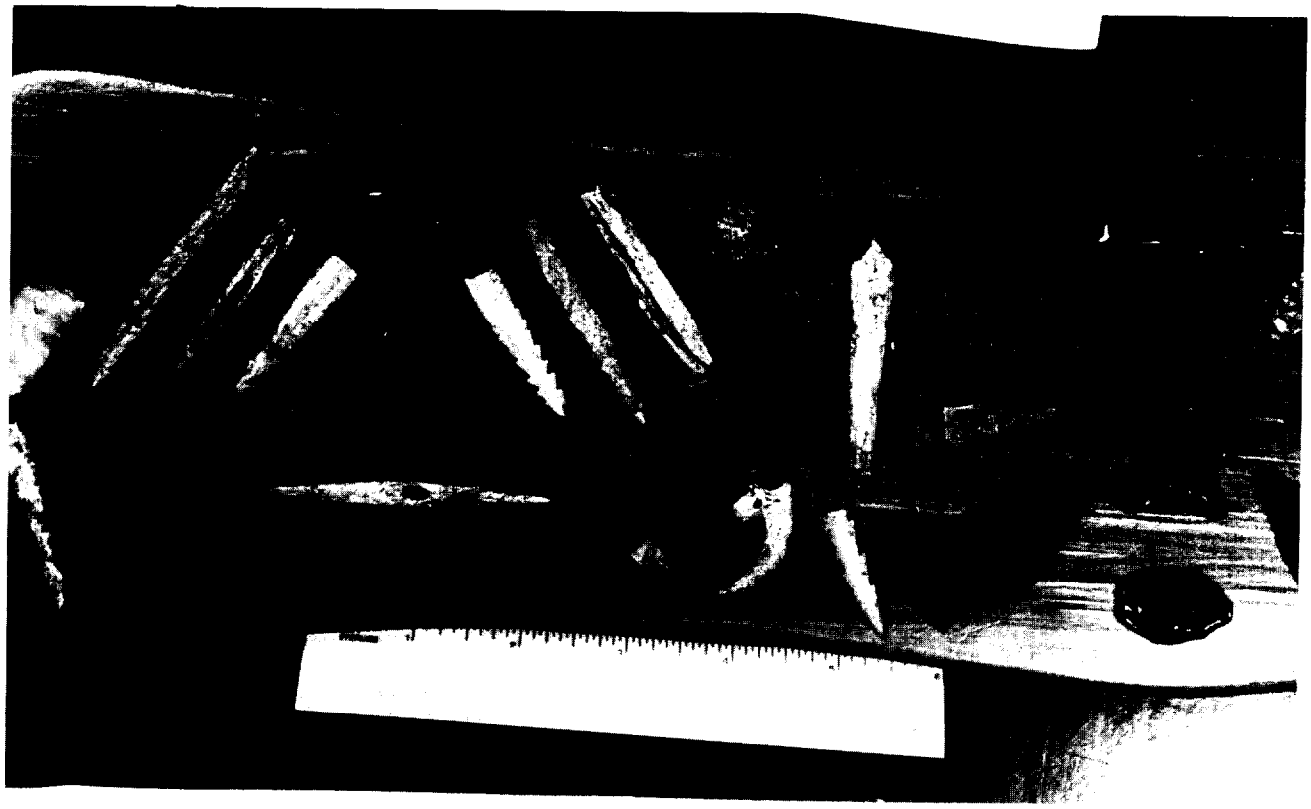

Plate 11. Wass Collection
Butler Point Site 58.6

Plate 12 Wass COllection
Butler Point Site 58.6

Plate 13. Wass Collection
Butler Point Site 58.6

Plate 14. Watson Site 59.8
Facing Flanders Bay

Plate 15. Jeff Smith Collection
Watson Site 59.8

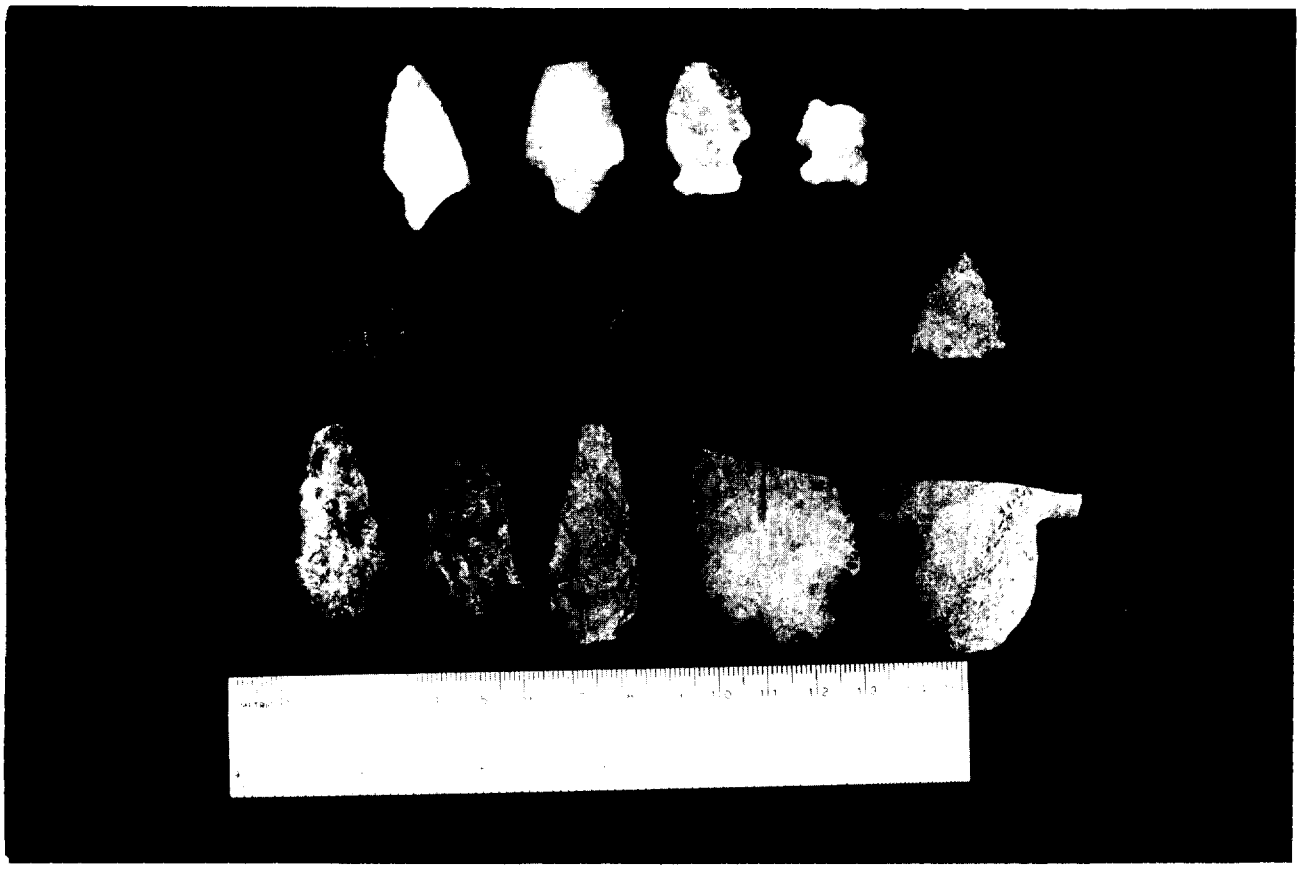

Plate 16. Jeff Smith Collection
Watson Site 59.8

Plate 17. Jeff Smith Collection
Watson Site 59.8

Plate 18. Jeff Smith Collection
Watson Site 59.8

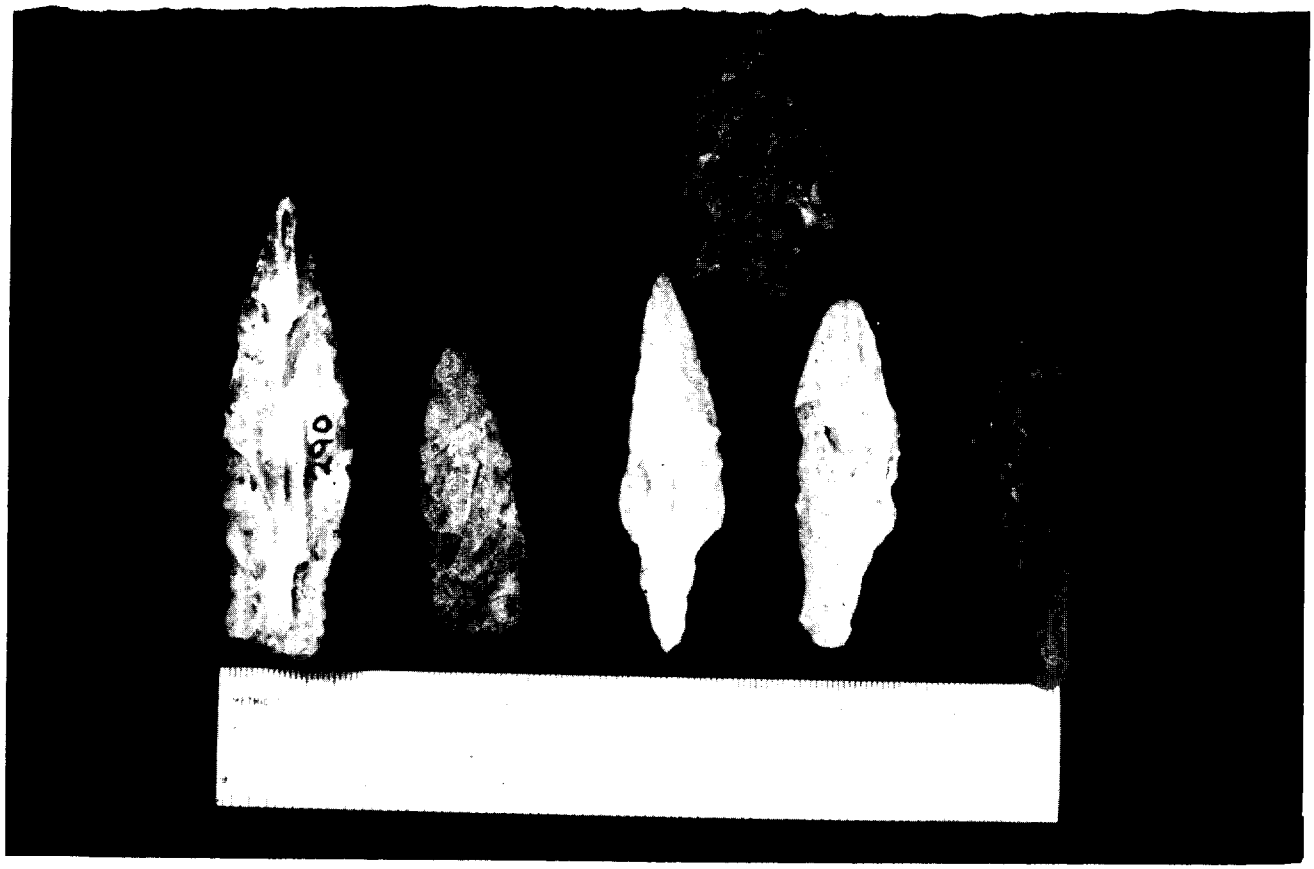

Plate 19. Jeff Smith Collection
Watson Site 59.8

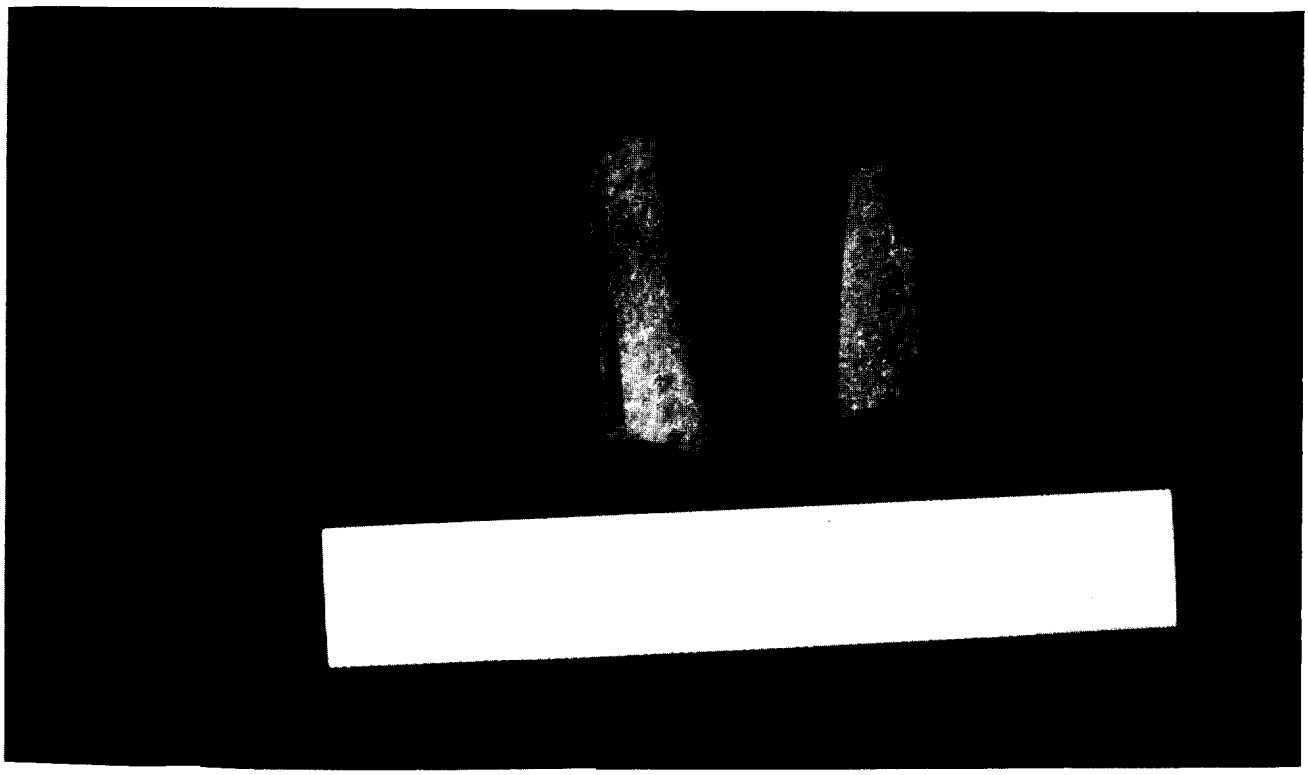

Plate 20. Jeff Smith Collection
Watson Site 59.8

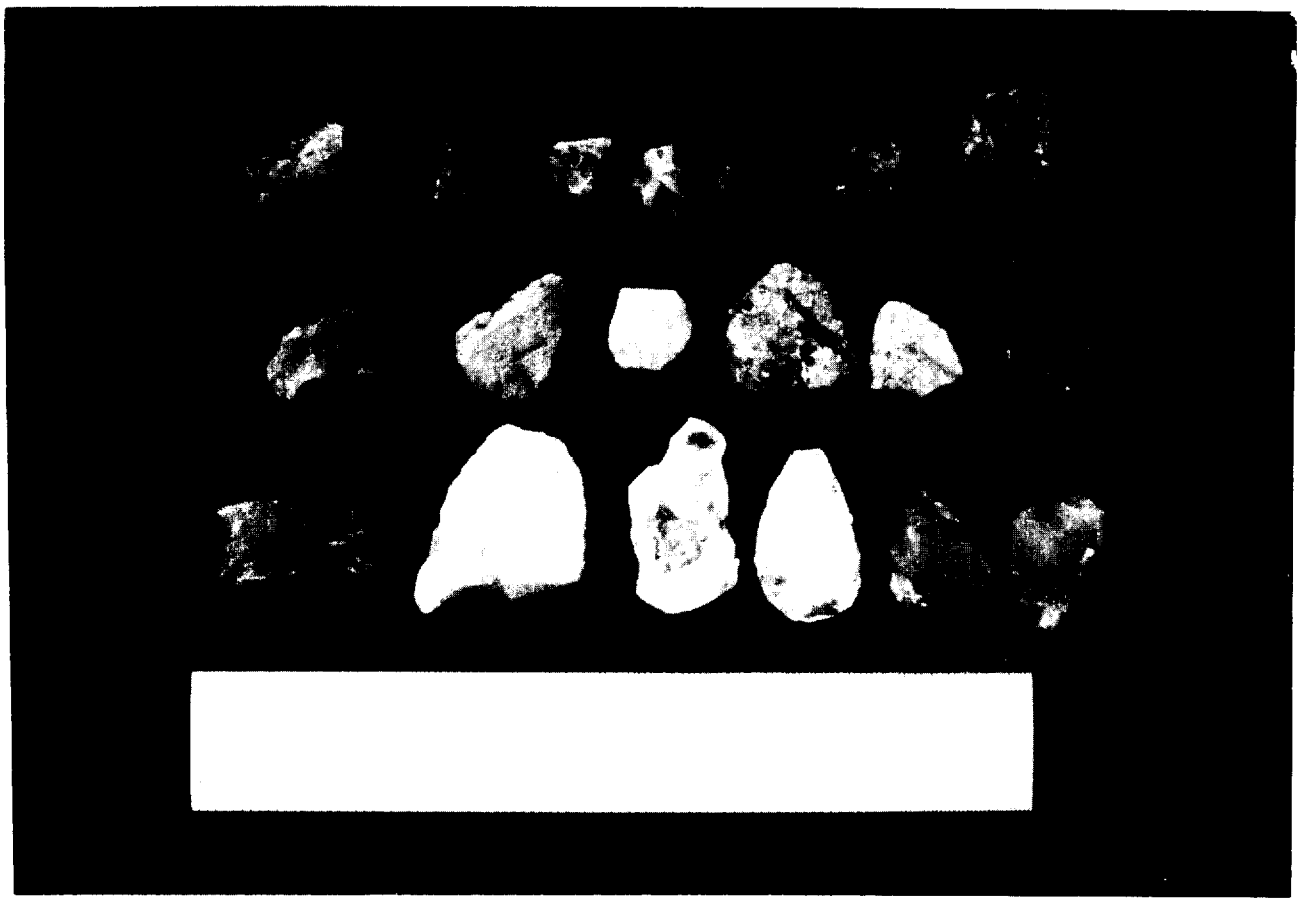

Plate 21. Jeff Smith Collection
Watson Site 59.8

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Archaeological Excavations At Fort Edgecomb, Summer 1985

Robert L. Bradley
Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Norman L. Buttrick
Freeport High School Faculty

In the spring of 1985 limited Historic Preservation funds through the Department of the Interior, National Park Service were secured to enable the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation to undertake archaeological excavations at Fort Edgecomb under the direction of Bradley, with Buttrick as assistant director.

History of the Site

In 1808, as America watched the Napoleonic Wars consume the great nations of Europe, a complex system of fortifications was established to protect our nation's Atlantic coast.(1) For Maine this meant new forts in Kittery, South Portland, Portland, Phippsburg, Edgecomb, Boothbay, St. George, Castine, Machias, and Eastport, designed to protect key ports and estuaries. This network of fortifications is now known as the "Second System," the "First System" having been built in the period 1794-1798.

Fort Edgecomb, located on the eastern side of the Sheepscot River, was built to protect Wiscasset, one of Maine's most important ports of the early 19th century (figure 1). It is the best-preserved "Second System" fort in America, with its impressive octagonal blockhouse and intact earthworks. There are three reasons why the fort has survived. First, because Wiscasset declined in economic importance after the War of 1812, no large granite fort was needed there during the Civil War (1861-1865), when many of America's "Third System" defenses were constructed. Second, the site became pasture after 1820 and was never developed for other purposes. And third, in the 1870s and 1890s local citizens raised funds to repair the deteriorated blockhouse.(2) See figure 2 for a view of the blockhouse prior to the restoration of the 1870s, graphic evidence of its poor state of repair, figure 3 for an 1875 fund-raising poster, and figure 4 showing post-1875 work completed.

However, not all of Fort Edgecomb survives above the ground. An 1820 survey map (figure 5), produced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1820, clearly shows the locations and rough dimensions of various additional buildings to service the fort--a storehouse, two enlisted men's barracks, and an officers' quarters. These lost buildings are otherwise unrecorded.(3)

Purposes of the Project

There were several purposes for the Fort Edgecomb project. Little archaeology had ever been conducted on military sites of this period in Maine,(4) and gaining an understanding of the structural nature of lost components would improve the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's on-site interpretation for the visitor. In addition, most Maine archaeological projects must, for security reasons, be conducted discreetly; however, it is important for

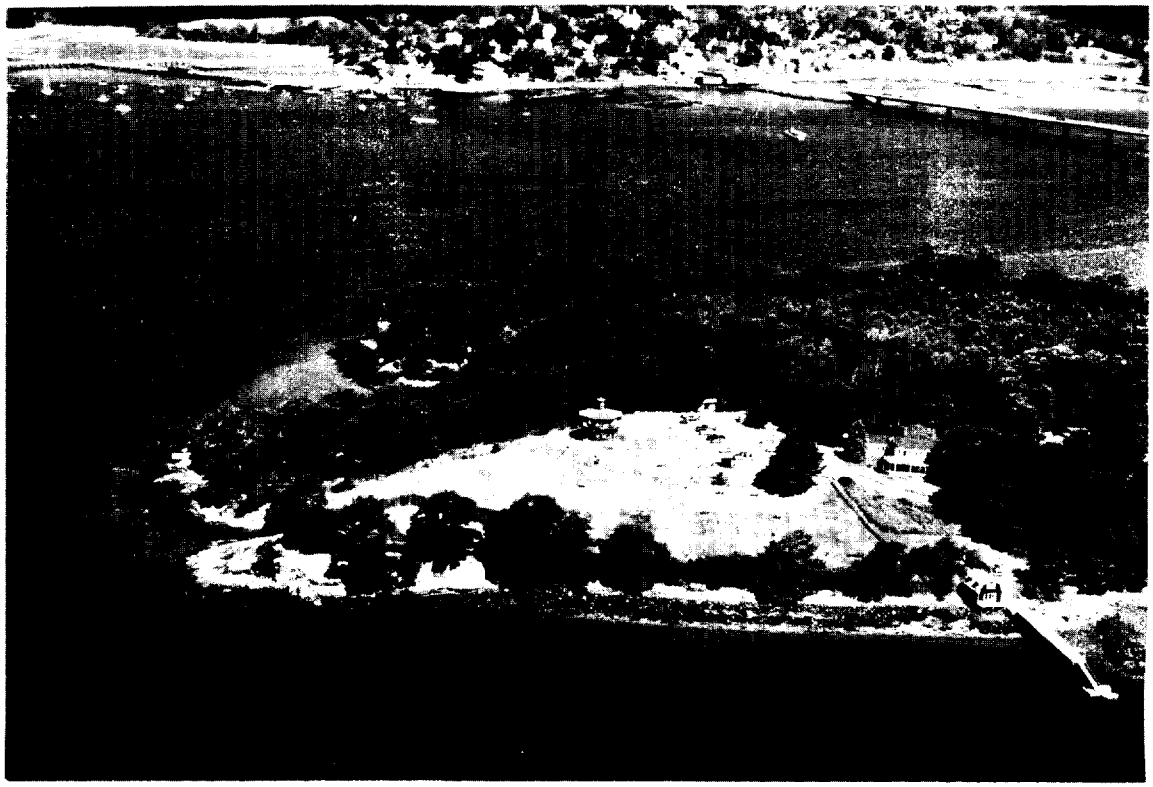


Fig. 1. Oblique aerial view of Fort Edgecomb, from the southeast, with Wiscasset in the background.

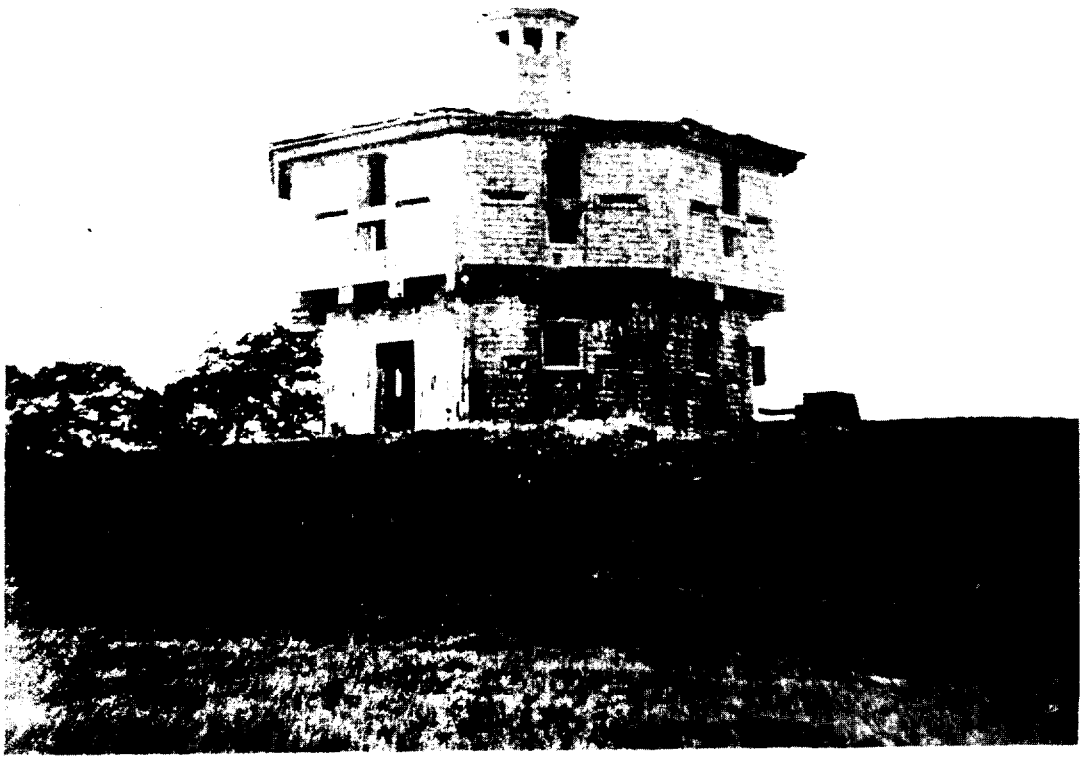


Fig. 2. Fort Edgecomb Blockhouse (pre-1875).

public benefit and education to provide the public with regular opportunities to view scientific archaeology in progress. Protected, publicly-owned sites like Fort Edgecomb are ideal contexts for such demonstration projects.

Public Education: Results

In advance of the project Sheila McDonald, Interpretive Specialist for the Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation, delivered lectures in the spring of 1985 to the Edgecomb Historical Society and the 5th and 6th grades of the Edgecomb Elementary School, detailing the history of Fort Edgecomb and giving notice of the forthcoming fieldwork. In addition the Bureau issued a press release which was published in newspapers statewide and led to subsequent feature articles in the Lewiston Daily Sun, the Wiscasset Newspaper, the Boothbay Register, the Portland Press Herald, and the Brunswick Times-Record. Television stations WMTW (Channel 8) and WGME (Channel 13) provided broadcast news coverage on, respectively, the first and second days of the project. In addition to this extensive publicity, the project was scheduled for work from Tuesday through Saturday each week to enable working people as well as vacationers the opportunity to see the crew in action; and the four weeks of work straddled the principal summer months, running from July 16th to August 10th. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation also developed a special project brochure for free distribution to site visitors, not only to give them material to supplement the standard site brochure, but also (it was hoped) to answer the questions so routinely asked of archaeologists: "What are you looking for?... What are you finding?... How do you know where to dig?... How deep do you have to dig?" Unfortunately, visitors generally pocketed the special project brochure on their way into the site and asked the questions anyway. Printed materials, after all, can be read later at one's leisure. What is needed for such projects is a temporary interpretive panel at the entrance to the site which answers these basic questions, since panels are not stuffed unread into glove compartments.

The public response to all of these efforts was gratifying, as 1985 visitation to the Fort Edgecomb Historic Site roughly doubled the figure of the previous season (1984) and the year following the project (1986):

1984: 2,115
1985: 4,174
1986: 2,067

Finally, on October 24, 1985 the author (Bradley) addressed a well-attended public meeting of the Edgecomb Historical Society, a meeting which also included in the audience the entire 5th and 6th grades of the local elementary school. This slide presentation gave residents local to the site the first summary findings of the project. Subsequently, the project has been a prominent part of Bradley's regularly-updated survey lecture on historical archaeology in Maine.

Archaeology: Methodology

The project crew was small but highly experienced, consisting of the director, assistant director, a surveyor, two full-time excavators, three part-time excavators, and a volunteer photographer. With regard to photography, oblique and vertical aerial photographs, both back and white and aerochrome infrared, were taken prior to and during excavation (figure 6). All test units were photographed in back and white and color during excavation and upon completion. Horizontal and vertical control related to a datum point on the foundation of the blockhouse. Measure was in English, rather than metric, given the procedures of the original builders, the basic test unit being a 5-foot square, often excavated by half or quarter. Excavation was by stratum, the stratigraphy being simple on this single-compenent site and consisting of post-fort fill (20th-century), demolition (post-1820), fort (1808-1820), and pre-fort sterile or bedrock. The surveying was

THE OLD
BLOCK-HOUSE!

For the purpose of carrying into effect the often expressed wish of many citizens and visitors, that the old

BLOCK-HOUSE

AT EDGECOMB, OPPOSITE WISCASSET, SHOULD BE PRESERVED from decay, and kept as a relic of the past and a shelter for picnic parties, the undersigned have constituted themselves a Committee.

By permission of the Hon. Secretary of War, they will undertake to make such repairs as may be needed to INSURE THE DURABILITY OF THE STRUCTURE NAMED FOR MANY years, provided a sufficient amount of money can be obtained by contribution.

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO HAND or mail such amounts as they may be disposed to give to

JOSEPH WOOD, Publisher Seaside Oracle, or

R. H. T. TAYLOR, Agent Eastern Express Co.

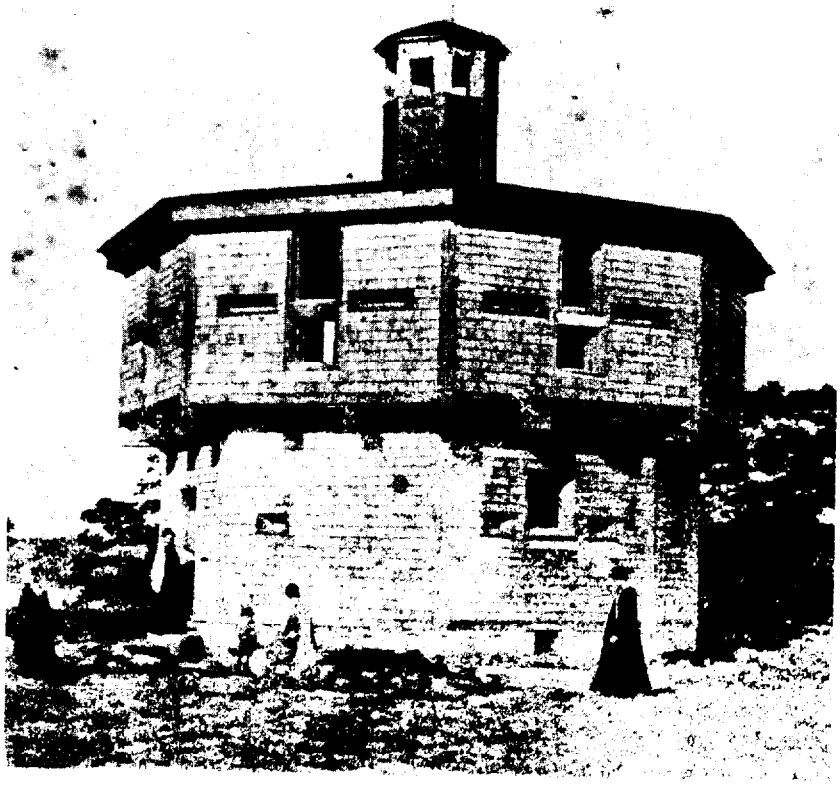
An account of receipts and expenditures will be kept and be open to the inspection of all contributors.

We trust that the response to this appeal will be PROMPT AND LIBERAL, THAT THE PROPOSED REPAIRS may be proceeded with forthwith.

WISCASSET, AUGUST, 1875.

Fig. 3. 1985 fund-raising poster

Fig. 4. Fort Edgecomb Blockhouse (post-1875)



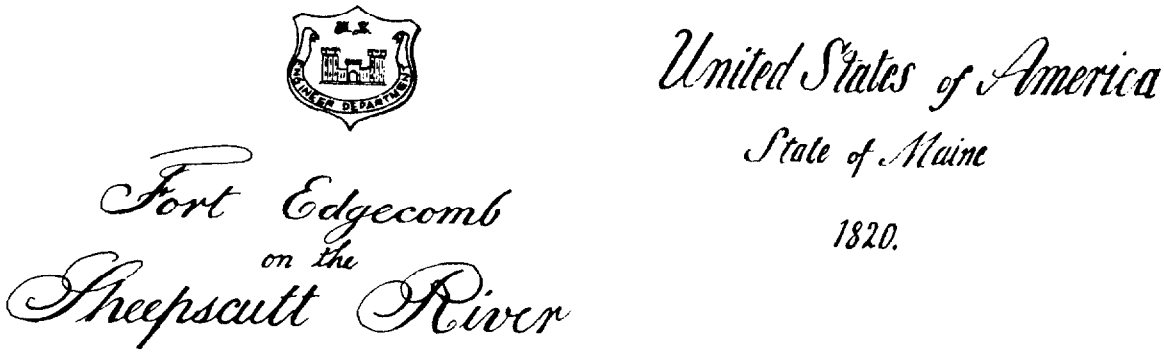


Fig. 5. 1820 Corps of Engineers Survey Map (re-drafted).

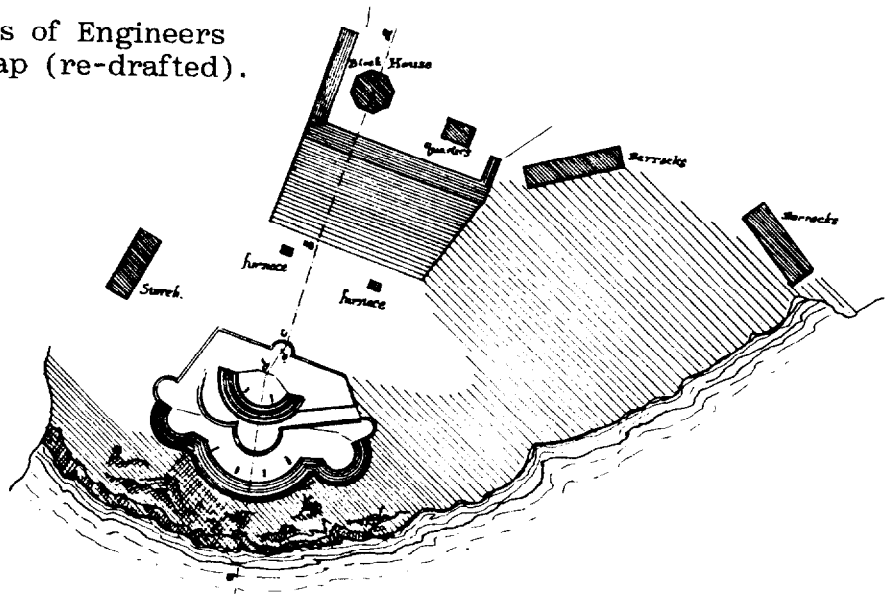


Fig. 6. Vertical aerial view of Fort Edgecomb.

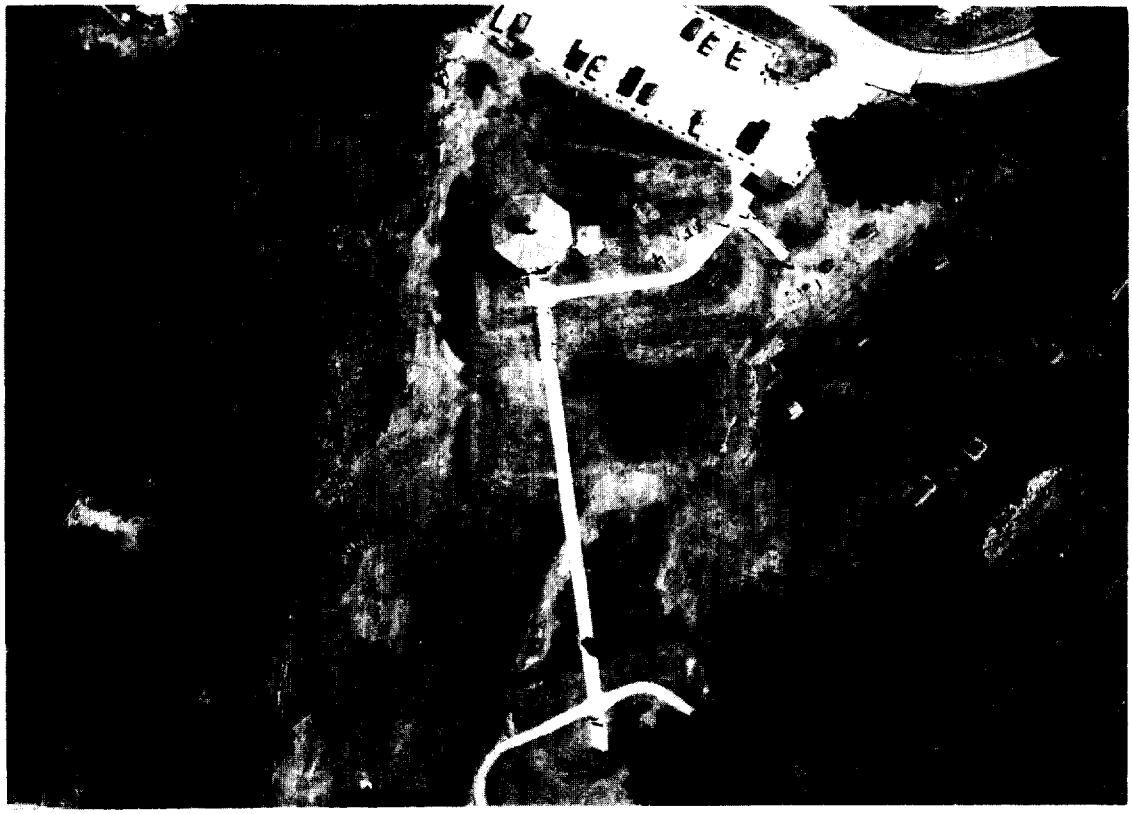
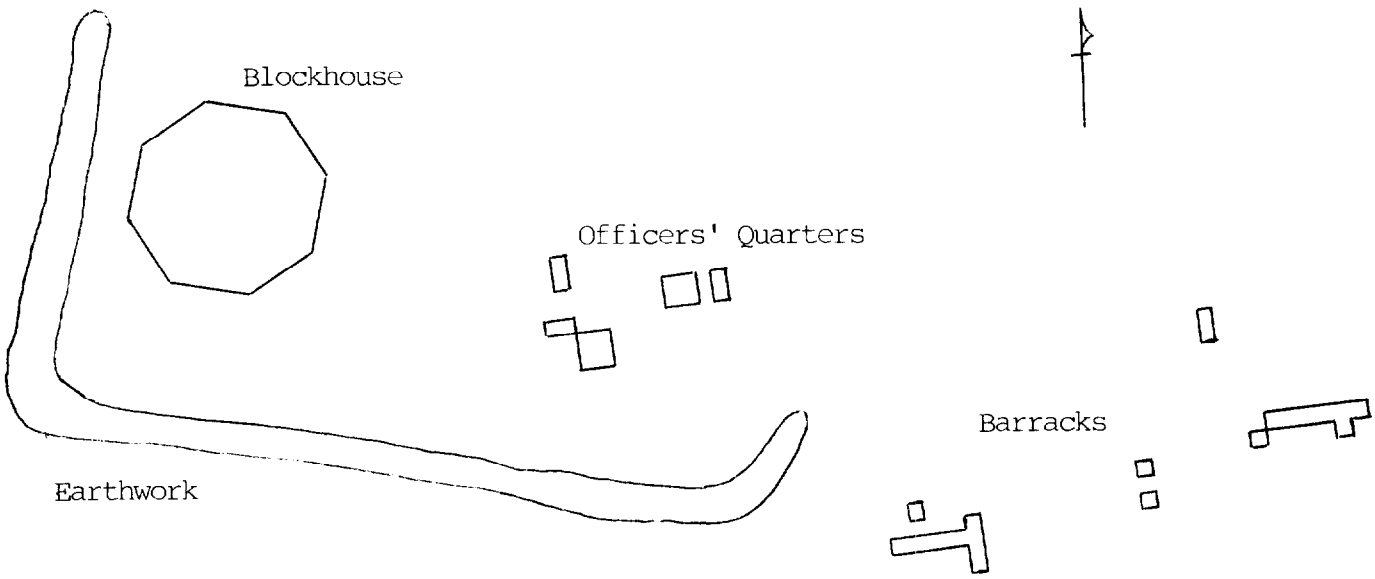


Fig. 7. General Plan of Excavated Areas



(Scale 1:360)

facilitated by an existing complete plan of the park (scale 1:360) with 2-foot contour intervals, drawn by Wadsworth and Boston, Architects in 1961. Excavation proceeded by trowelling, with all back-dirt passed through quarter-inch screen. A plan was drawn for each stratum in each test unit, as well as at least one profile (these are available for study in the files of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission).

Archaeology: Goals

The principal focus of the project was the investigation of two of the fort's lost buildings, the officers' quarters and the western enlisted men's barracks (figure 7). Several hypotheses were to be tested: 1) the Federal survey map of 1820 would be found to be accurate; 2) the two buildings would be represented by simple fieldstone footings of two or three courses encountered at a shallow depth below surface (less than a foot); and 3) few artifacts (other than architectural/structural) would be encountered, given the short documented occupation of a few months in 1814 and in 1815 by a small militia garrison, and an even more limited and casual use in 1864. It was, however, expected that the usual high volume of clay pipe fragments would be encountered, typical of virtually all Maine military sites, almost regardless of length and size of occupation. The authors guessed that at least one hundred of these would be recovered. There were to be several big surprises.

Archaeology: Structural Features

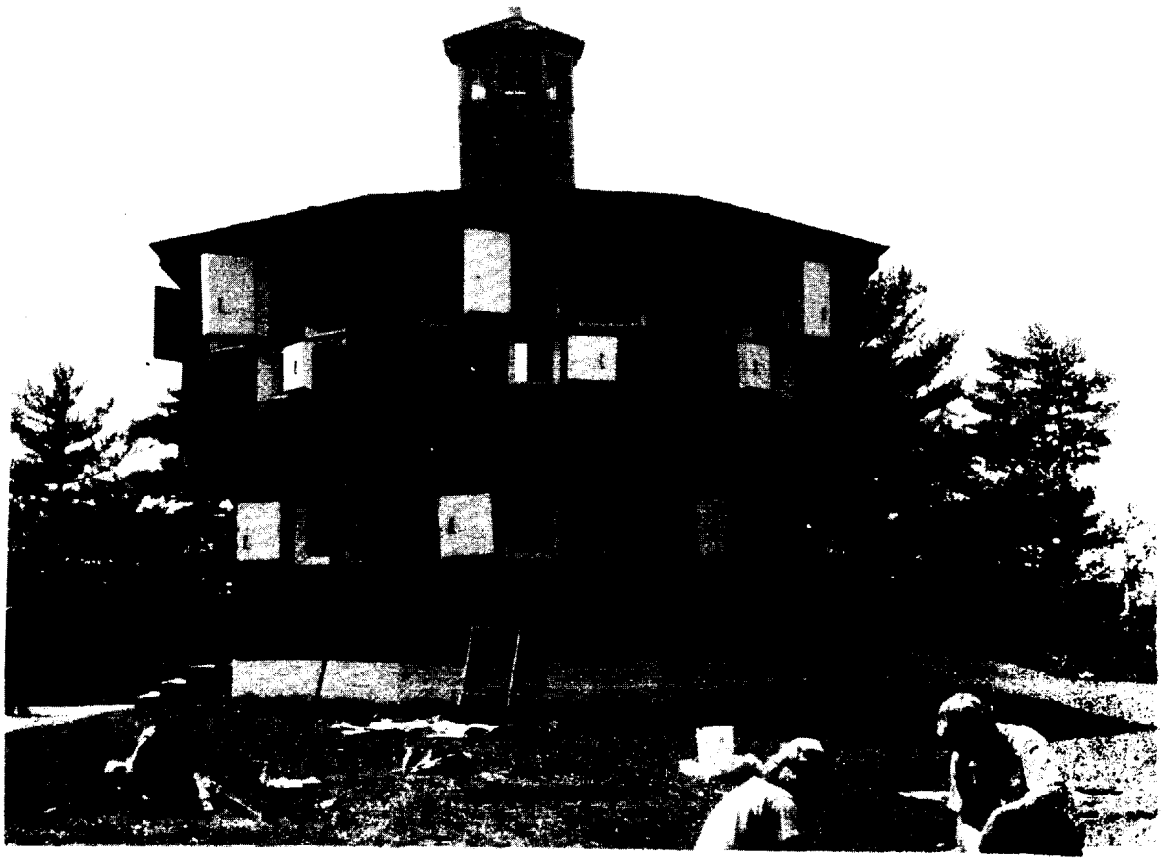
In terms of the three hypotheses to be tested, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers survey map of 1820 (figure 5) proved to be very accurate in pinpointing the locations and general size in plan of the two buildings in question. However, the map gives no hint of construction materials or any other details. On the other hand, with regard to the second hypothesis (the nature of the footings of the two buildings), both the officers' quarters and enlisted men's barracks confounded our hypothesis, and in entirely different ways.

The Officers' quarters foundation supported a small (20 x 17-foot) building immediately adjacent to the east side of the blockhouse (see figure 9). But instead of a couple or three courses of fieldstone to keep sills above grade, a full cellar almost 7 feet deep was encountered, supported by massive dressed granite slabs (figures 10 and 11). Mortar stains on the top of these stone footings marked the positions of bricks which had been toppled into the cellar during demolition sometime after 1820. Structurally, these quarters were therefore equivalent to the blockhouse, which features six courses of bricks above granite foundation walls (see figure 8). Therefore, the officers' quarters confounded our structural hypothesis by being far more substantial and permanent than we had predicted. Certainly, for a building of its size, these quarters were overbuilt.

The enlisted men's barracks, however, were another matter (figure 12). The 1820 survey map shows a long, rectangular block to the east/southeast of the officers' quarters which clearly was designed to fit a terrace one level down from the blockhouse and officers' quarters. Excavations here (figures 13, 14) yielded initially baffling results, as virtually no fieldstone was encountered. Instead, rotten wood was uncovered, some of the pieces of which were articulated. The first thought was that we had not yet found the stone footings and were looking at parts of the collapsed building's frame. Ultimately, however, it became clear that this wood was in fact the intact sills of the barracks (about 64 x 18 feet), laid directly on grade with occasional cobble shims (figure 15). Therefore, the enlisted men's barracks confounded our structural hypothesis by being far less substantial and permanent than we had predicted.

This stark dichotomy between the structural nature and quality of the bases of the officers' quarters and enlisted men's barracks has no archaeological parallel in any other Maine fort of any period thus far studied, and the authors are unaware of an equivalent dichotomy

Fig. 8. Testing the Officers' Quarters Adjacent to the Blockhouse.



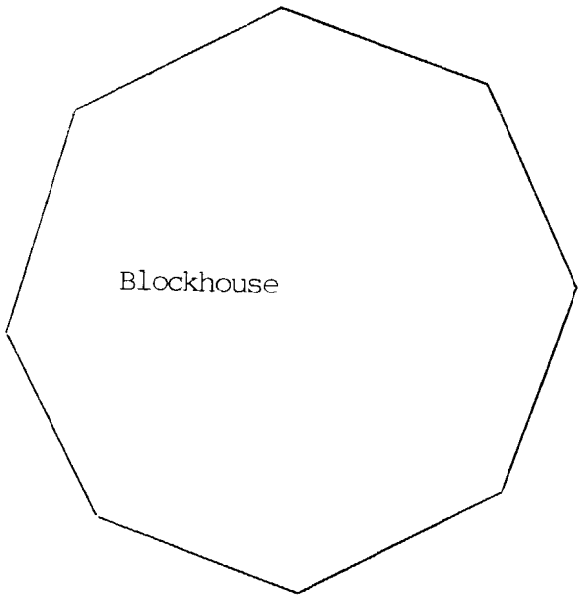


Fig. 9. Plan of Officers' Quarters and Test Units.

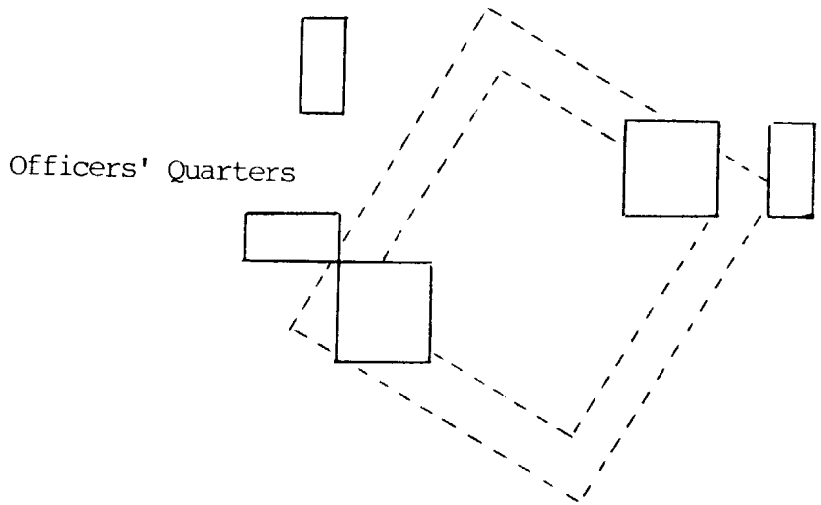


Fig. 10. Interior of West Corner, Officers' Quarters.

Fig. 11. Exterior of East Corner, Officers' Quarters.

Fig. 12. Plan of Barracks and Test Units

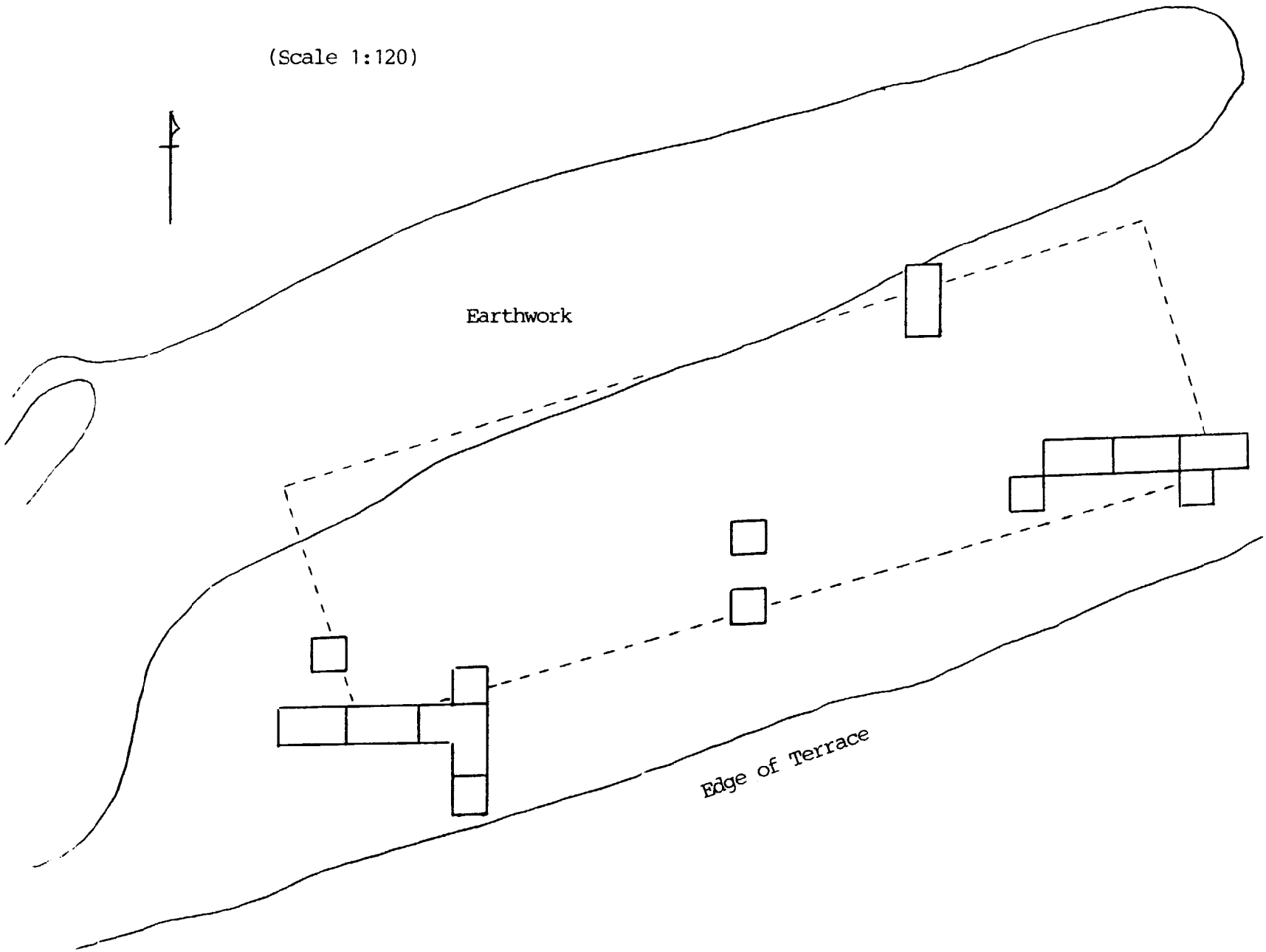


Fig. 13. Testing of Barracks Area, View from West.

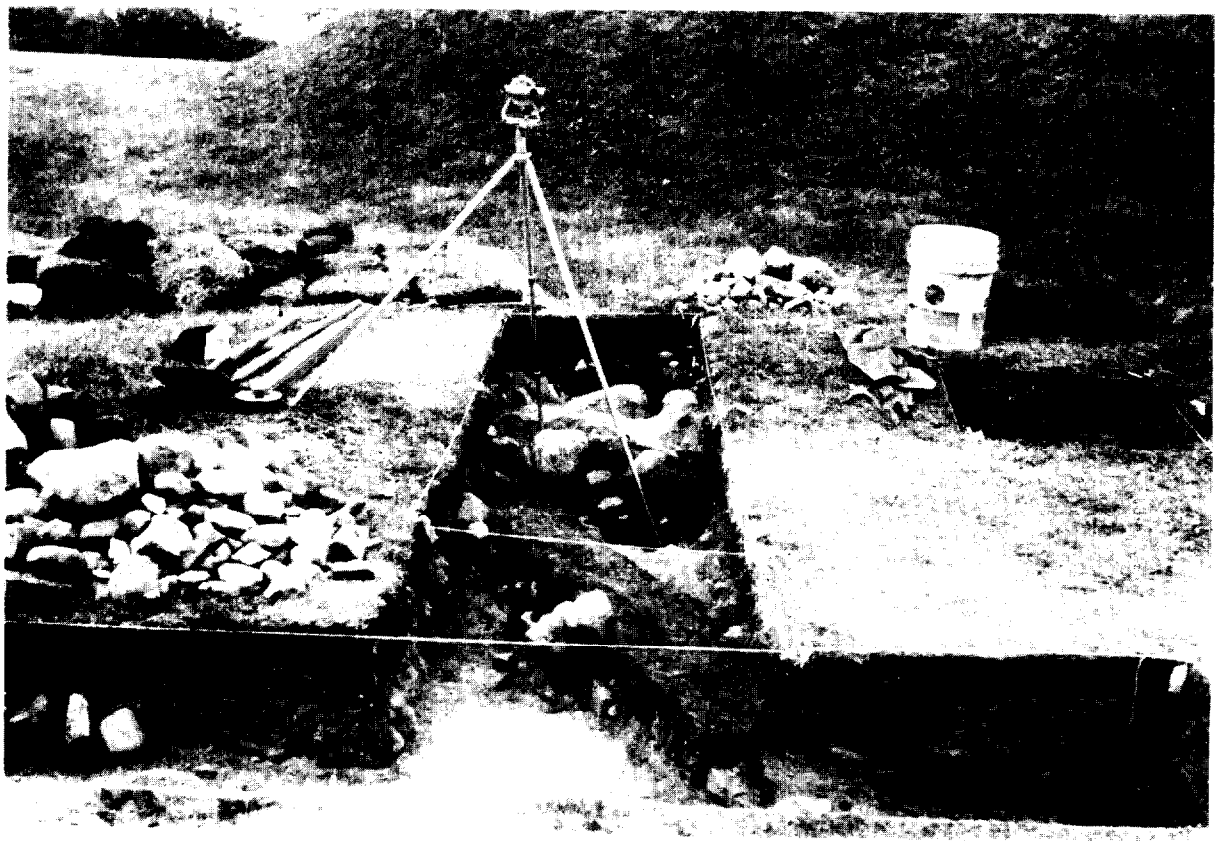


Fig. 14. Testing of Barracks Area, View from East.

Fig. 15. Southwest Corner of Barracks Sills

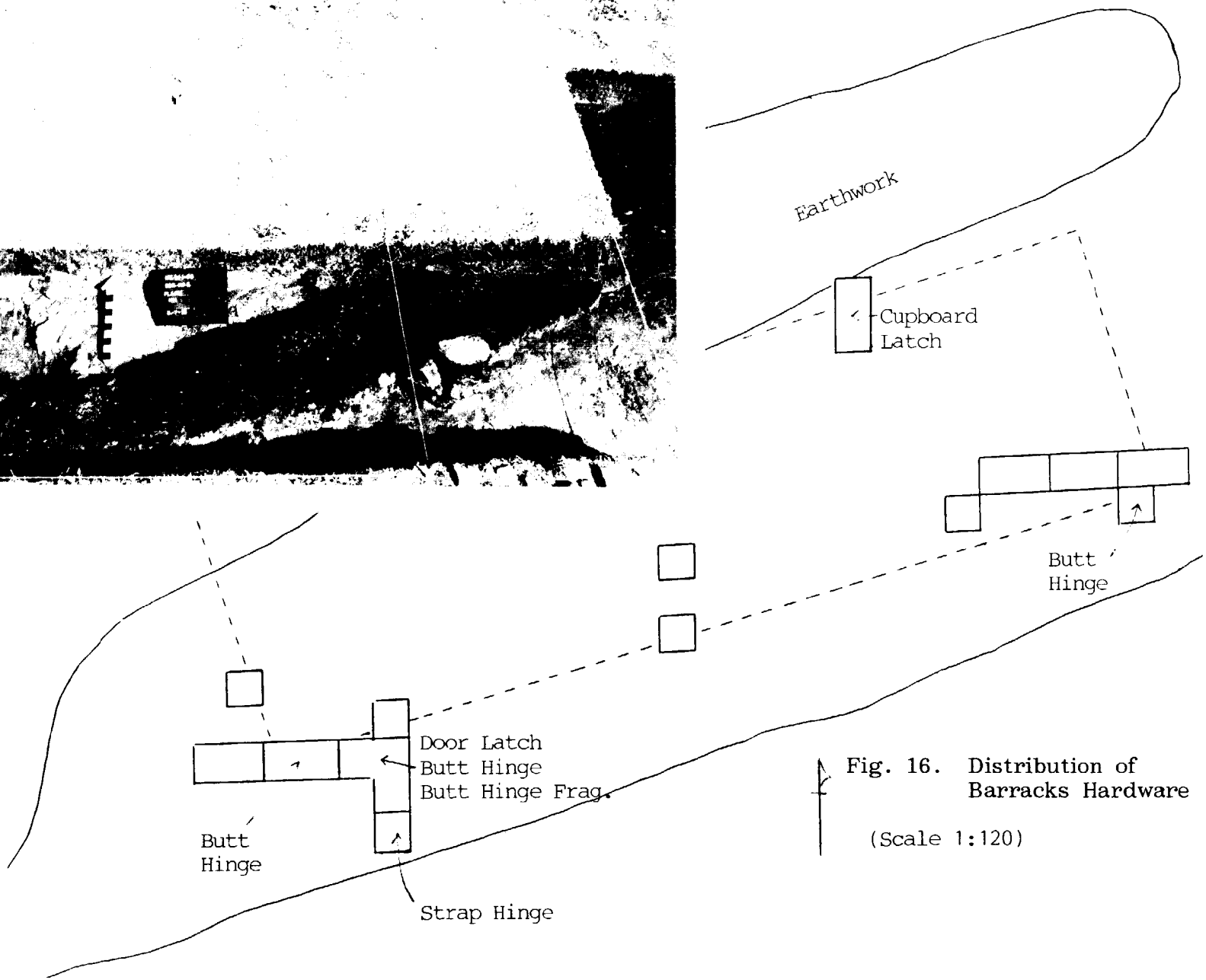


Fig. 16. Distribution of Barracks Hardware

(Scale 1:120)

anywhere else. Whether this will prove standard at other "Second System" forts in Maine at such time as they may be sufficiently tested remains to be seen. For the moment all one can say is that there was an exaggerated class system in the minds of the builders of 1808!

Archaeology: Structural Artifacts

There was no way to preduct the volume of artifacts relating to the structures which would be encountered, since there are no records of when after 1820 the two buildings in question ceased to exist. Obviously, buildings allowed to gradually collapse or which accidentally burn will tend to yield far more hardware than those which are deliberately salvaged or dismantled. As it happens testing of the officers' quarters recovered no hardware, while the barracks yielded 7 such artifacts: 1 door latch (hasp), 1 strap hinge, 4 butt hinges, and 1 cupboard latch. Because of the limited percentage of each building tested, however, it would be rash to draw conclusions from this. Likewise, the pattern of hardware distribution in the barracks (figure 16) is suggestive of an entrance near the southwest corner (hasp, strap hinge) and possible window shutters in the same area, as well as at the eastern end (butt hinges), but the sample is far too limited for any degree of certainty.

Window glass fragments were found in association with both buildings (so at least the barracks were glazed!). The number of pieces from the officers' quarters is very small (59), mostly from the side facing the blockhouse west. Although the sample may well be biased, it is possible that the sash and lights from the quarters were at least in part removed for salvage. The barracks' total of 581 is far greater with a particularly large concentration around the southwest corner, suggestive of a window(s) in that vicinity (figure 17).

Nails, both hand-wrought, transitional, and early full-machined were found. This is consistent with sites of the Federal Period. For the purposes of this study they have been subdivided into two types of function: structural and lathing. In neither building did nails of either type form any patterns, but the totals are revealing. The officers' quarters yielded 68 structural nails and 279 lathing nails, while the barracks produced 729 structural and not one lathing nail. The officers' house had a finished interior, while the enlisted men, it seems, stared at open framing and the inside face of the barracks' sheathing.

Bricks and fragments thereof also formed no recognizable patterns in either building, except that the cellar of the officers' quarters--at least at the west corner--contained a deep demolition stratum of bricks, many of which had been toppled off the top of the stone footings. The barracks, in contrast, contained a thin scatter of brick fragments in nearly every test unit. At this point the locations of hearths and chimneys are unknown.

Archaeology: Faunal Remains

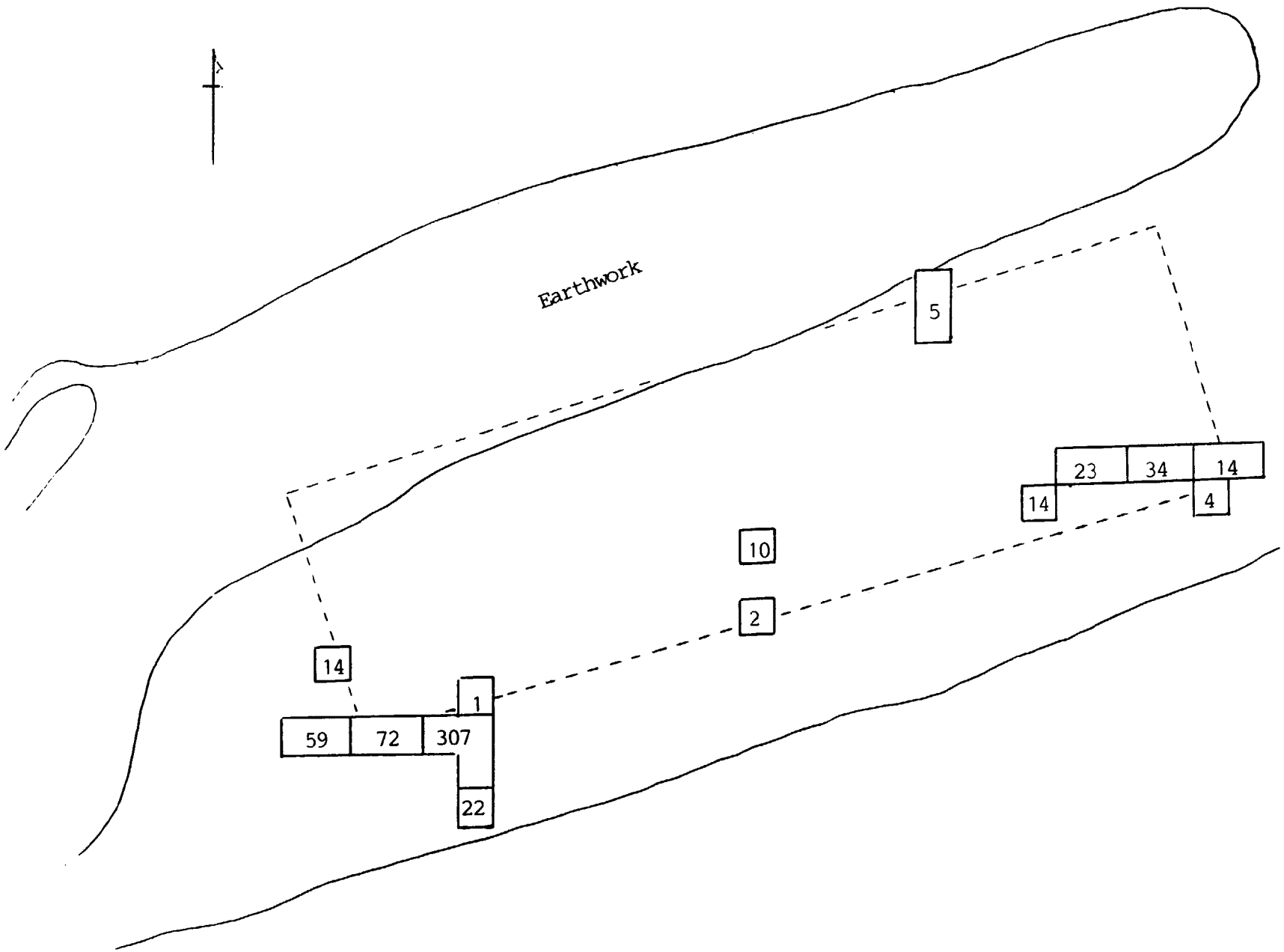
Although no detailed analysis of faunal remains has yet been undertaken, these can at least be divided into two groups: vertebrate and invertebrate. The vertebrate presumably represent mostly or all bones of domesticates, while the invertebrate are almost exclusively soft-shell clam. No obvious concentrations were identified in either building, but some preliminary observations can be made. Food was consumed in both buildings, meaning that each doubled as a mess, respectively, for officers' and enlisted men. Total counts from the buildings are reflective of building size and number of occupants:

officers' quarters:	45 bone, 9 shell
barracks:	358 bone, 75 shell

The only other observation here would be the test unit which straddles the northern sill of the barracks (20S/147.5E). Here all finds lay outside

Fig. 17. Distribution of Barracks Window Glass Fragments.

(Scale 1:120)



of the building, suggesting the proximity of a door or window through which garbage was thrown.

Archaeology: Non-Structural Artifacts

It should be recalled that the third hypothesis to be tested predicted that few non-structural artifacts would be encountered, given the fact that Fort Edgecomb is virtually a single-component site with a very short-term and small-scale occupation.

This was certainly born out by the volume of ceramics recovered, which can be summarized as follows:

	Officers' Quarters	Barracks
Redware	4	272
Creamware	26	74
Pearlware	49	306
Porcelain	0	3
Yellow-Ware	0	7
Hardwhite	0	59
Totals	79	721

While the total for the barracks may seem large, in fact dropping a single plate can create dozens of sherds. The total ceramic count for the officers' quarters is particularly scant, reflecting either the small number of vessels in use or a more orderly life-style. At the same time one might assume that officers' meals were prepared elsewhere before being served in the quarters, hence breakage was more likely to occur elsewhere. The only anomalous ceramic types present are the hardwhite and yellow-ware, which date to the later 19th century; all 59 sherds of hardwhite were clustered at the western end of the barracks and may reflect the minimal 1864 use of the fort. Indeed, the barracks ceramics of 1814/15 were most heavily concentrated at this same end of the building, though they were found in varying quantities in all test units. Interestingly, the vast majority of sherds from the barracks were found outside the building, indicating that the wooden floor was swept clean of debris at least periodically.

Archaeology: Firearms-Related Artifacts

Of weapons-related artifacts, few were found, and these only in association with the barracks. These amounted to 4 gunflints, 2 musket balls, and 2 pieces of swan shot. Presumably more of this class of artifacts would be encountered downhill in the vicinity of the fort's principal batteries and magazine.

Archaeology: Recreation-Related Artifacts

As stated above, an exception to hypothesis 3 was expected with regard to clay pipe fragments. It was therefore a complete surprise to recover no such artifacts in the vicinity of the officers' quarters and just 11 in the barracks are (5 stem fragments, 6 bowl fragments). Considering that 225 square feet of the residential part of the fort were sampled, this is an insignificant total and could mean one of two things. Either smoking was not allowed in or near these buildings or the garrison was using non-clay pipes, such as corn-cob and reed. The latter is possible, given the relative unavailability of British-made (Scottish) clay pipes during the period from the Embargo of 1807 and the ensuing War of 1812. To be sure, Ft. Sullivan yielded 225 pipe fragments,(5) but how many of these were used by Americans prior to the 1814 British capture of Eastport is very hard to determine. In any case Eastport was a paradise for smugglers from 1807 on, so no safe comparison can be made. Of the handful of Fort Edgecomb pipes, no makers' marks are present and the only decoration represented is one fragment of a fluted bowl, identical to one of the same period from Fort Sullivan.(6)

An equivalent finding relates to fragments of alcoholic beverage containers, as summarized below:

	Officers' Quarters	Barracks
Wine Bottle Fragments	19	5
Beer Bottle Fragments	1	6
Wine Glass Fragments	0	11
Totals	20	22

On balance the recreation-related artifacts are so miniscule in volume that the authors strongly suspect that the garrison was prohibited from smoking and drinking within the precinct of the fort. Perhaps such a policy was enforced precisely because the men were militia, rather than regulars, and therefore suspect in the eyes of their Regular Army officers. Further excavations on the site might show that an as yet untested building, such as the eastern barracks, was set aside for "sins." For the moment this is all that can be said.

Archaeology: Personal Context Artifacts

The only artifacts of a personal context which were recovered were 44 buttons, 1 cufflink, and 1 small iron chain. These were distributed between the buildings as follows:

	Officers' Quarters	Barracks
Buttons: Military, Pewter	0	22
Buttons: Civilian, Pewter	1	0
Buttons: Plain Brass	1	7
Buttons: Decorated Brass	0	2
Buttons: Bone	1	6
Buttons: Iron	0	2
Buttons: Shell	0	1
Buttons: Jet	0	1
Cufflinks	0	1
Chain, Iron	0	1
Totals	3	43

As the above totals indicate, most of the artifacts of this class were encountered in the area of the barracks. Figure 18 shows the range of pewter military buttons found, most of which simply carry the letters "U.S." These are "General Service" buttons, issued to all military personnel beginning in 1808 and most heavily during the period 1812-15. They were for use on fatigues, but were put on uniforms if regimental buttons were lacking.(7) Less common are infantry buttons, first issued in 1812, featuring a script "I" (figure 18, second row, third from left, third row, second from right).(8) One example of the 1798 infantry issue was found (figure 18, second row, third from right). These were struck in anticipation of the raising of twelve new infantry regiments to supplement the four then in existence. Since the new units were never formed, buttons with numbers 5 through 16 were subsequently issued as surplus to militia.(9) It is entirely appropriate, therefore, to have found a button for the mythical 7th Regiment at Fort Edgecomb. Another type of military button (figure 18, second row, second and last; third row, second, fifth and last) represent the infantry issue of 1811. One of these (figure 18, second row, last) carries the inscription "4R" beneath the eagle, and thus is solely a regular army button of the period. Perhaps one or two regulars stopped in at the fort to help train the militia. This, however, is as yet undocumented. Significantly, Fort Sullivan has likewise produced at least one button from an existing regiment which is known not to have served there.(10) Quartermasters may have been less than exact in issuing button consignments. Finally, figure 18 (second row, first) shows another infantry issue of 1811, with an eagle and surrounding inscription, "INFANTRY REGIMENT"; the name "Richards," a small eagle, the letters "? ? ? ES" appear on the reverse, constituting the maker's mark. Efforts are continuing to trace Mr. Richards.

Plain brass buttons with flat fronts, common in all periods from the 18th century on, are illustrated in figure 19. They could have been used by civilians or civilian militia. Figure 20 illustrates the 7 flat disc buttons of bone, commonly found on 18th- and 19th-century sites of all types and used primarily as shirt fastenings (collar, front, cuffs). Also illustrated (second from right and last) are a civilian shell (mother-of-pearl) button and a cone-shaped civilian button of jet. Figure 21 illustrates the remaining miscellany of civilian personal items

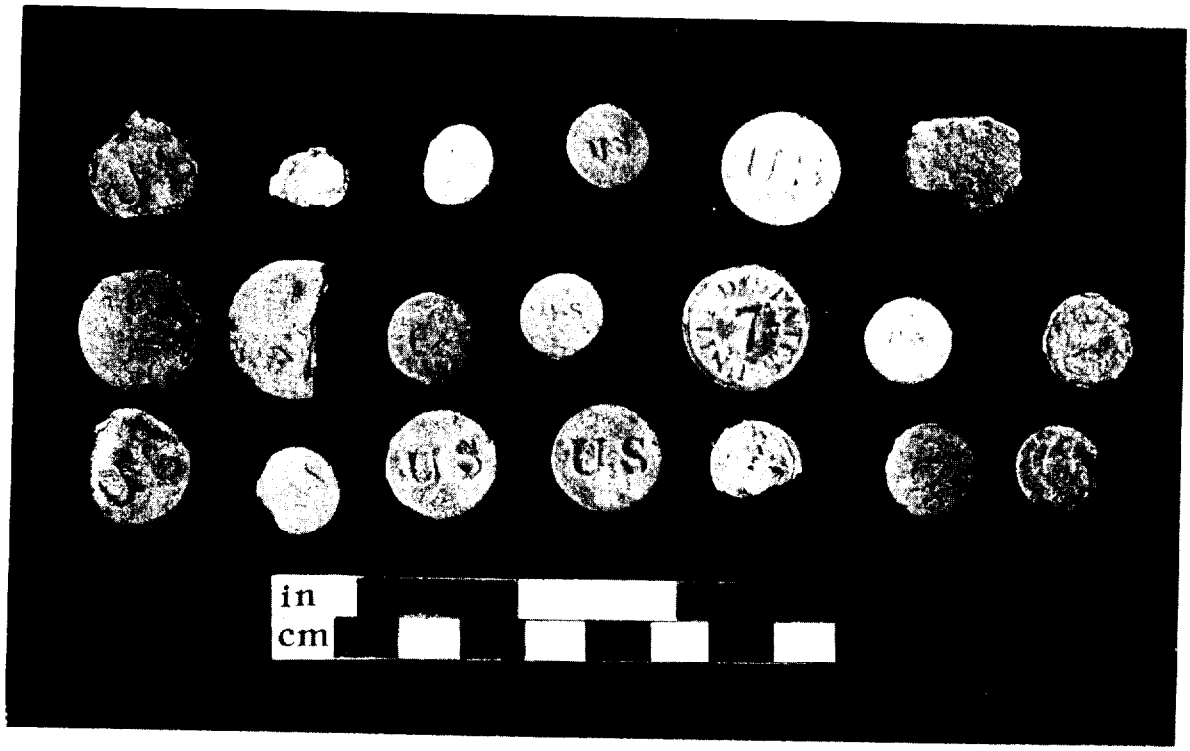


Fig. 18. Pewter Military Buttons.

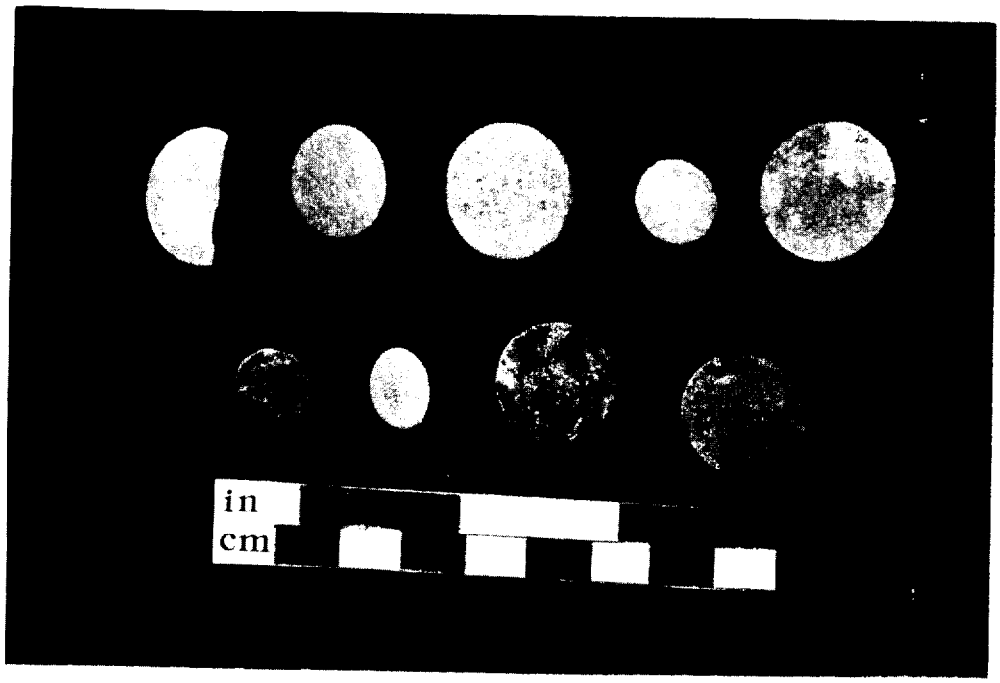


Fig. 19. Plain Brass Buttons.

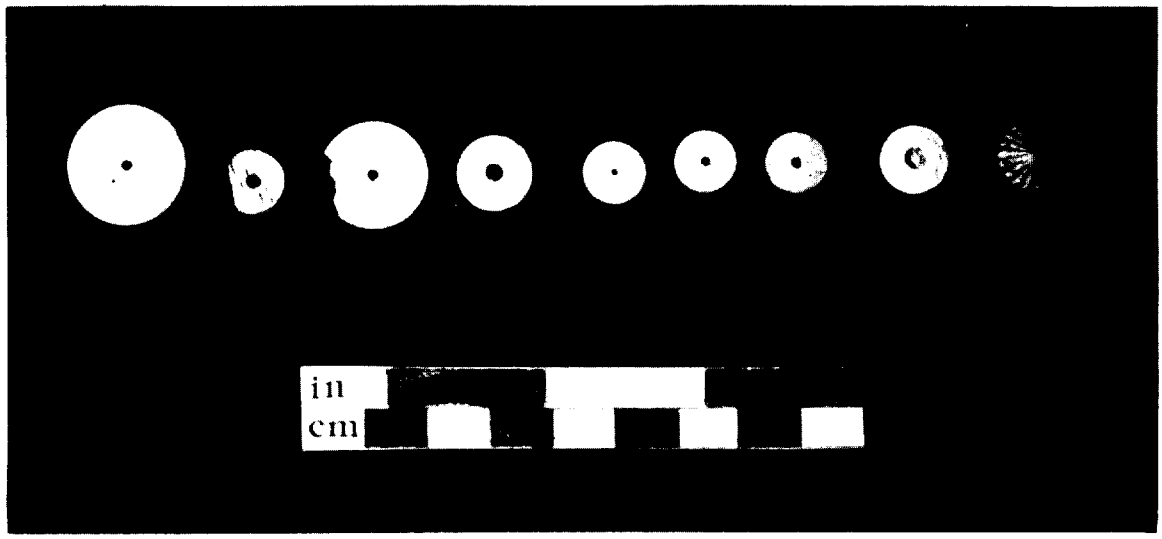


Fig. 20. Civilian Buttons of Bone, Shell and Jet.

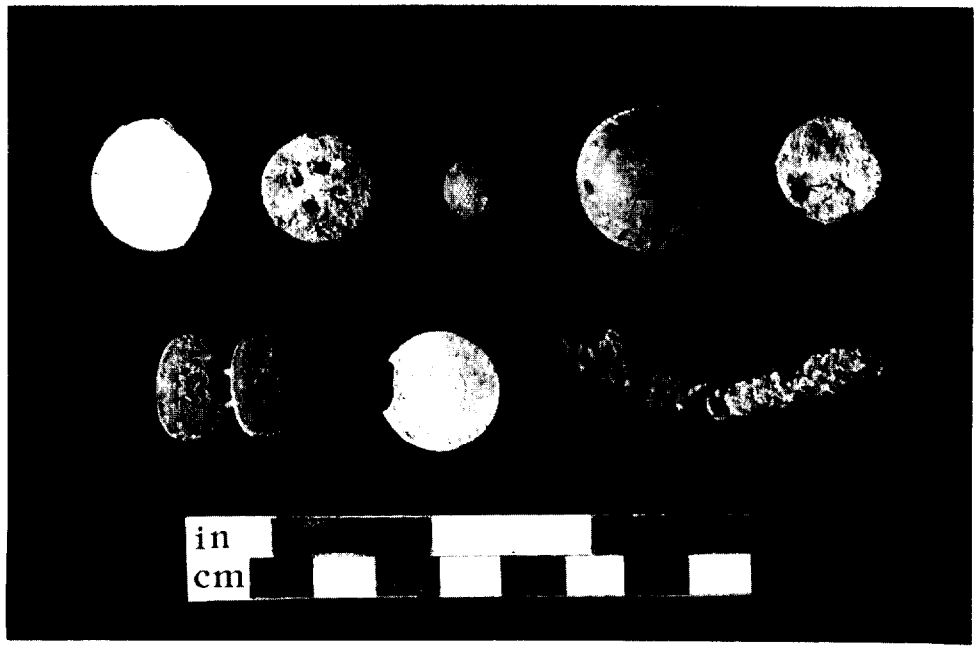


Fig. 21. Miscellaneous Personal Items.

found: buttons of pewter, iron and brass, brass cufflinks of the late 18th or early 19th century and a short length of a small iron chain which may have been part of some military gear. Such a miscellany of apparently civilian items was likewise found at Fort Sullivan.(11)

Although most of the buttons, both military and civilian, were found in the area of the barracks, they were fairly evenly scattered about the site; therefore, the military ones should not represent an extra supply left behind in 1815. Given the short duration of the fort's occupation and the small size of the garrison, it was a surprise to find so many buttons lost or discarded by the enlisted men. In the realm or pure speculation, let us imagine troops quartered in a marginal building, cut off from women, tobacco and alcohol for long periods of time, bored by inactivity, and angry about the most unpopular war in New England's history. Perhaps there was a lot of fighting amongst themselves (imagine the buttons popping off shirts and coats), or perhaps when their duty ended they cut off their military buttons, so representative of a hated Federal Government, and cast them away as a defiant gesture. Further excavation might just help to explain this anomaly.

Summary

The 1985 excavations at Fort Edgecomb yielded diverse information on two of the former buildings in the complex. Until this work took place their exact locations were unknown except on an unverified map, and there was no information on their exact dimensions and how they were built. One could only speculate on the potential associated artifact assemblages. These things are now all known--at least in part. There is, however, much more that can be done. The storehouse, eastern barracks and gun emplacements remain uninvestigated. The locations of a well and privies are unknown. And more could be revealed of the two buildings which were studied: where are their hearths? Where were their doors and windows? What were the internal divisions with each building? Are the 1985 artifacts truly representative, or is this small sample deceptive in one or more ways?

Nonetheless the four weeks in 1985 have been revealing, and not just because hypotheses were shattered. The data will give a whole new dimension to the Maine Bureau of Parks' management plans for the park, and they have and will likewise add a whole new dimension to the interpretation of the site for the visitor. The important by-product of public benefit and education did not suddenly cease when the test units were back-filled and the crew drove away. Fort Edgecomb will never again be the same for the historian, archaeologist, school student, and tourist.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and Herbert Hartman, Director of the Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation for their support of the co-sponsorship of the project. Sheila McDonald, Interpretive Specialist for Parks, was invaluable in helping to launch and administer the work. Edward Beach, Supervisor of Operations and Maintenance for Parks, generously provided equipment. Frank Appleby, then Park Manager of Fort Edgecomb, and his assistants, Robert Kuhn and Mellie Giles were very supportive and gracefully put up with the archaeological invasion. Brian Murray, Park Manager of Colonial Pemaquid, was very helpful with logistics and equipment. Local residents Alice Boardway and Laurence Davis provided encouragement and useful information. John Wilson, then Archaeologist with the New England Division, Army Corps of Engineers, generously gave a weekend to help, while Ken Thompson of Portland lent his extensive knowledge of the "Second System" to give the project a broader perspective. Nicholas Dean of North Edgecomb volunteered many hours of photography. Finally, our overworked,

underpaid, and sun-baked crew deserve many thanks: William Hilbish (surveyor), Sylvanus Doughty (architect and excavator), Lois Clark, Sharon Davis, and Charles Rand (excavators).

Photograph Credits

Figures 1, 6: Nicholas Dean

Figures 2, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13-15, 18-21: Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Figures 3: Collection of the Maine Historical Society

Figure 5: Re-draft of the original by Christopher Glass for the Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation

Endnotes

1. Parkman, Aubrey, Army Engineers in New England (Waltham, Massachusetts, 1978), 14. Bradley, Robert L., The Forts of Maine, 1607 - 1945: An Archaeological and Historical Survey (Augusta, Maine, 1981). 25-27 Patterson, William Davis, "Old Fort Edgecomb", Sprague's Journal of Maine History, 14:4 (1926), 164-179. Dunnack, Henry E., Maine Forts (Augusta, 1924), 90-102.

2. Industrial Journal, September 30, 1892, 1.

3. The original Corps of Engineers map is in the National Archives.

4. Charles Rand's and Neil DePaoli's limited testing in 1982 and 1983 of a lost building at Fort Sullivan in Eastport was reported in DePaoli, Neill, Beneath the Barracks: Archaeology at Fort Sullivan (Eastport, 1986), subsequent to the Fort Edgecomb project. Fort Sullivan, however, is a complex site, involving an American occupation of 1808-14, a British occupation of 1814-18, and American occupation again thereafter through most of the 19th century. It is particularly difficult in places to differentiate between the early American and British occupations.

5. DePaoli, op. cit., 69.

6. Ibid, 95

7. Campbell, J. Duncan,"Military Buttons", Mackinac History #7 (Mackinac) Island, MI, 1965), 5.

8. Calver, William Lewis and Reginald Pelham Bolton, History Written with Pick and Shovel (New York, NY, 1950), 153, 155.

9. Ibid., 153-4. Campbell, op. cit., 2.

10. DePaoli, op. cit., 2.

11. Ibid., 88-90.