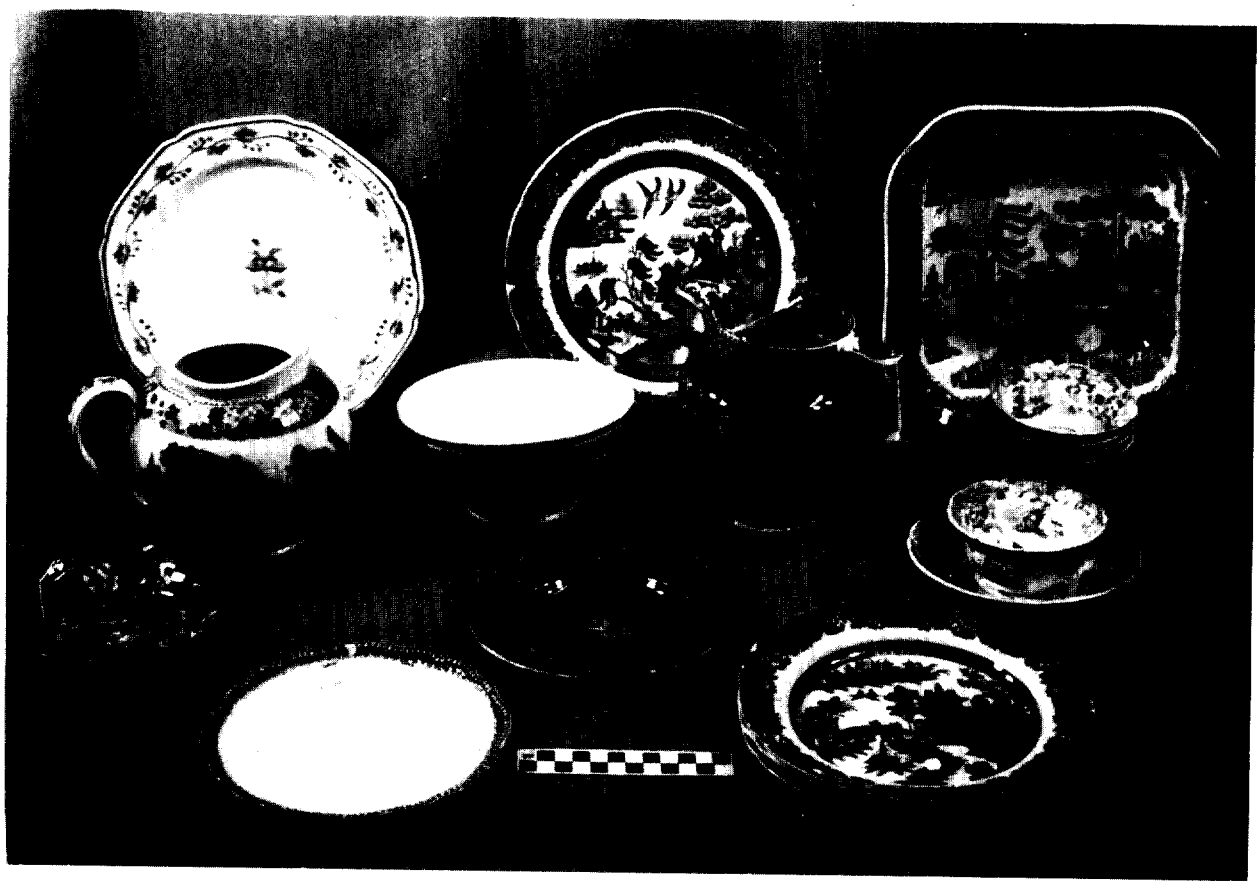
THE MAINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC. BULLETIN



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CONTENTS

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THE PURINTON HOUSE: COLONIAL AND FEDERAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN TOPSHAM

Leon Cranmer

INTRODUCTION

This report contains the results of Phase IIIA and IIIB archaeological excavations at the Purinton House, Site ME435-4, in Topsham, Maine. This work was conducted in 1990 and 1991 and was a continuation of Phase I and Phase II archaeological investigations conducted in 1988 and 1989 for the Brunswick-Topsham Bypass. (See Spiess and Cranmer 1989, and Spiess et. al. 1990.)

The Phase II excavations at the Purinton House unearthed considerable information concerning the evolution of this historic site which had long since been lost to memory and view. Subsequent excavations revealed that the Phase II work was only a hint of the vast amount of archaeological information present on this site. Phase III excavations uncovered at least three additional structures, two privies, and a substantial quantity of significant artifacts. This wealth of information affords the opportunity to do a much-needed detailed analysis of a 19th-century Maine farmsite, which can be used in future comparative studies.

The fact that the several seasons of archaeological work at this site are all interrelated necessitates a slightly expanded approach to the presentation of the data. The goals and methodology, and the fieldwork procedures for years 1990 and 1991 will be given separately by year. This background will be followed by a comprehensive examination of the results of these two years of work, a detailed analysis and discussion of all artifacts recovered from the site, and an all-inclusive discussion and conclusion.

Over the years, many people have worked on the project, both paid and unpaid volunteers, and they all deserve a note of thanks. Special mention goes to Elizabeth Trautman, Kaare Mathiasson, and John Cooper. Liz analyzed most of the faunal remains from the site, and her report follows as an appendix. Kaare and John analyzed and reconstructed much of the ceramic collection. Their work is summarized in Tables 2 and 3 of this report.

GOALS AND METHODOLOGY: 1990

Phase IIIA archaeological investigations were concentrated around the Purinton house and barn, with the historic interest centered around the house. The main goal of this phase of excavations was to answer questions which arose during the 1989 fieldwork season. Four areas around the house and one behind the barn demanded further investigation. On the eastern side of the house, Feature 2, a cellar hole, required additional work to determine the exact dimensions of the foundation and to try and locate a chimney base and possibly the method of entering the cellar. In addition, it was hoped that further excavations might help identify the period of construction of the cellar and perhaps the type of structure which sat upon it.

Four unidentified features, 12, 13, 15, and 16, located in 1989 off the northwestern corner of the existing house, suggested the possibility that this area might have been the location of the Gore garrison house. Additional work in this area would determine if this hypothesis were true, and, if so, what exactly was the Gore Garrison like. If these features do not represent the remains of the garrison, then the continued work in this area would tell us what these features do indicate.

Feature 11, located on the west side of the house at the junction of the main house and the ell or summer kitchen, was tentatively identified in 1989 as the remains of a cistern. If this identification were correct, it is unclear how the cistern was constructed, how it held water, and how the water was drawn from it. The excavation of the remainder of the rest of Feature 11 would answer these questions; and if our original identification were wrong, we would be able to correctly identify the feature.

Finally, the fourth historic area requiring further investigation was an activity area behind the existing house. In the area just south of the shed door, four unidentified features, 3, 5, 9, and 10, were found in 1989. This area was apparently the "dooryard" or work area of the farm complex as it exists today. Beside shedding more light on the features already found in this area, additional work here could tell us how this activity area changed over time as the house was expanded, and if this area was used during the garrison house period.

A fifth area of excavation was a prehistoric site located off the southeast corner of the barn. A discussion and analysis of this work will be presented as a separate section this report.

The 1990 excavation units were 1 X 1 meter test pits (or parts or combinations thereof) laid-out on the metric grid established the previous year. The method of excavation depended upon the circumstances of the excavation unit. Most pits were excavated using hand trowels only, but where the situation permitted, soils were "shaved" or "skimmed" using flat bladed shovels. All dirt was shifted through $^1/_4$" mesh screen to be sure no artifacts were missed during excavation. Photographs were taken throughout the course of the fieldwork using both black and white print and color slide film. All artifacts were taken to the Maine Historic Preservation Laboratory in Augusta where they were cleaned, conserved, cross-mended, catalogued and are temporarily stored.

FIELDWORK PROCEDURES:1990

During the 1990 field season a total of over 86 square meters was excavated around the house and an additional 39 square meters was dug at the prehistoric site off the southeast corner of the barn. (See Figure 1 for the following discussions) Work was begun on the site on August 6, 1990 and continued through September 7, 1990, totaling 24 work-days. The crew size varied from a high of 10 to a low of 4 excavators, averaging 6.6 crew members per day. We only had a total of 2 days of volunteer work provided by four volunteers. Cranmer acted as field supervisor.

The plan of the '89 excavations of the cellar hole on the east side of the existing house did not form a perfect rectangle as it should have, so it was necessary to further define the corners of this structure. A 2 X 2 meter test unit was opened at N220/21 E136/37 to locate the southeast corner of this structure, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 140 cm. below the surface. A 2 X 4 meter test unit was excavated at N229/30 E134-37 to redefine the northwest corner of the structure and to uncover this north wall, looking for the remains of a possible chimney. The excavation of this trench necessitated the re-opening of N230 E135, which was excavated the previous year. To help gain further information about this structure, a long trench was excavated along an east/west line through the center of the cellar. This 2 X 8 meter test unit was located at N225/26 E131-38, and involved the re-opening of N225 E135. This trench was excavated to a depth 60 cm. below surface at the western end outside the cellar to a maximum depth of 130 cm. inside the cellar.

Two other areas on the east side of the existing house were explored to see if an original occupation surface relating to the buried cellar hole could be found. These two areas would also test potentially significant spots adjacent to the existing house. One of these areas was a 2 x 2 meter test unit at N219/20 E123/24, located against the ell, between the house and shed. This unit was excavated to an average depth of 85 cm. below the surface. The other test area was aligned with the north wall of the cellar (Feature 2) and began against the existing house at N229/30 E128.75-30, and excavated to a maximum depth of 55 cm. below the surface.

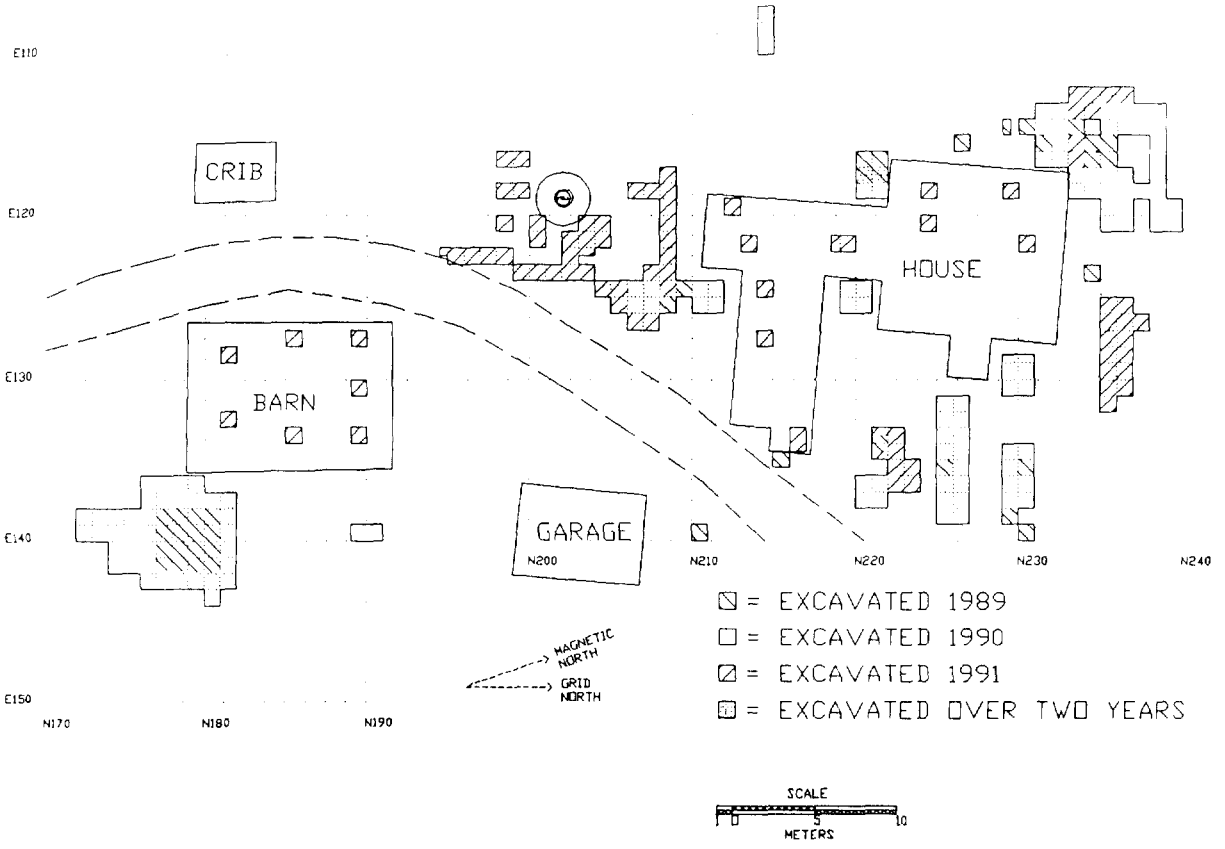


Figure 1. Overall site plan of the Purinton House Site showing excavations by year.

The area off the northwest corner of the existing house received extensive excavation. Test units were initially opened to further examine features discovered the previous year believed relating to the Gore garrison. In the process of pursuing these features, several additional features were uncovered resulting in the excavation of a total of 37 square meters covering much of this northwest corner from N231 to N239 and E112 to E120. Average excavation depth in this area was 40 cm. below the surface except where features were involved. Also, in following the features discovered during the 1989 excavations, three 1 X 1 meter test units were excavated at N214 E107-09.

Four square meters were excavated in the area of the possible cistern at N220/21 E117/18. The two E117 test units had been partially excavated to the top of the feature the previous year. These test units were excavated to a maximum depth of 180 cm below surface.

At the rear of the existing house, two 2 X 2 meter test units were opened to further investigate features found the previous year. (These test units couldn't be opened in 1989 because they were by the back shed door which was being used by tenants living in the house then.) The two test units were located at N206/07 E124/25 and N210/11 E124/25. Both test units were excavated to an average depth of 30-35 cm. below the surface.

GOALS AND METHODOLOGY: 1991

The main purpose for the 1991 field season, Phase IIIB, was to try and answer remaining questions from the previous field seasons. A potentially important reason (at the time) to return to the site was the opportunity to investigate the crawl spaces

under the house, ell, and shed once these structures were removed. As it turned out there were several important questions remaining from the previous seasons' work, so excavations around the exterior of the house required much more time than those below the structure. Three small areas remained with unanswered questions about them. As it turned out, one of these questions snowballed into a major project.

We were still not satisfied with the results of the work on Feature 2, the cellar hole on the east side of the existing house. The location of the southwest corner of the structure, as determined by a 1 X 1 meter test unit excavated in 1989, resulted in an odd shaped cellar, and it was hypothesized that we may not have found the actual corner as previously believed. So this area required further excavation.

Two questions remained concerning the area off the northwest corner of the existing house. Sill impressions of another structure had been found in this area during the 1990 excavations. We had determined a width for the structure, but no length. While trying to determine this measurement, we also wanted to identify by further excavation a deep feature in this area uncovered in 1990.

The third area of investigation was in the rear of the house. Here a privy had been partly excavated and several post holes exterior to the privy had been found the previous year. We wanted to complete the excavation of the privy and determine if and how the post holes related to the privy.

As the standing structures were moved we returned to excavate test units below the barn, shed, ell, and the crawl space of the main house.

Excavation techniques were the same as those followed during the preceding two field seasons. Again the previously established metric grid was used and the standard excavation unit was a 1 X 1 meter square.

FIELDWORK PROCEDURES:1991

The 1991 field season was scattered over the entire summer. The main body of excavations conducted around the exterior of the existing structures took place from April 25, 1991 through May 3, 1991, and May 13, 1991 through May 23, 1991. During these 16 days of work a total of over 59 square meters was excavated (including re-opening 7 square meters previously excavated). This work was accomplished with an average of four excavators plus Cranmer who spent 14 days on the site. A volunteer, Cara Green, was also with us for three days. The remaining fieldwork on the site was scattered throughout the summer and dependant upon the schedule of the house movers. The days worked and number of people involved (including Cranmer) were as follows: July 29, 1991, 4 workers; August 8, 1991, 2 workers; August 16, 20, & 22, 1991, 4, 5, & 5 workers, respectively; and September 3, 1991, 5 workers. Volunteers also contributed 4 days of work during this period. During these six days a total of 18 square meters was excavated at the locations the removed structures and an additional 14 square meters were excavated outside the standing structures.

In order to determine the exact shape and dimension of the cellar hole, Feature 2 on the east side of the existing house, it was necessary to open a 2 X2 meter square in the vicinity of the southwest corner of the cellar. This excavation unit was located at N221/22 E133/34, and involved the re-opening of a previously dug 1 X 1 meter excavation unit. An adjoining 2 X 2 meter square was excavated at N222/23 E135/36 any possible features remaining in the cellar hole that had been missed such as another chimney base. These test units were dug to an average depth of 160 cm. below the surface.

Investigations once again resumed off the northwest corner of the existing house where 8 square meters were excavated, including the completion of a 1 X 1 square begun the previous year at N235 E112. This square contained a sill impression and in following that impression N236 E112 was also opened. A 2 X 2 meter square was opened at N233/34 E112/13 to try and identify a previously located feature. And finally N233 E115/16 was opened to follow featured uncovered in the above mentioned 2 X 2, and an adjoining, previously excavated square at N233 E114 was re-opened. These squares were dug to an average

depth of 55 cm. below the surface, excluding the excavation of deeper features.

Extensive testing was conducted behind the existing house where a privy and exterior post holes were found in 1990. A 2 X 2 was re--opened at N206/07 E204/05 and then this was expanded 1 meter to the east. From this point the excavation branched out to the west and south and involved the excavation of an additional 36 $^{3}/_{4}$ square meters. These test pits were dug to an average depth of 35 cm. below the surface except in deeper features.

We returned on July 29, '91 after the barn had been moved. At the site of the barn we excavated seven 1 X 1 meter test units. These were located at N181 E128 & 132, N185 E127 & 133, and N189 E127, 130, & 133. These test units were excavated to between 30-40 cm. below the surface.

A small crew of two returned on August 1, '91 to excavate at the site of the shed which had just been removed from the ell. Two 1 X 1 test units were excavated at N214 E124 & 127. Both were dug to a depth of 55 cm. below the surface.

We returned once again with a larger crew on August 16, '91, the day the ell was to be moved. While we were waiting for the movers to finish, we discovered a feature off the northeast corner of the existing house. The area was excavated, more features were found, and the result was that we spent three days at the site working in this area and where the ell had been. A total of 14 square meters were opened off the northeast corner of the existing house. These test units were located N235 E125-131, N236 E125-130, and N137 E126. The depths of these squares varied greatly since the upper surface of the soil had been disturbed by earth moving equipment. Once the ell had been moved 3 $^{1}/_{2}$ square meters were excavated on that site at N212 E119, N213 E121, and N118.5/119 E121. These squares were excavated to an average depth of 30 cm. below the surface. Finally, 1 $^{1}/_{2}$ square meters were opened at the location of the three hole privy attached to the shed at N216 E133 to 134.5. These units were dug through a brick lined floor to a depth of 30 cm. below the surface.

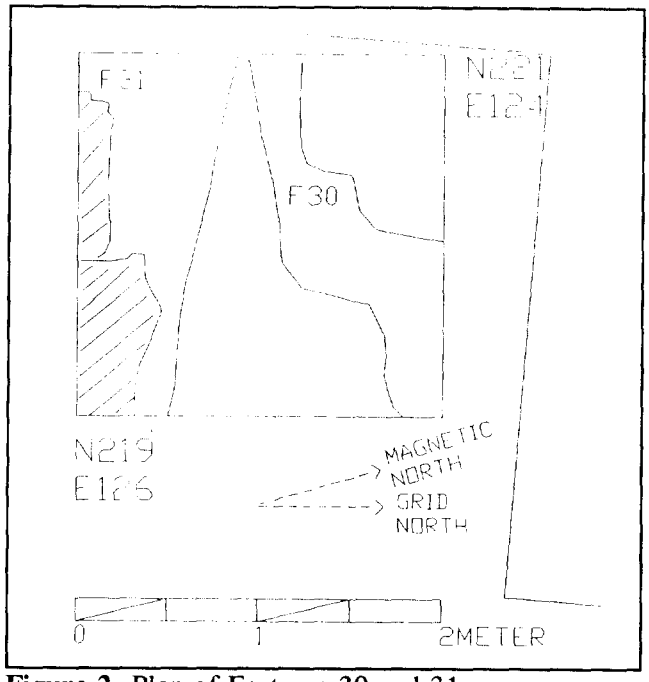


Figure 2. Plan of Features 30 and 31.

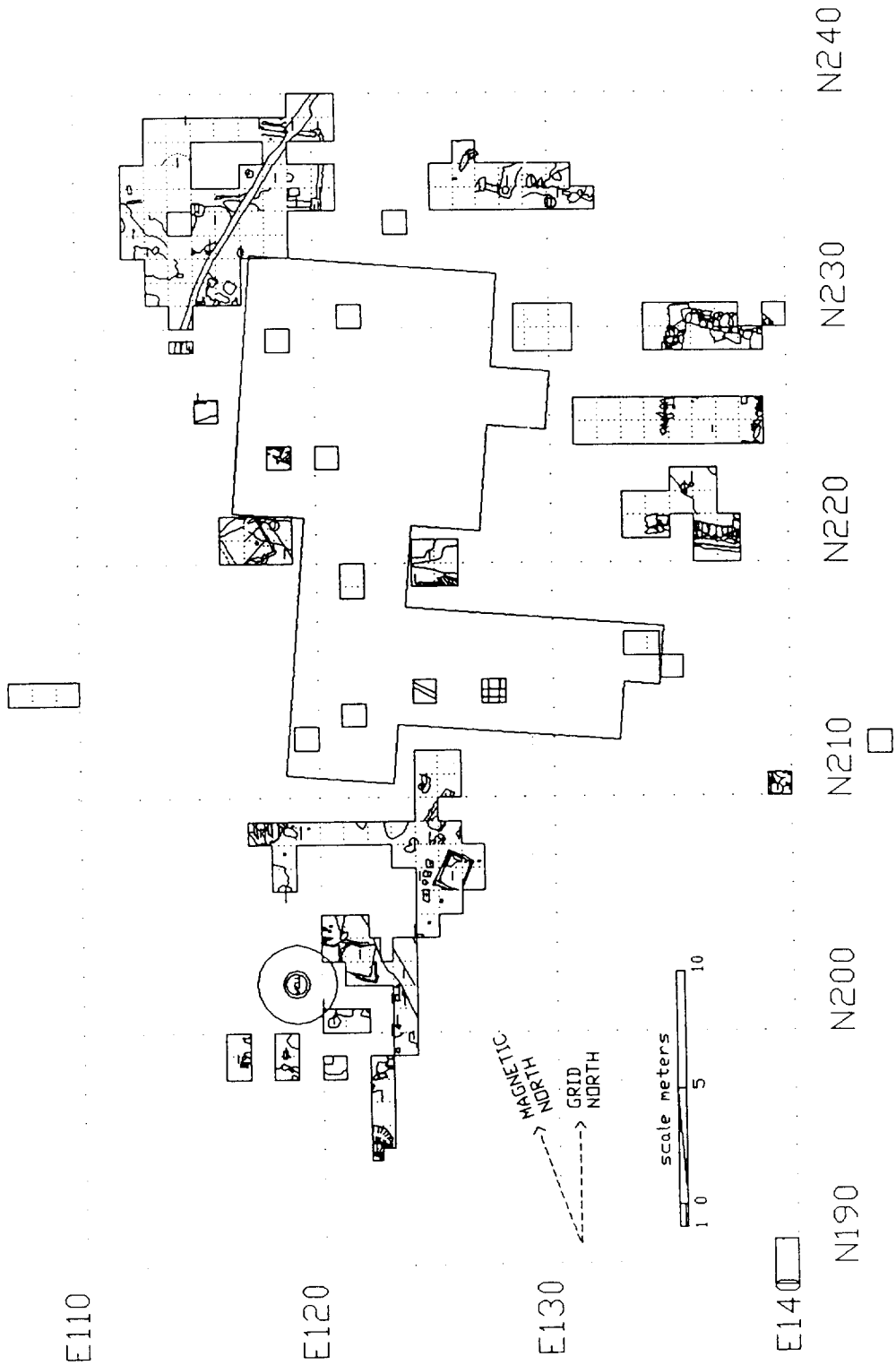
We finally returned on September 3, '91, after the main house was moved. We excavated four 1 X 1 meter test units in the crawl space area at the west side of the house. These pits were located at N224 E118 & 120, N229 E118, and N230 E121. These squares were excavated to an average depth of 30 cm. below the surface. In addition, a plan of the southern end of the house cellar was drawn with the intention that this plan might help explain some of the features we found while excavating outside the house.

RESULTS: 1990-1991

In order to organize and simplify the following material, the discussion will consist of an analysis of each area tested, beginning on the east side of the house and proceeding in a counterclockwise direction around the house. An analysis of the test units below the standing structures will follow. Results of the 1989 field season will also be included where necessary for a thorough understanding of the area or features being discussed.

A 2 X 2 meter test unit was excavated in the square of lawn created at the junction of the south

Figure 3. Partial site plan of the Purinton House Site showing all features around the existing house.



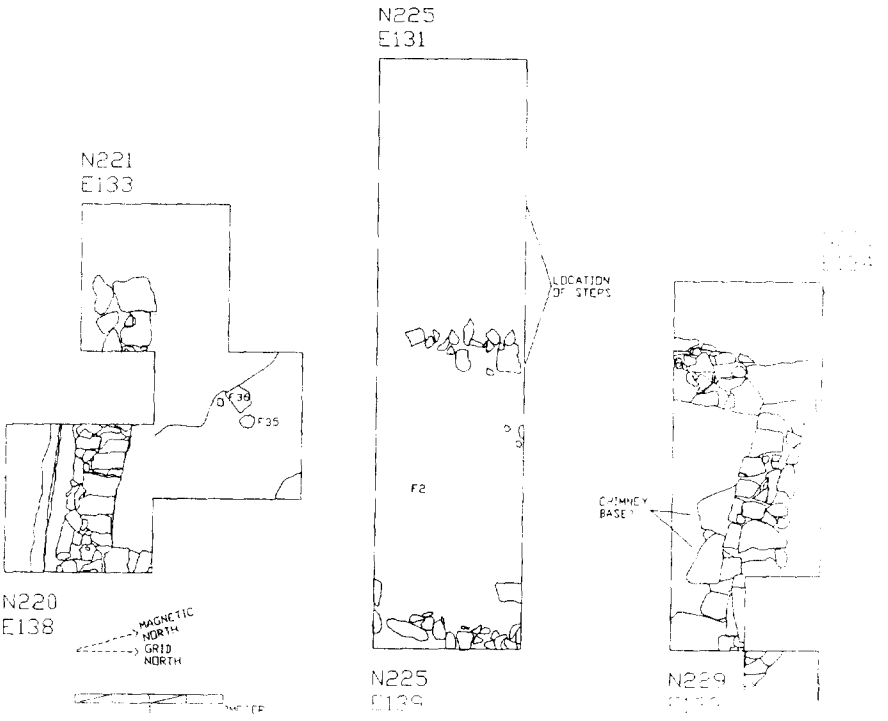


Figure 4. Plan of Feature 2, cellar hole.

wall of the main house, the east wall of the ell, and the north wall of the shed. Located at N219/20-E124/25, this test area uncovered two features, Feature 30 and Feature 31 (Figure 2). These both proved to be trenches running in a general east/west direction, and located on the north and south sides of the test unit, respectively. The test unit was excavated to a depth of 85 cm. below surface. Neither feature was completely excavated to its maximum depth when it was realized that these were probably trenches for pipes, and further work once the structure was moved should more easily identify these features.

Feature 30 lines up with an 11 cm. diameter cast iron sewage pipe located in a small alcove at the southern end of the cellar of the existing house. It is suggested that this sewage line runs out to the bank east of the house between the upper and lower driveways. Support for this hypothesis comes from the fact that during the 1989 field season, shovel test pit #5 in transect 9 (along this bank) was not excavated because the spot appeared to be an area of sewage outflow. Presumably this line was use for gray-water rather than raw sewage.

Feature 31 has not been definitely identified, but upon looking at a partial plan of the site showing features around the house (Figure 3), Feature 31 roughly aligns with Feature 19 in N219 E122 and in N220 E117/18. This suggests that this trench might have contained an overflow pipe for the cistern, Feature 11. Such an overflow pipe was found in a cistern located in the cellar of the main house. This 5 cm. diameter lead pipe exited the east wall of the cellar, 131 cm. above the cistern floor. The pipe probably ran to the bank separating the two driveways, and the pipe in the trench of Features 19 and 31 might have done the same.

Excavations at N229/30 E128.5, 129, & 130 revealed the apparent builder's trench for the cellar of the main house. The term apparent is used because an actual trench was not found due to disturbance of the upper strata of soil. Rather the trench is suggested by the presence of large rock beginning at about 20 cm. below the surface and

Figure 5. Southeast corner of excavated cellar hole, Feature 2.

extending out from the house foundation about 55 cm. These rock were apparently thrown into the builder's trench when backfilling the trench. No other features or significant artifact distributions were found which might have related to the earlier structure of Feature 2.

The excavation of Feature 2, Structure 1 cellar hole, took place during all three field seasons (Figures 4 & 5). All four corners were confirmed along with a possible external bulkhead leading into the cellar, and a chimney base. The outside dimensions of the cellar were approximately 4.5 X 10 meters (14.8' X 32.8'). This is roughly the same size as the back portion of the existing main house. In an architectural analysis of the Purinton house it was suggested that the back block of the main house was built earlier than the front block (Mohney 1989: sec. 7, 2). It would appear then that structure 2 was moved from the cellar hole of Feature 2, turned 90°, and became the back portion of the present house. A 2 X 8 meter, east/west oriented, trench was excavated through the center of the cellar hole (Figure 5). Along the north wall of this trench from E133.3 to E134.5 can be seen a series of stepped disturbances descending into the cellar hole (Figure 6). These disturbances have been interpreted as evidence of the steps of an exterior bulkhead entering the cellar through the west wall. A small alcove (appx. 140 cm wide by 70 cm deep) located by the south wall of the basement of the existing house may be the remaining evidence of this bulkhead of Structure 2. Perhaps

Figure 6. View of long trench being excavated along N225 grid line, through center of cellar, Feature 2.

this bulkhead was still used after Structure 2 was moved to create the present house and continued to be used until the ell was constructed.

The remains of a possible chimney base were located in Feature 2 along the north wall of the cellar. This evidence consisted of a few large flat fieldstones lying on the cellar floor, extending into the cellar from the north wall, and located at N228 E136/37. These rocks were built into the north wall of the foundation. Also a small amount of

Figure 7. North wall of N225 E133-34 showing location of steps for exterior bulkhead to cellar, Feature 2.

black creosote-like deposit was found among the rocks. Nevertheless, these few rocks and black deposit are a weak argument for a chimney base, but there is no other evidence of such, and most of the logical chimney locations have been excavated.

While waiting for the ell to be moved, the crew found a small quantity of bone and ceramics in backhoe disturbance off the northeast corner of the main house. When this area was cleaned to the "A/B" horizon interface, a series of features began to appear (Figure 8). Features 46, 50, and 51 were excavated and proved to be three Post holes. Feature 47 was a possible sill impression between features 46 and 48, the latter being the impression of a possible rock used to support the sill. Another apparent impression of the sill was uncovered 15 meters east in N235 E130. A circular impression near this second sill impression may represent another shim rock, but the ground was too disturbed here to truly identify this as a feature. The post hole designated Feature 50 does not quite line up on this sill line. Feature 51 post hole is way off from this sill line, suggesting an internal or end wall at right angles to the sill of Feature 47. The evidence is slim, but the combination of these features suggest they represent the remains of another buried structure (designated Structure 4). Because of the tremendous amount of ground disturbance in the area in preparation for moving the main house, further work to identify this structure was impossible.

The area off the northwest corner of the existing main house saw extensive excavation work during all three field seasons at the site (Figure 9).

Feature 12 was discovered in 1989 and was believed to be a possible palisade trench for the garrison house. This trench averaged 25-30 cm. wide and 100-110 cm. deep (below the present ground surface). Additional work on this feature in 1990 found, at N238/39 E119/220, a junction point where two trenches met. This junction point, together with the fact that the trench curved and was rather narrow, made the hypothesis that this feature was a palisade trench seem unlikely. The narrowness and curvature of the trench suggested that this was dug by mechanical means.

During the coarse of the excavations of Feature 12, it was noted that the trench seemed to run parallel to the railroad tracks. At present, the best hypothesis to explain the purpose of this trench is that it was dug for the construction of a fence or some type of barrier used while the railroad was being rebuilt and raised in 1936. Going under this assumption, three 1 X 1 test units were opened at N214 E107/08/09 to see if this fence extended that far past the house. The results were negative, but probable evidence of the original railroad was found in the form of a lens of cinder and coal, thickest on the western end toward the tracks. The negative evidence here does not change the hypothesis that this represented a fence to protect the house and occupants during railroad construction. Probably the fence ended further north about where the main part of the house ended. Further excavations to verify this hypothesis would have been difficult due to lilac bushes in the area in question.

A series of four post holes, three with wooden post remains, were found aligned with the front of the main house and running west from the northwest corner of the house. A fifth post hole with wooden post remains was found along the edge of Feature 22, north of the post hole farthest west and almost forming a right angle with the other four identified post holes. These five features, Features 41, 42, 43, 52, and 53, probably represent the remains of a picket fence used to delineate the front yard of the farmstead from the door yard and the barn yard. Setting off a formal front yard from the rest of the outdoors was a common practice from 1820 to 1860, before declining in popularity in favor of a more pastoral landscape (Hubka 1984: 70). The significance of this picket fence will be discussed in the conclusion.

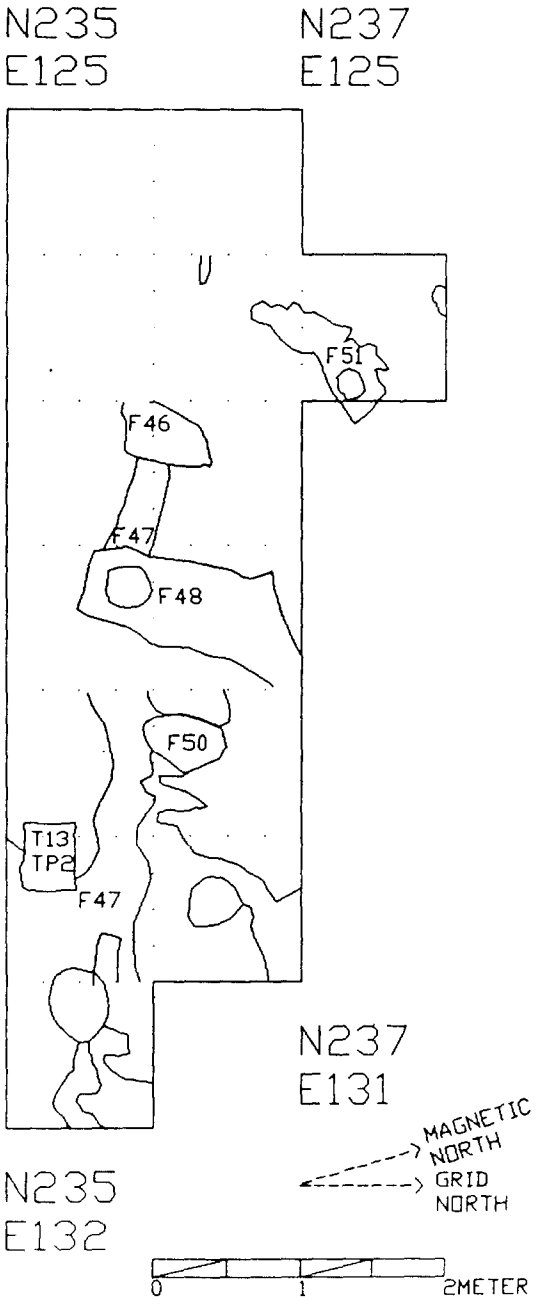


Figure 8. Plan of excavation off northeast corner of Purinton House.

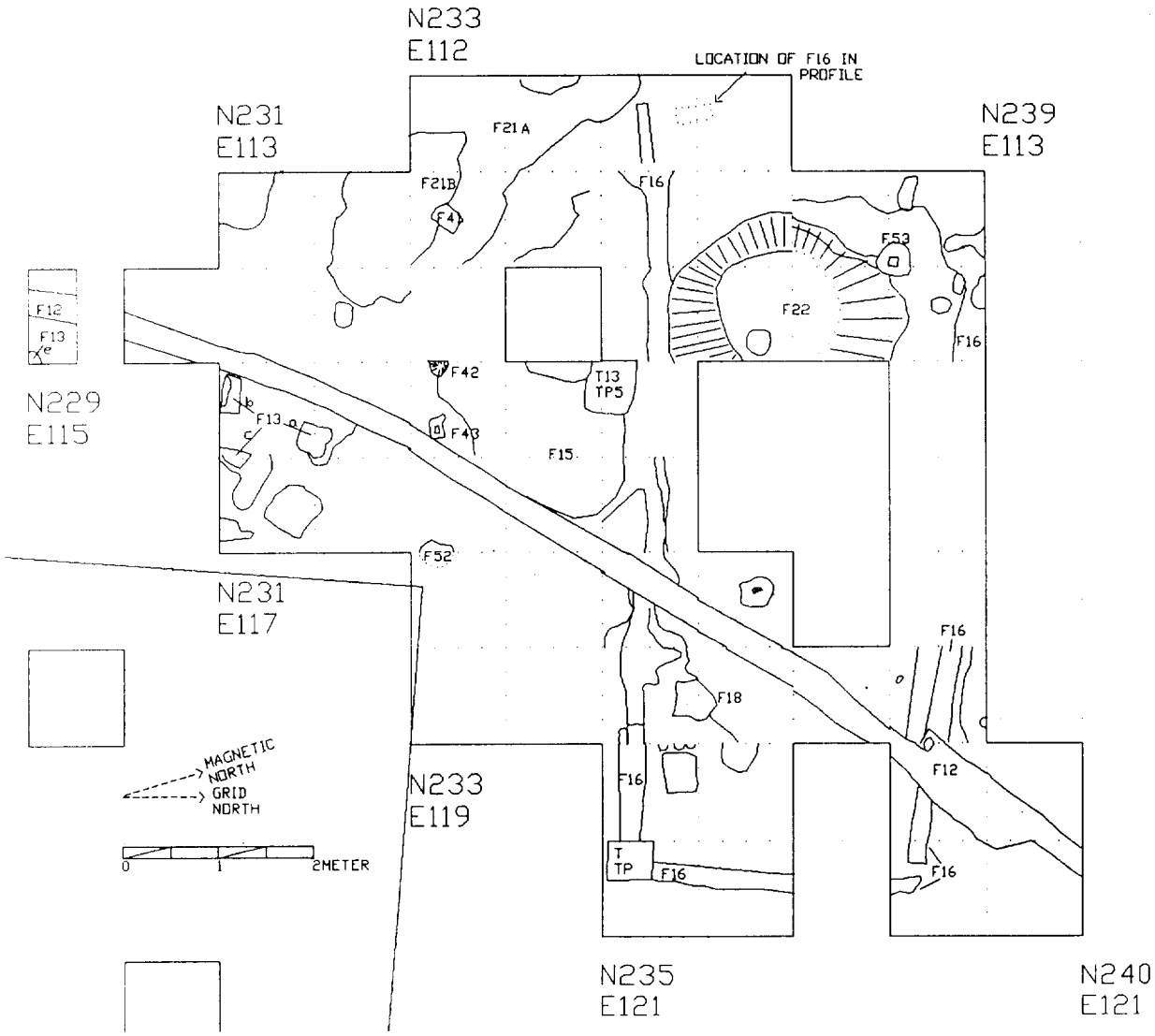


Figure 9. Plan of excavation off northwest corner of Purinton House.

During the 1989 field season, an east/west oriented, narrow, dark stain was found in a 2 X 2 test unit. This was believed to be a sill impression from a burned structure. Not only did the stain, Feature 16, contain charcoal, but there was reddened soil and a light scattering of charcoal throughout the area. In 1990, Feature 16 was confirmed to be part of the remains of a burned structure. The eastern end sill impression and a small part of the northern wall were located, and in 1991, the probable location of the western wall was located. The latter, curiously, provided a good sill impression in profile, but was almost invisible in plan as can be seen by the absence of a north/south line at N235/36 E112 in Figure 9. Figure 10 highlights these sill impressions. The resulting structure (designated Structure 2) outlined by these impressions measured 3.25 X 8.25 meters (10.66' X 27.07').

The purpose of this structure is unknown. A

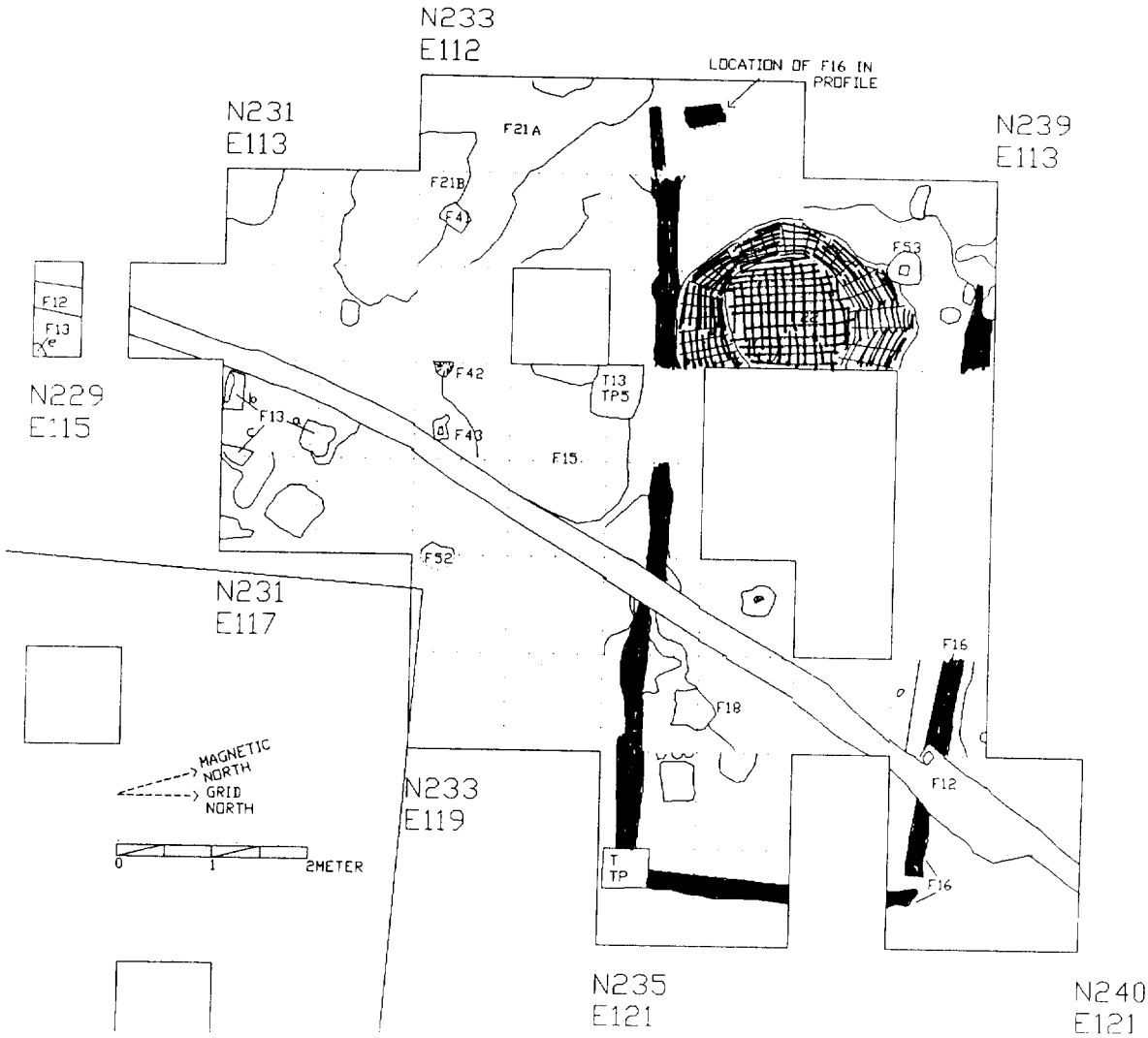


Figure 10. Plan of excavation off northwest corner of Purinton House with Features 16 and 22 highlighted.

few ceramic sherds found in this area suggest an 18th-century date for occupation/use of this structure. However, distribution of handforged nails (to be discussed fully in another section) counters the suggestion that this was an 18th-century structure.

Discovered within the confines of the western end of Structure 2, (but not necessarily associated with the structure) was a large circular pit designated Feature 22 (Figure 11). This feature was approximately 130 cm. in diameter and 120 cm. below the present ground surface (see profile, Figure 12). Few artifacts were recovered from this pit, but most significantly were found a relatively large quantity of case bottle shards. When cross-mending these 42 shards, it was found they represent the remains of two bottles (Figure 28). The presence of these case bottle fragments reintroduces the hypothesis that it was 18th-century activity which took place in this area.

The purpose of this pit is unknown, but it is tempting to place the pit inside Structure 2. Both Robert Gore and James Purinton were listed as

Figure 11. Feature 22 partially excavated.

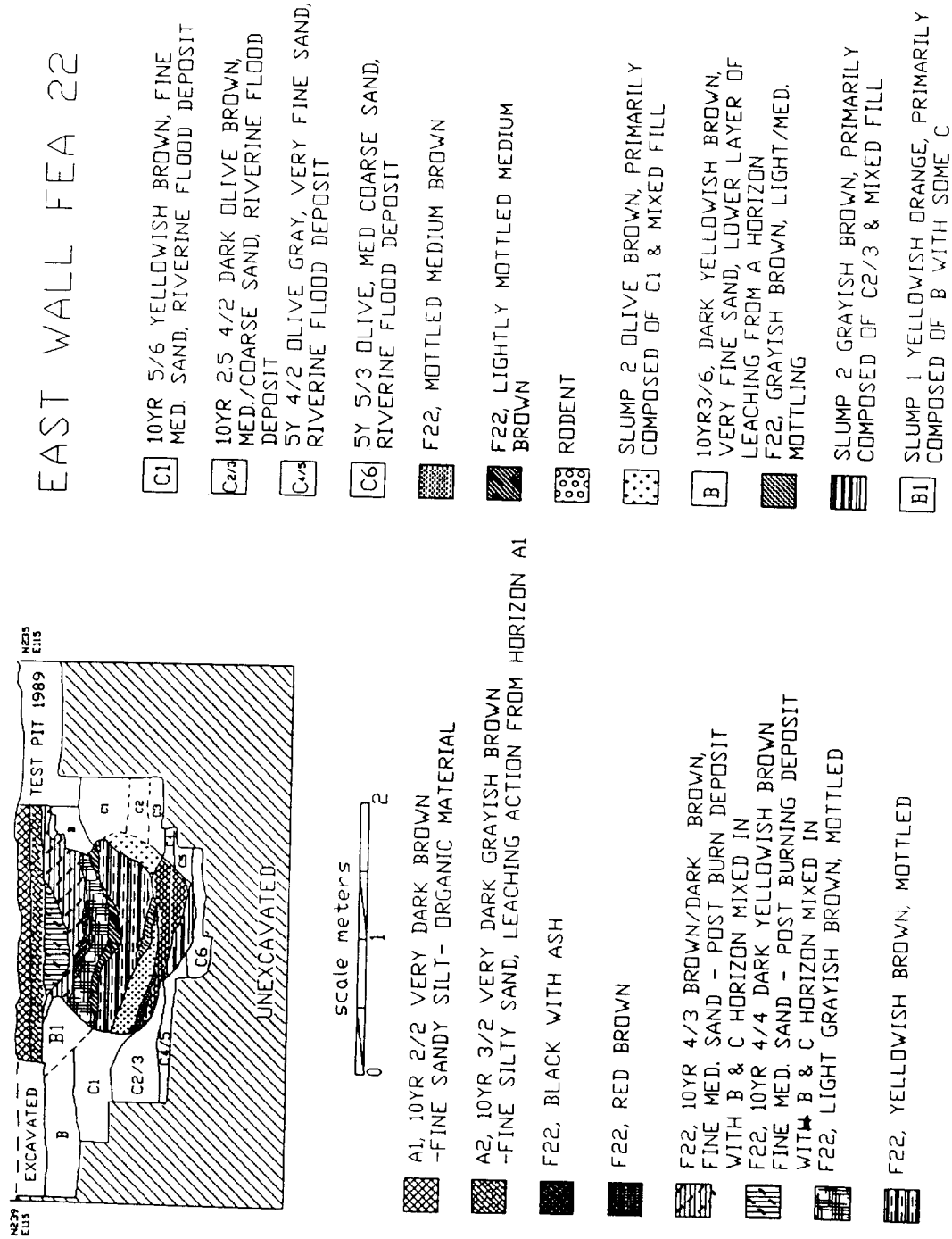
cordwainers (shoemakers) in their mutual 1775 deed (Rand 1989:1). Structure 2 might have been a workshop for Gore and perhaps, initially, for Purinton. It is not known if Gore tanned his own leather (but he was elected Sealer of Leather at the first Topsham town meeting in 1764), but Purinton did own a tannery. Perhaps Feature 22 was the location of a vat used in the tanning process.

The remaining features in this area are considered insignificant. As an example, the most prominent of these features was a large depression designated Feature 21, and appears to have been created by a tree throw.

In 1989 a possible cistern, Feature 11, was located on the west side of the ell where it joins the house. This excavation was completed in 1990 with unique results. Excavation of the western half of this feature in 1989 uncovered large deposits of clay near the floor and slightly up the north wall of the pit, but this clay formed nothing distinguishable. In 1990, the excavation of the eastern half of Feature 11 revealed portions of three, free-standing walls of clay (Figures 13 & 14).

The box formed by the clay walls (and the presumed southwest wall based on test unit profiles) measured approximately 1.25 meters (4.1') square and 170-180 cm. deep. Figure 16 shows cross-sectioned and schematic drawings of the clay walls. The remaining walls average only 40 cm. in height, but must have been much taller and were torn down when the cistern was filled in. Apparently the walls were made by forming the clay

Figure 12. Profile of Feature 22 with stratigraphic descriptions.



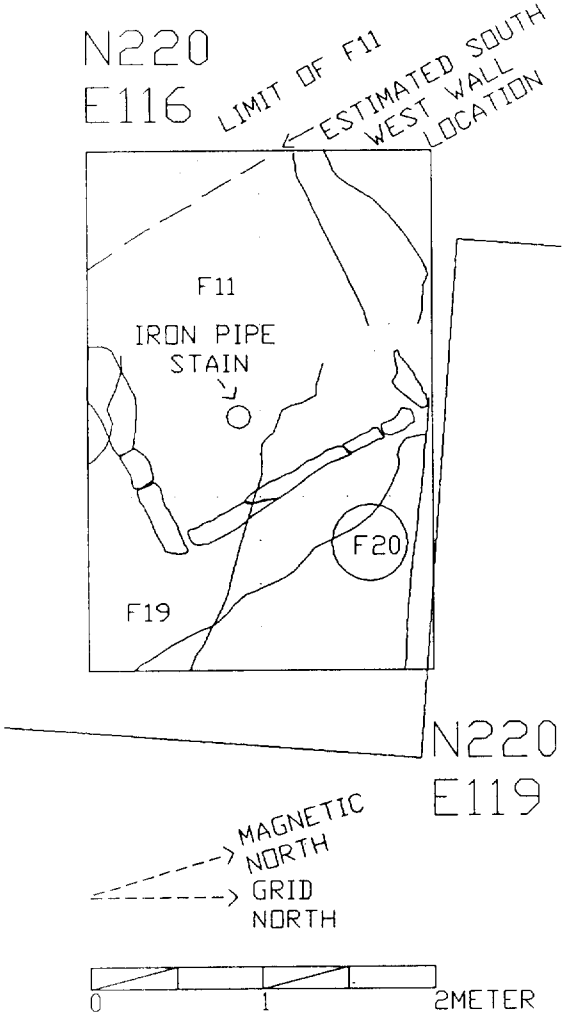


Figure 13. Plan of Features 11 and 19.

within a wooden frame as remnants of wood and wood impressions could be detected on both sides of the walls. Also, nails were found in the two corners, further supporting the wooden box hypothesis. The remaining intact east corner was formed with what might be called a corner half-lap joint. However, if this pattern had been repeated to form a higher wall, it would have resulted in a box joint. There may have been a wooden floor on top of the clay floor as suggested by a slight channel along the inside clay walls just above the clay floor, and the presence of iron (presumably nails) found in this channel.

As mentioned above, a trench, Feature 19, enters Feature 11 from the direction of the ell. This trench may continue below the ell to the bank beyond the east side of the house, and excavated as Feature 31 on the east side of the ell. It is suggested that the purpose of this trench was to bury a pipe used as the overflow pipe for the cistern (Feature 11). A clue to the method used to draw water from the cistern was discovered in the subsoil below the clay floor in the form of a shallow, 10 cm dia. iron stain. Apparently a pipe was anchored to the bottom of the cistern by placing it in a hole through the wooden and clay floors, causing it to leave this impression. The pipe was no doubt part of the plumbing used to bring water into the house.

Feature 20, located to the northeast and just outside Feature 11, proved to be the post hole for a utility pole. Copper grounding wire, first noticed sticking out of the ground surface, ran 115 cm. to the bottom of the post hole where the remainder of it laid in a large coil.

Work at the rear of the Purinton house began in 1989 with the excavation of two 1 X 1 meter test units. Several relatively insignificant features were discovered here. This was not surprising since this area was the "dooryard" for the existing farm arrangement, so most activity would have taken place here. Investigation of this area resumed in 1990 to attempt to define some of these activities which would have occurred in this area. However, the subsequent excavations uncovered some rather significant features which would have limited some dooryard activities during certain periods in the site's history (Figure 16).

In 1990 we were finally able to excavate closer to the rear door of the shed since the house was no longer occupied and the door not used. A 2 X 2 test unit located at N210/11 E124/25 surprisingly produced very few artifacts, none of interest, but a large quantity of cut nails. A feature, Feature 32, was found here which proved to be a post hole or dug pit, about 90 cm. deep and 30 X 40 cm. across. The feature only contained rock and brick. Many of the brick were whole, and all the whole brick were "wasters," i.e., brick deformed during

Figure 14. Clay walls of the cistern, Feature 11.

the manufacturing process and therefore, unusable. The purpose of the pit or hole is unknown. It is unlikely it was dug just to throw rock and brick into. The brick suggests that the hole was filled during a building period on the house, such as the construction of the ell and its fireplace and oven.

Another 2 X 2 meter test unit was opened in 1990 at N206/07 E124/25 to further study the dooryard area. Here a privy, Feature 33, was found, partly excavated in 1990, and completed in 1991. The completely excavated privy measured 1 X 1.2 meters (3.28' X 3.94') and was approximately 90 cm. (2.95') deep (Figure 17). The orientation of the privy did not align with the existing house or any of the buried structures.

What was most significant about this privy was its contents. Generally, privies generally contain some artifacts, usually many bottles and a very few pieces of ceramics. Feature 33 contained 2363 artifacts. The privy held only one complete bottle, but contained 29 complete ceramic vessels plus numerous additional ceramic sherds. It would appear as though the kitchen cabinet was emptied into the privy, and in actuality, that is close to what probably happened. This deposit probably represents a dramatic period of change which occurred within the household. Such household upheavals have been recorded archaeologically as at the Hart--Shortridge house in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where 300 reconstructible vessels found in a small cellar probably represent a change of ownership of the house (Beaudry 1984: 32).

There were a couple of possible events which might have resulted in cleaning out the kitchen

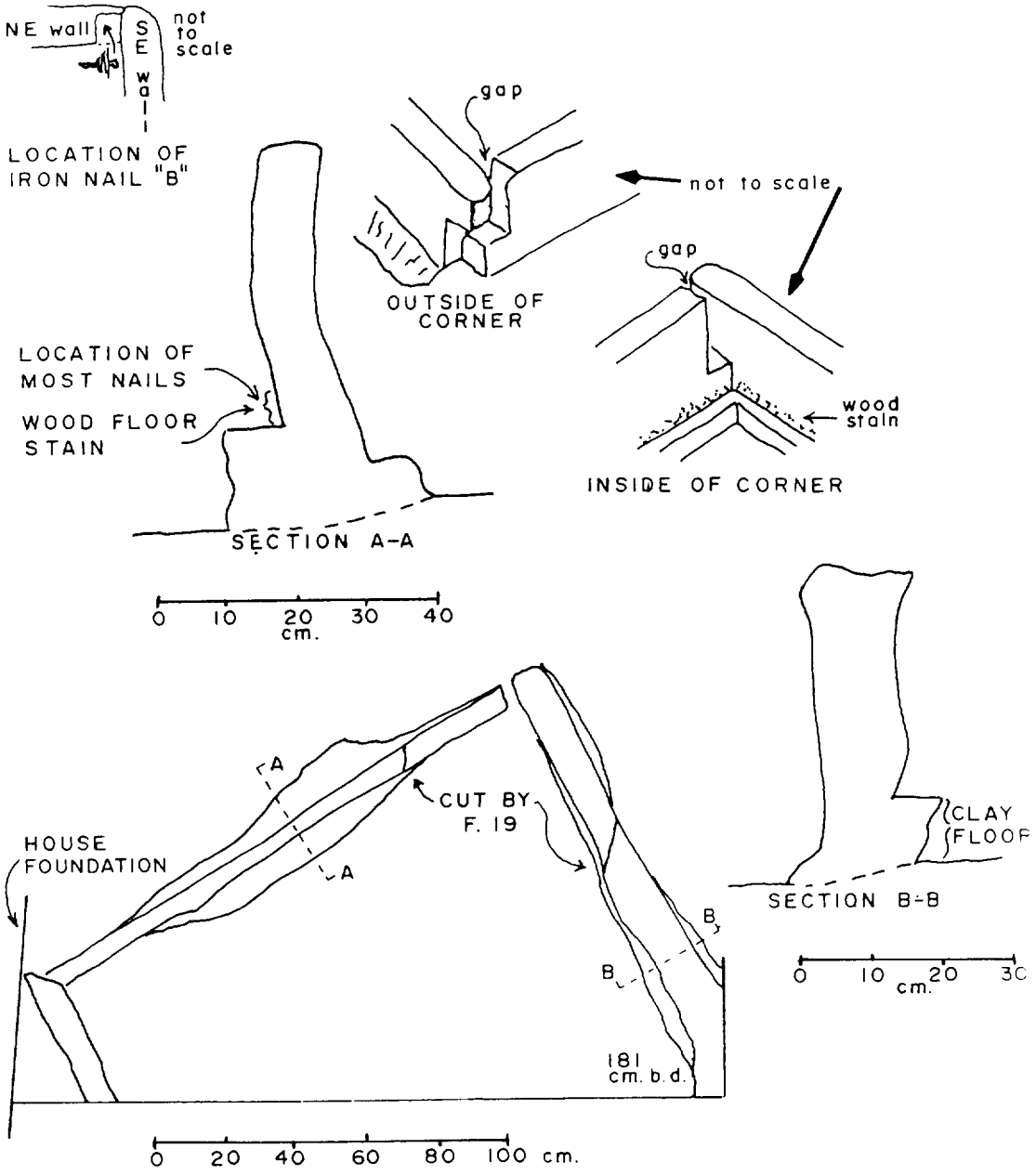


Figure 15. Details of the clay walls of the cistern, Feature 11.

cabinets at the Purinton house. In 1841 Ezekiel Purinton died leaving the homestead to his wife Isabella, and his son Israel Collins Purinton (called Collins) was to receive what remained after his mother's death. Collins remained at the homestead and married in 1863, presumably bringing his new bride, Margaret, to the homestead. Even though Isabella still owned the house, Margaret would probably have been in charge of running the household, so she may have "cleaned house" when she moved in, replacing "old fashioned" ceramics with ceramics more in vogue at the time. Another

Figure 16. Plan of excavations south of the Purinton House.

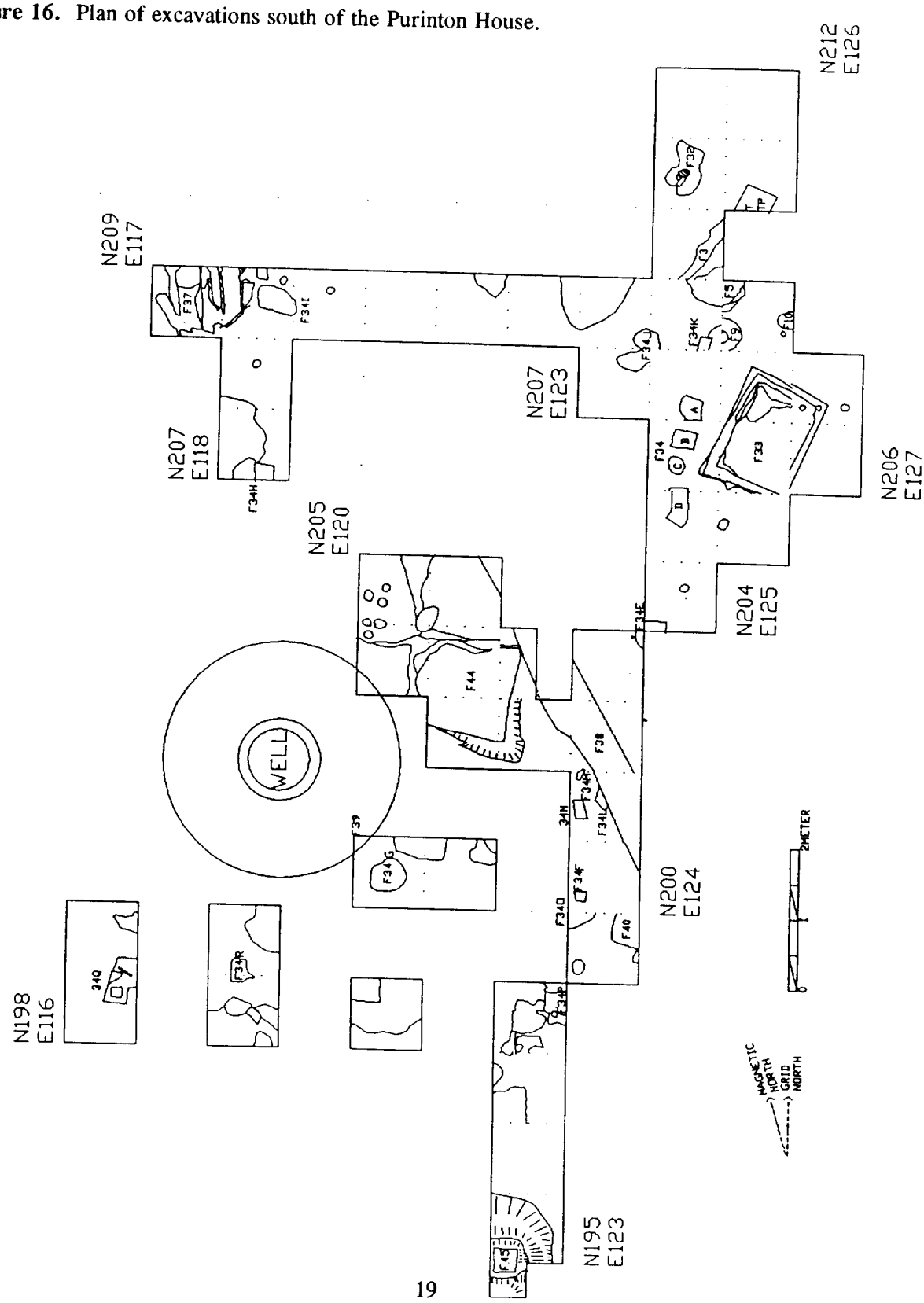


Figure 17. Feature 33, privy, excavated, and Features 34A, B, C, and D, unexcavated.

possibility is that Margaret discarded Isabella's old ceramics when the latter died in 1879.

In 1990 four post hole shaped features appeared in a line along the west side of Feature 33, but not quite aligned with Feature 33. These were designated Features 34A-D, and were not excavated at that time. It was assumed they probably represented the evidence of the privy structure. When the remainder of Feature 33 was excavated in 1991, there were no corresponding post holes on the east side of the privy hole. Therefore, an archaeological search was begun to identify Features 34A-D.

The search to define Features 34A-D resulted in the opening of an additional twenty nine 1 X 1 meter test units and the identification of another buried structure, Structure 3 (Figure 18). This structure was defined by a series of 18 features designated Features 34A-R, with all but four of these being related to the structure. Of the remaining 14 features, eight of them were post holes averaging 80 cm. in depth from the present ground surface. The remaining six features appear to be depressions created by rocks and wooden blocks used to support the sill of the structure. Although only two corners were located, and the south wall is in question, the size of the structure can be suggested as 6.3 X 11 meters (20.67' X 36.9').

The purpose of structure 3 is unknown, but the evidence suggests it is of an early date. First, Structure 3 does not align with the existing house but rather with the cellar hole of Structure 1, which has been suggested as an earlier structure than the existing house (Figure 19 shows the relationship of all buried structures). Secondly, the distribution

Figure 18. Aerial view of excavations in progress south (in the rear) of the Purinton House.

of handforged nails (to be discussed in the next section) shows a high concentration of these 18th-century nails in the area of Structure 3. Structure 3, then, may have been the barn or another large outbuilding associated with Structure 1.

In order to help identify the purpose of Structure 3 it was decided to excavate a test unit in the center of the suggested structure at N126/27 E120/21. Rather than gaining more information about Structure 3, we found another privy, designated Feature 44 (Figure 20). The excavation was expanded to the south and east and resulted in uncovering a wood-lined privy hole measuring approximately 130 cm. (4.27') square and averaging 110 cm. (3.6') below the present surface. The privy hole contained 316 artifacts, mostly nails, brick, bone, a few ceramic sherds and some glass shards. Typical privy fill, but nothing compared to Feature 33.

Another feature found in the process of investigating Structure 3 was Feature 45, located at N194/95 E123. This feature consisted of the remains of the sides and bottom of a wooden box lying in the bottom of a dug hole (Figure 21). The box rested on subsoil at 65 cm. below the surface, measured 40 X 34 cm. (1.31' X 1.12'), and 23 cm. (.75') deep. The box had been held together with nails, some of which were "L" shaped. The artifacts from the box and surrounding fill consisted mostly of mortar/plaster, a little brick, and a small piece of aqua glass. The purpose of this box is totally baffling at this point and even a wild guess

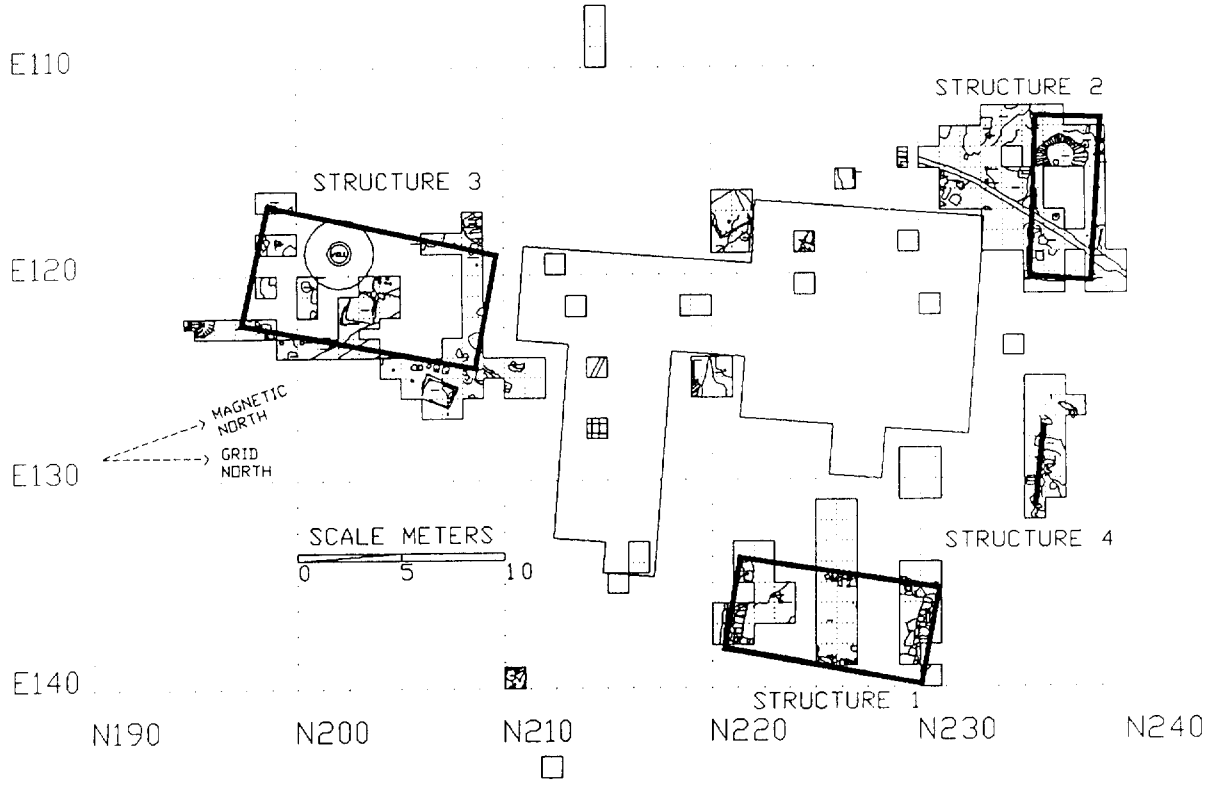


Figure 19. Site plan of the Purinton House Site showing the four buried structures located during excavations.

as to its function cannot be made.

Other features in this area included the builder's trench for the well, designated Feature 39. This trench extended out from the well 1.5 meters. Feature 38 was a trench averaging 54 cm. wide and 123 cm. deep with a 2" iron pipe in the bottom. This trench contained a water pipe from the house to the barn. The pipe with a faucet at the end was present along the northern wall of the barn. Exactly where the pipe entered the house could not be determined because the trench was not visible in any of the excavated test units along the N208 line. The only other disturbance to be noted here was a dug hole in the northeast corner of N199 E118 which proved to be a hole dug to receive a fruit tree. The tree had apparently died and was removed, but the tag describing the tree remained in the hole.

A total of eleven 1 X 1 meter test units were excavated below the house, ell, and shed. These included a 1 X 1.5 meter test unit below the shed at N216 E133-134.5. This test unit was below the three-hole-privy located inside the shed. What we found was a brick lined floor. The area below the holes apparently emptied into the privy outside the shed that was excavated in 1989 and designated Feature 1. Having the privy hole outside the building would certainly facilitate the cleaning process. The connection between inside the shed and the privy hole was not excavated because of extensive disturbance from backhoe operations.

Plowscars were located in all squares below the shed, ell, and the crawl space of the house. These scars must represent 18th-century plowing of the land around the house when the house was that on the foundation of Structure 2. Under the

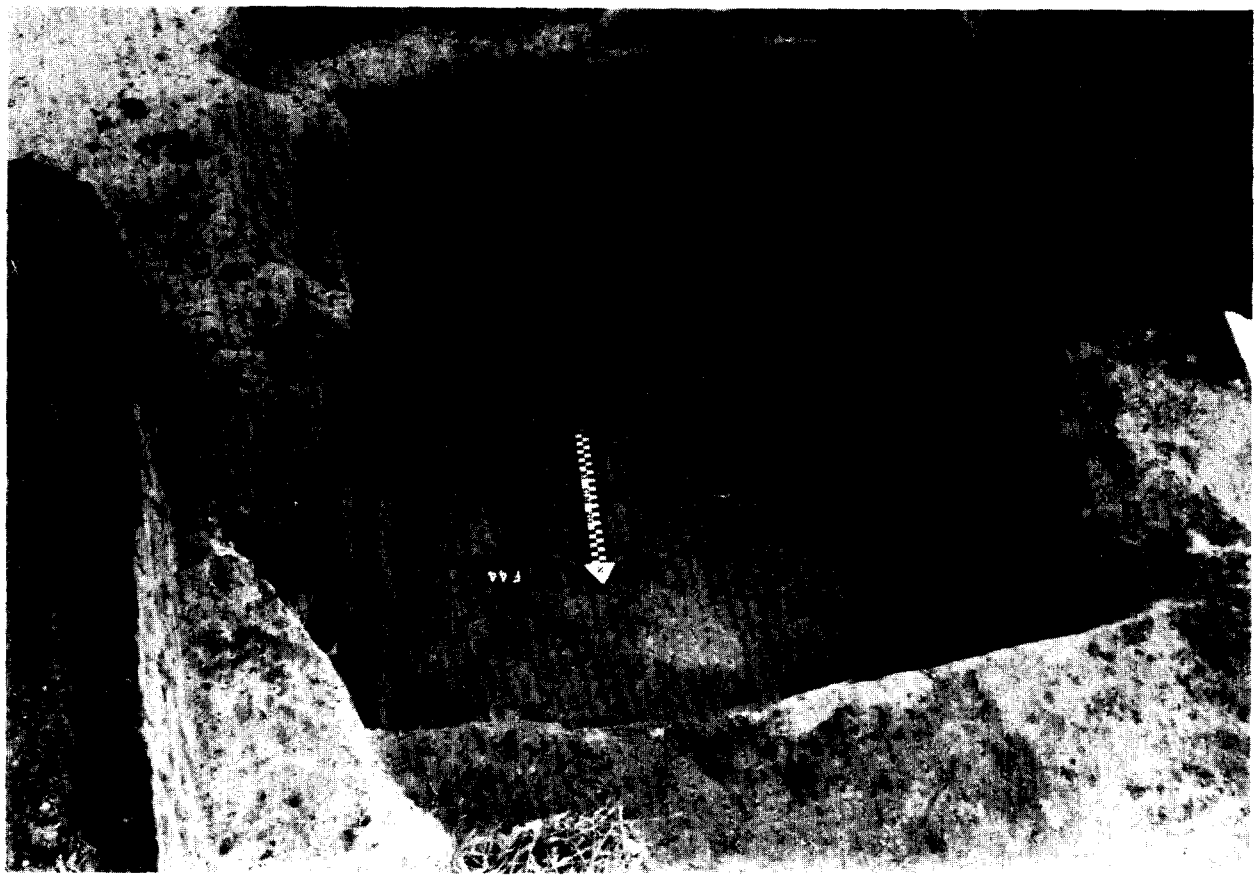


Figure 20. The privy, Feature 44, excavated.

crawl space of the house these plowscars occurred at about 60-70 cm. below the surface. Above the plowscars was 30-35 cm. of plowzone with a stratum of buried sod at the top of this plowzone. Above this was 10-30 cm. of disturbed, mottled, yellow sand, which probable represents the backdirt from the excavation of the cellar for the existing house, and that house's construction. The only other feature of note below the extant structures was a northeast/southwest trench below the shed at N214 E124. This trench may represent the location of a buried electrical wire to an outside light on the shed. Since the 12 cm. wide trench was only dug to 55 cm. below the surface of an unheated shed, it is not likely that it contained a water pipe. Nothing was found in the excavated trench except for a sherd of pearlware ceramic.

ARTIFACTS

During the three years of archaeological excavations at the Purinton house a total of 69,039 individual artifacts were recovered and recorded. The most predominate artifact type was ceramics which comprised 27.4% of the total assemblage. Iron nails, the second most frequently recovered artifact type, constituted 20.5% of the assemblage. Bone made up 12.8% and glass 11.9% of total artifacts. The remaining 27.4% of the artifacts are from a wide range of artifact categories such as structural (e.g., brick, mortar, and plaster) and personal items.

The Purinton House is the most extensively excavated 19th-century farmsite in Maine. This artifact assemblage not only provides a unique opportunity to thoroughly analyze this site, but

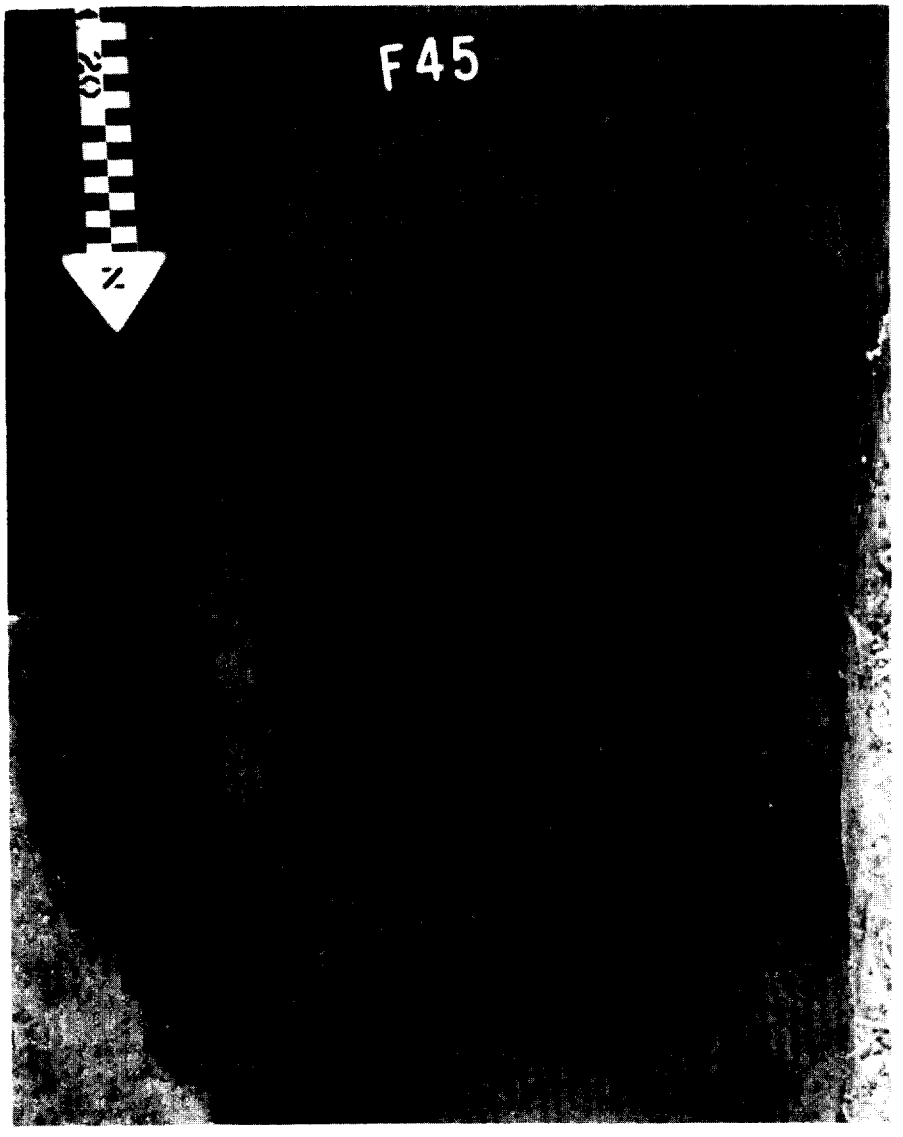


Figure 21. Feature 45 excavated, showing floor boards of wooden box.

also, and perhaps more importantly, it establishes the beginnings of a much needed data base with which other Maine and New England 19th-century farmsites can be compared. There are many theories currently proposed by historic archaeologists which use artifact comparisons between sites to try to determine information about the occupants of a site such as social status, the distribution of work and space by gender, and the concept of the "household" over time and space. The scope of this project only affords us the time to use the artifacts in the analysis of the Purinton site. However, the work to establish the raw date needed for future multi-site analysis to answer questions similar to those above has been completed for the Purinton House and is now available.

The following discussion is an analysis of this artifact assemblage, beginning with the most numerous artifact type, ceramics. In some instances, such as with bone and redwares, this analysis has

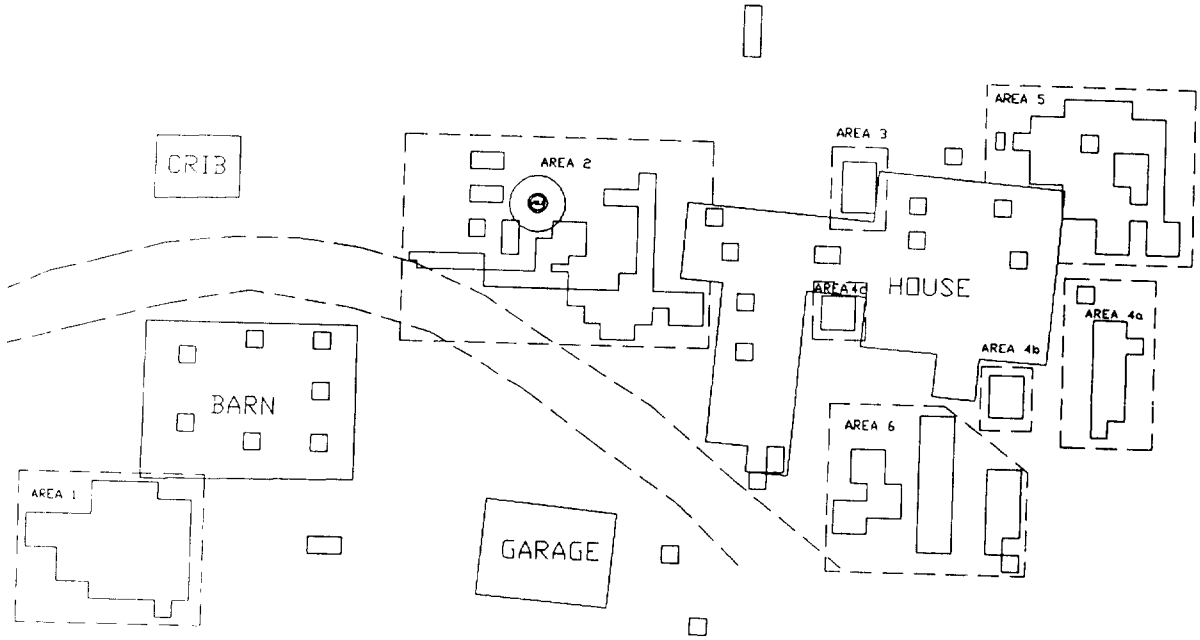


Figure 22. Plan of the Purinton House Site with blocks of excavations broken up into areas.

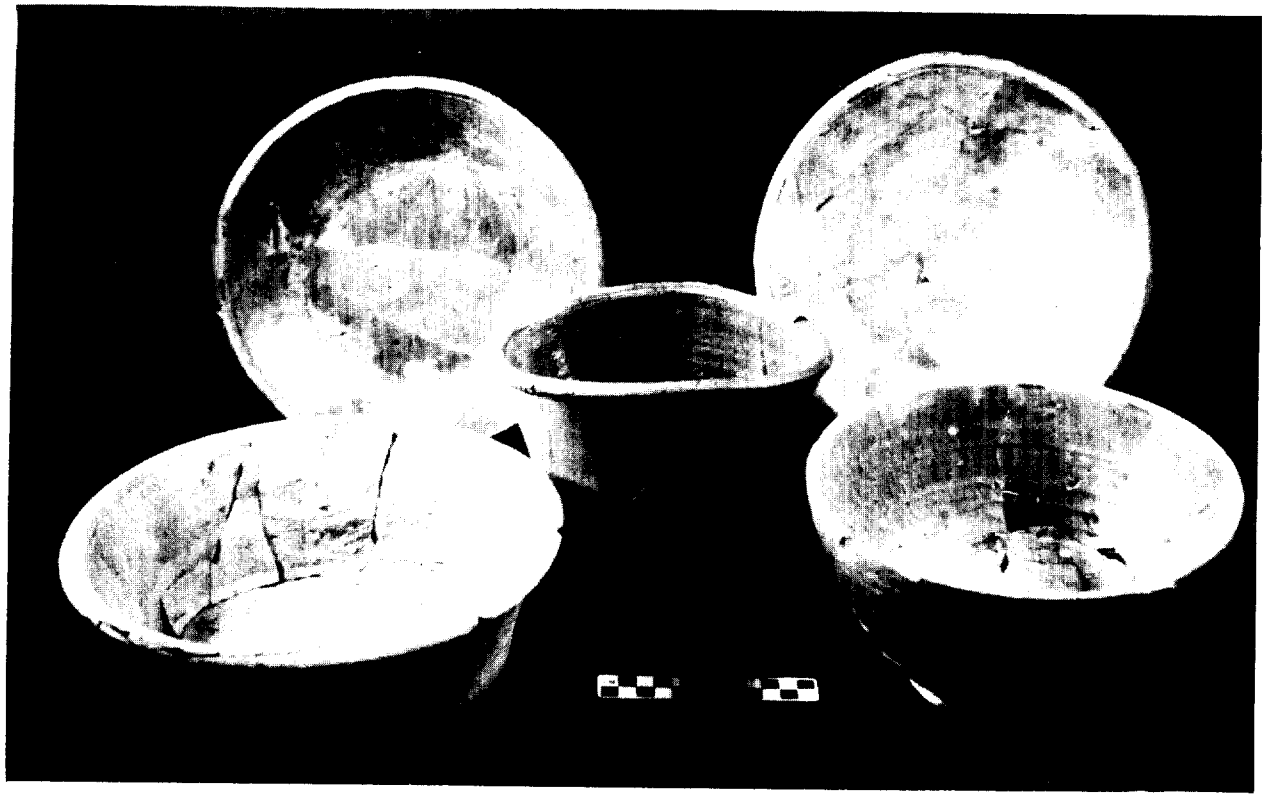


Figure 23. Complete redware vessels from the Purinton House Site.

been selective due to time constraints and the vast numbers of artifacts involved. The majority of our time was devoted to the analysis of ceramics because it was felt that this analysis held the greatest potential for future usefulness. The bulk of this ceramic work was completed by Kaare Mathiasson and John Cooper. (A much needed, extensive faunal analysis was also conducted by Liz Trautman.) Also, there are vast quantities of artifacts which are totally ignored, such as brick, mortar, and plaster. Taking our overall knowledge of the site into consideration, the time and effort spent analyzing these artifact types would not be worth the negligible amount of information obtained from them. To facilitate the following discussion, the site has been divided into excavation areas as outlined in Figure 22.

Table 1. Ceramic type counts.

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	Count
creamware	undecorated	3178
	handpainted gold rim & handles	35
pearlware	undecorated	4633
	polychrome	789
	blue transfer print (inc.148 flow-blue)	1717
	green transfer print	46
	brown transfer print	202
	red transfer print	24
	black transfer print	2
	blue edge decorated	261
	green edge decorated	236
	annular (inc. 62 mocha)	195
	sponge blue	6
hardwhite/ironstone	undecorated	64
misc. earthenwares	green ware	12
	Bennington	40
	Staffordshire (buff body, combed)	1
	jackfield	2
	unidentified	315
stoneware	all	109
porcelain	all	55
tin-enameled	all	25
redware	all	6991

Ceramics

A total of 18,938 ceramic sherds were recovered from the Purinton house site. A breakdown of the sherd count by type is presented in Table 1. Redware sherds comprised 37% of the ceramic assemblage, and they will be discussed first.

Redwares are a coarse, red-bodied earthenware which were generally lead glazed. Redwares were a utilitarian ceramic often used in dairying and food storage and preparation, and are very common on farm sites. Most redwares offer few diagnostic chronological attributes since their general form and composition changed little over time. It is also difficult to determine a place of origin for most redwares; however, it would be safe to say that most, if not all, of the redwares from the Purinton House were made in America. Redware potters were everywhere throughout New England, and no makers' marks have been found that we could use to attribute a vessel to a particular potter.

Redwares often comprise about 80% of the ceramics found on colonial English sites in the Northeast (Turnbaugh 1985: xix). As white bodied wares became more available and more popular beginning in the late 18th century, the relative percent of redwares would be expected to decline. This proves to be the case at the Purinton House with 37% of the ceramics redwares. This figure compares very favorably with the Thomas Williams site in Glasgow, Delaware and the A. Temple site in Ogletown, Delaware, both of which had a period of occupation similar to the Purinton House. At the Thomas Williams site the redwares comprised 37.6% of the total ceramic assemblage (Catts and Custer 1990:288). However, this site was occupied by a tenant farmer, a stone mason, and a black

Table 2. Redware analysis, compiled by John Cooper. "C" stands for complete, "I: for incomplete. Each row represents one vessel lot.

# sherds	C/I	location (fea./area)	vessel form	comment/decoration
30	C	F.33, A.4C	sm. crock	"squeezed" in mfg.
34	C	F.33	bowl	glazed in/ out
32	C	F.33	bowl	glazed inside
16	C	F.33	milk pan	lt. br. glazed inside
16	C	F.33	milk pan	lt. br. glazed inside
11	I	F.33	crock	bk. glazed inside
8	I	F.33	bowl/store jar	rim only, glaze inside
17	I	A.6, A.2?	milk pan	lt. gr. glazed inside
4	I	A.6	sm. jar/crock	base, dk. gr. glazed in
3	I	A.6	sm. crock	gr. glazed inside
3	I	F.2	milk pan	dk. gr. glazed inside
17	I	F.2	milk pan	gr. glazed inside
24	I	F.2	milk pan	gr. glazed inside
3	I	A.6	crock/store jar	dr. br. glazed inside
3	I	A.6	crock/store jar	dk. br. w/yel. slip trail
3	I	A.6	crock/ store jar	dk. br. glazed inside
6	I	A.6	crock/store jar	lt. br. glazed inside
3	I	A.6	crock/store jar	lt. br. inside, br. w/slip trail outside
2	I		crock/store jar	gr. glaze inside
2	I	A.6	crock/store jar	gr. glazed inside
2	I	F.33, A.2	crock/store jar	burned
2	I	A.6	crock/store jar	gr. glazed inside
4	I	A.6	crock/store jar	gr./br. glazed inside
3	I	F.2	?	br. glaze w/slip trail
2	I	A.6	?	dk. gr. glazed inside
4	I	A.6	?	br. w/yel. slip trail in.
11	I	A.6	bowl	gr. w/yel. slip trail in.
4	I	F.2	?	
3	I	A.6	?	dk. gr./br. glazed in.
3	I	A.6	sm. bowl	dk. br. glazed inside
3	I	F.2	?	br.-yel. glazed inside
1	I	A.6	?	gr. glazed inside
2	I	A.6	?	br-gr. glazed inside
2	I	A.6	?	br-gr. glazed inside
2	I	A.6	?	lt. gr. glazed inside
3	I	A.6	?	gr.-br. glazed inside
4	I	A.6	?	dk. gr. glazed inside
1	I	A.6	?	br. glazed inside
1	I	F.2	?	br.-gr. w/yel. slip in.
2	I	A.6	?	br. glazed inside
11	I	F.11	sm. bowl	br.-gr. glazed in & out
7	I	F.11	sm. jug	gr. glazed in & out
2	I	F.11, F.19	?	dk. br. in, lt. gr.-br out
3	I	F.11	?	olive glazed inside
1	I	F.11	?	dk. gr. glazed inside
1	I	F.11	?	
2	I	F.30, F.31	?	br. w/yel. slip trail
1	I	F.30, F.31	?	bk. glazed inside
1	I	F.30, F.31	?	br. glazed inside
3	I	A.4A	milk pan?	olive glazed inside
1	I	A.4A	?	Br. glazed inside
1	I	A.4A	?	whittish inside (slip?)
2	I	A.4A	?	olive glazed inside
1	I	A.4A	?	Gr. glazed inside
1	I	A.1 (barn)	jug?	bk. glazed inside
1	I	A.1	?	
1	I	A.1	?	dk. gr. w/slip trail in.
1	I	A.1	?	white glazed inside
1	I	A.1	?	lt. gr. glazed inside
1	I	A.1	?	lt. br. glazed inside
2	I	A.2	?	white in., br. out
1	I	A.2	crock?	dk. br. glazed inside
1	I	A.2	?	lt. br. glazed inside
3	I	A.2	?	br. w/slip trail in.
1	I	A.2	?	bk. glazed inside
1	I	A.2	milk pan?	br. glazed inside
1	I	A.2	?	olive glazed inside
1	I	A.2	?	br. glazed inside
2	I	A.2	?	lt. br. glazed in & out
3	I	A.2	?	lt. br. in,very lt. br. out
4	I	A.2	?	dk. olive glazed inside
5	I	A.5	store jar/mug	Bk. glazed in & out
1	I	A.5	bowl?	br. glazed in., bk. out
1	I	A.5	?	olive gr. glazed inside
1	I	A.5	?	gr.-br. glazed inside
3	I	A.5	jug?	bk. glazed in & out
1	I	A.5	?	br. salt glazed?
2	I	A.5	?	lt. olive gr. glazed in.
1	I	A.5	?	lt. br. glazed inside
1	I	A.5	?	whittish glaze inside
1	I	A.5	?	olive-bk. gl. in & out
1	I	A.6	jug pitcher with spout	black glaze inside & out
1	I	A.6	?	mot. gr.-br. glaze in.
9	I	A.6	cup	bk. glazed in & out
2	I	A.6	?	mot. br.-bk. salt glaze?

Figure 24. Incomplete redware vessels from the Purinton House Site.

laborer, and one would expect a higher percentage of redwares here compared to the more affluent Purinton household. The same is true with the A. Temple site which had been occupied by tenant farmers and produced a redware sample of 36.2% of total ceramics (Hoseth, et al. 1990:137).

Perhaps this seemingly high redware ratio at the Purinton House is due to the difference in location between these sites. However, research suggests that it is status and not location which was the determining factor in the selection and purchase of ceramics (Baugher and Venables 1987: 31-33). A more likely possibility is that status had nothing to due with the purchase of utilitarian wares, and there was a slightly higher ratio of redwares at the Purinton House because the occupants could afford to buy more of these wares. At present there are no other 19th-century farmsteads sufficiently excavated in Maine as to be used in a comparative study with the Purinton House. Thus such questions must be set aside until additional data on this type of site is collected in Maine.

Only five complete vessels have been recovered from the site (Figure 23). These consist of two bowls, two milk pans, and a small crock. The latter is oval at the top as though it were misshapen by being squashed when placed in the kiln to be fired. The presence of this misshapen crock raises a couple of points of interest. First, why would an apparently well-to-do family purchase a "waster" or 2nd quality crock? Might the answer once again be because this was a utilitarian ware and its appearance did not matter? Secondly, it would seem that the potter responsible for this vessel was local. One wouldn't expect a potter to ship wasters any distance when they could probably be disposed of locally.

All of the completed vessels were found in Feature 33 of Area 2, except for the crock (Table 2). Most of this vessel was also found in Feature 33 except for a few sherds which were recovered in Area 4C. A minimum number of 85 vessels have been identified using such attributes as glaze, rim form, and overall shape and size. The form

Table 3. Ceramic (Non-Redware) analysis, compiled by Kaare Mathiasson.

# vess.	sherds	C/I	location (fea./area)	vessel form		comments/ decoration
CREAMWARE						
1	8	I	F.33	soup plate	10"	"griffin" or bird stamp
1	22	C	F.33	soup plate	"	"
1	10	C	F.33	dinner plate	"	"
1	17	C	F.33	dinner plate	"	"
1	12	C	F.33	dinner plate	"	"
1	14	C	F.33	dinner plate	"	"
1	15	C	F.33, F.19	dinner plate	"	"
1	15	I	F.33	dinner plate	"	"
1	15	C	F.33	dinner plate	9"	
1	5	I	F.33	dinner plate	10"	"10" stamp on bottom
1	9	I	F.33	dinner plate	10"	" "
1	3	I	F.33	dinner plate	10"	" "
1	4	I	F.33	dinner plate	9"	
1	8	C	F.33	dinner plate	7.5"	royal pat., "E. WOOD"
1	8	I	F.11	dinner plate	9"	
1	3	I	F.2	dinner plate	9"	
1	5	I	F.33, F.2	dinner plate	9"	
1	33	I	A.2	dinner plate	10"	
1	11	I	A.2, A.6	dinner plate		
1	14	I	A.6	oval dish		"11" stamp on bottom
1	3	I	F.11, F.19	dinner plate		
1	13	I	F.2	dinner plate?		
1	14	I	F.2	dinner plate?		
1	21	I	F.44, ell	serving plate?		
1	12	C	F.33	serving dish	10"	
1	2	I	A.3	serving dish		
1	33	C	F.33	chamber pot		
1	19	C	F.33	wash basin		dot deco. rim
1	1	I	A.5	wash basin		dot deco. rim
1	2	I	A.1	dinner plate?		feather edge
1	16	I	A.2, A.6	dinner plate?		
1	8	I	F.2	dinner plate?		Royal pattern
1	8	I	F.2	cup		
1	2	I	F.2	cup		
1	19	I	F.33	oval serve dish		gold paint rim, handles
1	1	I	A.5	dinner plate?		feather edge
PEARLWARE						
1	14	I	F.11, F22	dinner plate	10"	
1	6	I	shed	dinner plate		
1	10	I	A.5	chamber pot?		
1	10	I	A.3	chamber pot?		
1	2	I	A.2	chamber pot?		
1	3	I	F.2	chamber pot?		
1	1	I	F.2	bowl		
1	1	I	A.2	bowl		
1	13	I	F.11	bowl		
1	5	I	F.33	bowl		
1	7	I	A.5, A.6	cup?		
1	17	I	F.11, F.44	sm. bowl		bk. x-fer print
1	3	I	F.44	bowl		annular
1	31	I	F.2, F.11	bowl		annular
1	13	I	F.2	bowl		annular
1	27	I	A.5, A.6	bowl		annul. w/bk. checkers
1	5	I	A.5, A.6	lid		" "
1	2	I	A.6	bowl		annular
1	6	I	A.6	bowl		annular
1	26	I	A.3	bowl		annular
4	18	I	F.30	bowl		annular
1	1	I	A.2	bowl		annular
1	29	I	A.5,A.6	bowl		annular, mocha
3	11	I	surface	bowl		annular, mocha
1	16	C	F.33	bowl		annular
1	2	I	F.19	?		annular, h.p.
1	9	I	F.33	sm. plate		flow blue
6	111	i	F33 +	sm.plate 6.5"		flow bl., E. WOOD & SONS 2 motifs
6	49	i	F.33	cup, 4 comp.		bl. x-fer, "HARP"
4	45	i	F33 +	saucer,1 comp. 6"		" " "
1	2	I	A.2	cup w/handle		bl. x-fer print
1	11	C	F.33	saucer 5.5"		" " "
1	4	I	A.5,A.6	cup?		" " "
2	38	I	F.33	saucer 6.25"		" " "
1	21	I	A.3	cup		" " "
2	14	I	F.2	saucer		" " "
1	11	I	A.2	cup/bowl?		" " "
1	11	I	A.5	saucer		" " "
1	28	I	F.2	saucer		" " "
1	23	I	A.5	?		" " "
1	48	I	F19,F22	?		flow blue
1	4	I	F.11	bowl		bl. x-fer print
1	17	I	F2,11,19	saucer 6"		" " "
1	2	C?	in house	tea pot & lid		" " "
1	26	I	F.2	salad plate 8"		" " "
1	10	C?	F.33	salad plate 8"		" " "
1	15	I	F11,F19	salad plate 8"		" " "
1	13	C	F.33	salad plate 8"		" " "
1	7	C	F.33	salad plate 8"		" " "
1	1	I	surface	serv dish/bowl		" " "
3	29	I		dinner plate		" " "H•I"
1	9	I	F.44	dinner plate 9.25"		" " "
1	12	C	F.33	dinner plate 9.25"		" " "
1	10	C	F.33	serving dish		" " 9.5" sq.
1	26	I	F33,F19	pitcher		" " "
1	17	I	all over	?		" " "
1	6	I	F.11	cup		" " "
1	25	I	F.2	saucer?		" " "
1	6	I	F.11	cup		" " "
1	12	I	F.2	cup?		" " "
1	12	I	A.5	pitcher spout?		" " "
1	9	I	F.2	dinner plate?		" " "
1	6	I	F.2	cup		" " "
1	3	I	F.11	cup		" " "
1	5	I	F.2	cup		" " "
1	22	I	F.2	cup		" " "
1	22	I	F.2	saucer/plate?		" " "
1	38	I	F.2	cup		" " "
1	5	I	A.2	figurine		" " "

# vess.	sherds	C/I	location (fea./area)	vessel form	comments/ decoration
1	5	I	A.5	saucer	sponge blue
1	1	I	shed	saucer	" "
1	20	C	F.33	salad plate 7"	gr. edge deco.
1	13	I	F.33	salad plate 7"	" " "STUBB"
1	7	I	F.11	salad plate?	" " "
1	19	I	F.2	salad plate	bl. shell edge
1	3	I	A.2	salad plate	" " "
1	2	I	ell	sm. bowl	" "
1	13	I	F.2	dinner plate?	gr. shell edge
1	14	I	A.2	dinner plate?	" " "
1	13	I	F.2	dinner plate?	" " "
1	14	I	F.2	dinner plate?	" " "
1	7	I	F.2	dinner plate?	" " "
1	6	I	F.2	dinner plate?	" " "
1	17	I	A.2	serving dish	gr. x-fer print, rect.
1	1	I	shed	saucer?	" " "
1	1	I	surface	cup?	" " "
1	1	I	surface	cup?	" " "
1	17	I	F.19	cup?	red x-fer print
1	2	I	A.6	saucer?	bk. x-fer print
5	192	I	F.2, F.33	4 cups, 1 saucer	br. x-fer print
1	10	C	F.33	dinner plate 9.5"	h.p. polychrome
2	43	I	A.2, A.3	dinner plate	" "
1	27	I	F.2	saucer	" "
2	22	I	F.2	1 cup, 1 saucer	" "
2	58	I	F.2	dinner plate	" "
1	30	I	F.2	dinner plate	" "
2	31	I	F.2	cup	" "
1	46	I	F.2	saucer?	" "
2	43	I	F.2	1 cup, 1 saucer	" "
1	67	I	F.2	bowl?	" "
2	39	I	F.2	handled cup	" "
2	26	I	F.2	1 plate, 1 saucer	" "
1	5	I	F.2	pitcher?	" "
2	4	I	A.2& surf.	1 plate, 1 saucer	red h.p. flower
IRONSTONE/HARDWHITE					
1	3	I	shed	sm. saucer? 4.5"	rim deco. reg. mark
1	12	I	A.2	sm. saucer?	" " " "
1	1	I	A.2	dinner plate	
1	1	I	surface	dinner plate 8"	
1	1	I	surface	dinner plate	deco. rim, "MEAKIN"
1	1	I	surface	dinner plate	
1	1	I	surface	saucer	
1	1	I	surface	bowl	
1	6	I	A.1	dinner plate	
1	16	I	A.2	dinner plate	
1	10	I	N214E107	dinner plate	
1	3	I	A.1	cup	
1	1	I		cup	
MISC. EARTHENWARES					
2	40	I	surface	1 tea pot & 1?	Rockingham glaze
1	12	I		handled cup	greenware (c-ware)
1	12	I	F.2	bowl?	tin-enameled (delft)
1	2	I	A.2	?	jackfield
1	1	I	A.1	?	buff body, combed slip

# vess.	sherds	C/I	location (fea./area)	vessel form	comments/ decoration
PORCELAIN					
1	15	C	F.1	handled cup	gold rim "NIPPON"
1	6	I	F33, A2, ell	cup	red h.p. flowers
1	2	I	F.11	saucer	red band
1	1	I	surface	vase?	painted flowers
1	1	I	A.2	saucer	gold painted rim
1	1	I	F.2	saucer	gold & green rim
1	1	C	A.2	dog figurine	"JAPAN"
STONEWARE					
1	6	I	F.2	saucer	Eng. white salt glaze
1	3	I	F.2.	mug	" "
1	4	I	F.2	cup	" "
1	1	I	F.2	saucer	" " "
1	1	I	A.1	mug	Eng. salt glaze, gray
1	6	I	A.1	bowl?	scratch blue
1	3	I	F.11	bottle	N.E. type stoneware
1	3	I		jar?	" " "
1	2	I	crawl spac	jar	" " bk gl. in
1	2	I	A.2	lg. bowl	annular

of 27 of these have been identified (Figure 24). There were 8 milk pans, 7 crock/jars, 6 bowls, 4 pitcher/jugs, 1 mug, and 1 cup. These are all minimum numbers; the actual figures are probably much higher.

Overall distribution of redware sherds throughout the site is skewed by high concentrations of redware in the cellar hole, Feature 2, and Feature 33. The next highest concentration of 647 sherds was found in Area 5. This area has been previously suggested in this report as the site of a cordwainer's/tanner's shop (Structure 2). But the high concentration of redwares sherds together with a high concentration of bone (to be discussed) places the shop hypothesis in question and points to Structure 2 as a food processing area. But, perhaps the tanning process and the presence of bone and redwares are not that inconsistent.

For a long time redwares were virtually ignored in the analysis of archaeological sites because they are so common and they possess very few diagnostic and chronological attributes. Recent research has attempted to use redwares to answer gender specific questions using the distribution of redwares on a site and the type of vessel forms present (e.g., Yentsch 1991). The distribution of redwares around

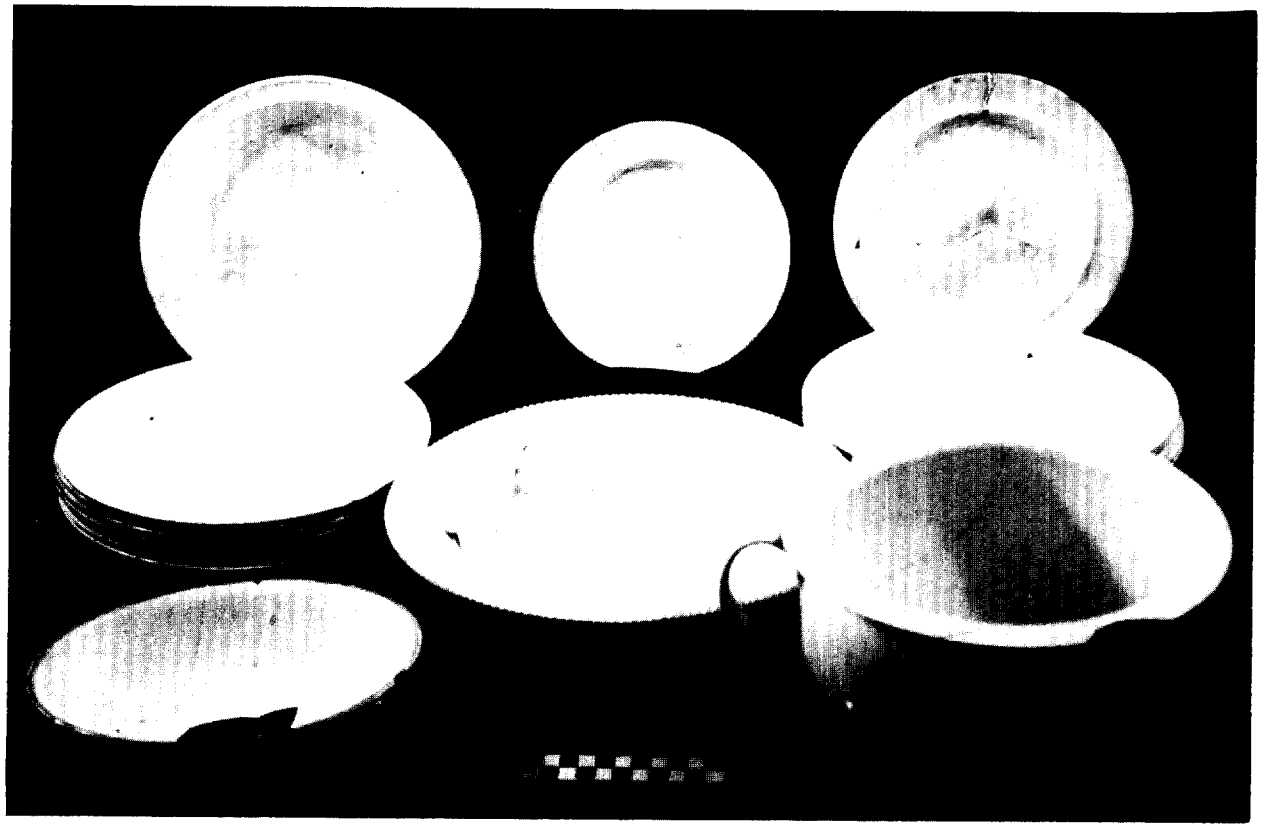


Figure 25. Complete creamware vessels from the Purinton House Site.

a site should indicate female activity areas since dairying and food storage and preparation was predominantly a woman's activity. Again, the only area of high redware concentration at the Purinton House which is not biased by a feature is Area 5. If this area was a female activity area, the hypothesis that Structure 2 was a cordwainer's/tanner's shop must be reconsidered. It is also just as possible that this situation (a tanner using redwares) proves the exception to the idea that redwares indicate female activity.

Of the remaining 11,947 ceramic sherds from the Purinton House Site the majority were divided between 3,213 sherds of creamware and 8,111 sherds of pearlware (Table 3). Creamware, a fine buff-bodied earthenware, was introduced in 1762 and produced at least through 1820, providing a mean date of manufacture of 1791 (Noël Hume 1982: 125-26). Pearlware, another fine buff-bodied earthenware, soon replaced creamware in popularity after it was introduced in 1780. Pearlware was manufactured until 1840 with a resulting mean date of manufacture of 1810 (Noël Hume 1982: 128-31).

A total of 11 complete creamware vessels were recovered from the Purinton House Site, all from Feature 33 (Figure 25). This vessel assemblage consists of 7 dinner plates, 1 soup plate (or serving dish), 1 serving dish, 1 wash basin, and 1 chamber pot. There was also 1 almost complete oval serving dish. A minimum number of 34 creamware vessels were identified using rim, base, and overall form and size as diagnostic attributes. These 34 vessel forms include 22 dinner plates, 4 serving dishes, 3 wash basins, 2 soup plates, 2 cups, and 1 chamber pot.

The amount of creamware (and pearlware)

Figure 26. Complete pearlware vessels from the Purinton House site.

sherds recovered from the site was so great that the time required to produce a detailed distribution of these sherds would have been prohibitive. However, a general statement can be made regarding the distribution of the creamware, which is that the vast majority of the creamware came from Feature 33, a privy, with a second smaller concentration in the cellar hole of Structure 1 (Feature 2).

All of the creamware pieces were plain and undecorated, except for one oval serving dish consisting of 35 sherds (discussed below). Two soup plates and six dinner plates had what appeared to be a winged griffin stamped on the bottom. The stamp was small and in most cases poorly defined. A very striking similarity is found in the mark of the Herculaneum factory in Liverpool, England (MacDonald-Taylor 1962: 227). The mark of this factory founded in 1793 was a "so-called liver bird" which was almost identical to our griffin. Therefore it is probable that Herculaneum produced these plates.

Another maker's mark on a dinner plate identifies the maker as Enoch Wood (1759-1840) who had a shop at Burslem, Staffordshire, England (MacDonald-Taylor 1962: 302). The mark reads "E. Wood & Sons," a combination which occurred sometime after 1818.

The most significant aspect of this creamware assemblage is the fact that it appears to represent the entire time period of manufacture of creamware. When creamware was first produced by Josiah Wedgewood, it was a highly desired, expen-

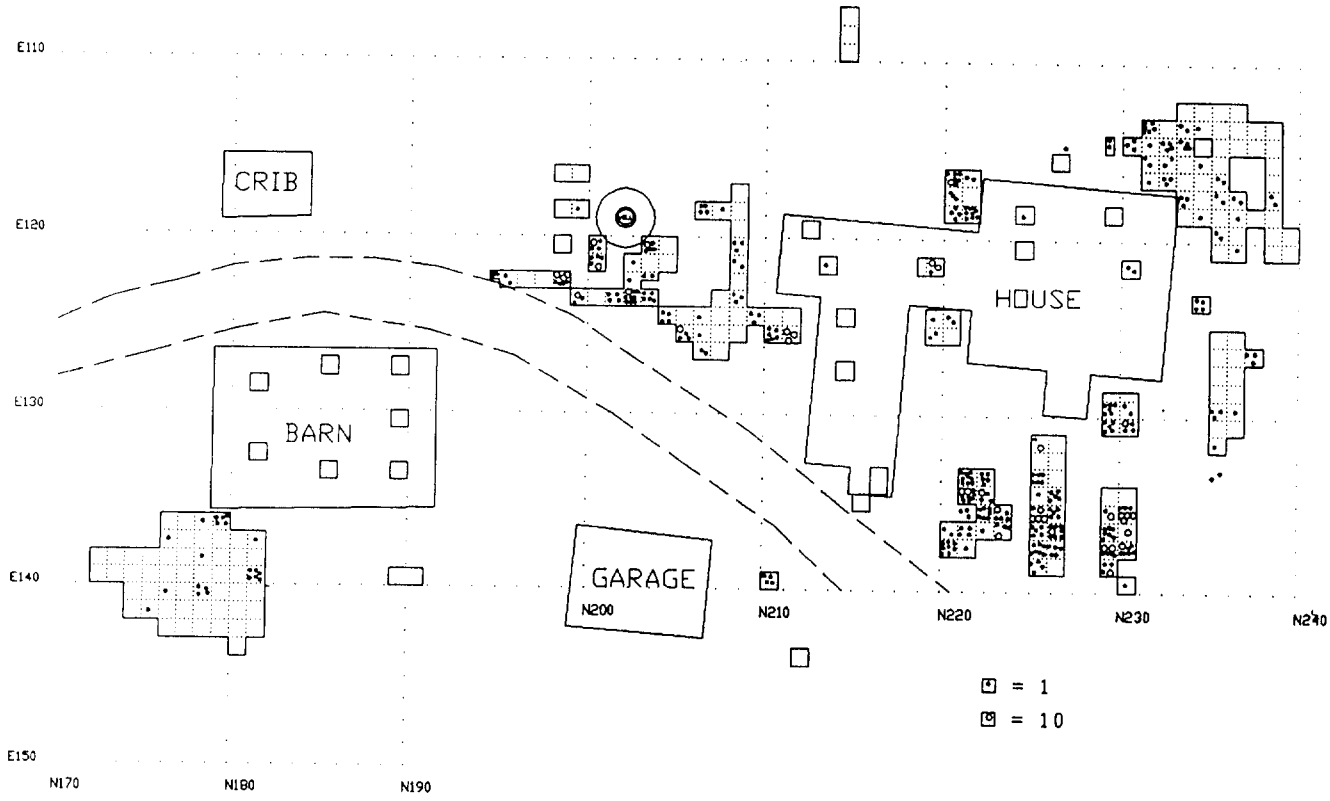


Figure 27. Distribution of hand-forged nails around the Purinton House.

sive ceramic, manufactured in elegant forms. An example of this early creamware is the nearly complete, oval serving dish shown in Figure 25. It is a thin vessel which at one time had delicate handles on either end, and gold lines painted around the rim and handles for decoration. At the other end of the scale is the creamware chamber pot. By the second quarter of the 19th century, creamware was no longer associated with fashionable ceramics, was lower priced, and was being manufactured in such mundane forms as undecorated chamber pots (Yentsch 1991: 132). Again the question arises as to why such a supposedly well-to-do family as the Purintons would purchase such "low class" wares.

A total of 15 complete pearlware vessels were recovered from the Purinton House Site, with all but one found in the privy, Feature 33 (Figure 26). These completed vessels consist of 5 small plates, 4 cups, 2 dinner plates, 1 saucer, 1 bowl, 1 tea pot, and 1 square serving dish. A minimum number of 142 pearlware vessels have been tentatively identified (Table 3). These 142 vessel forms consist of 33 cups, 26 dinner plates, 26 saucers, 26 bowls, 15 small plates, 4 chamber pots, 3 serving dishes, 3 pitchers, 1 tea pot, and 3 unidentified forms.

Again, the vast number of pearlware sherds prohibits a detailed distribution analysis, but a general statement can be made. The distribution of pearlware was, as was creamware, divided among Features 2 and 33. But in the case of pearlware, this distribution appears to be almost equal or the cellar hole contained slightly more sherds than the privy. This is all very misleading though, because the large amounts of ceramic sherds between these two features overshadows the "true" distribution throughout the site.

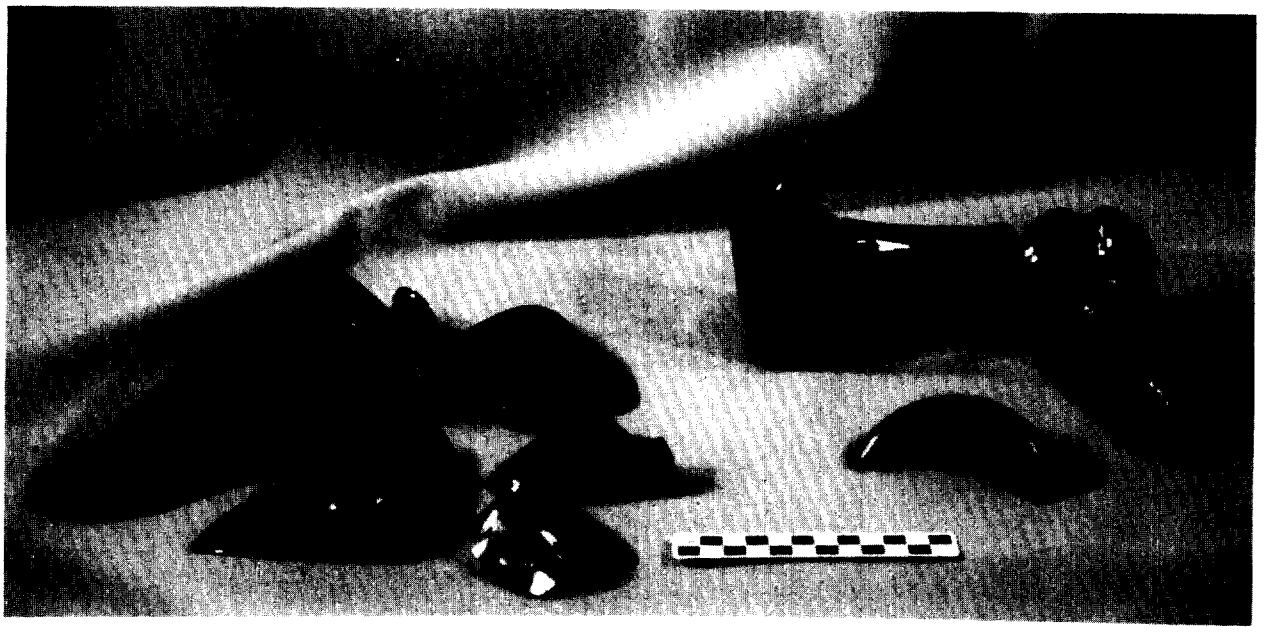


Figure 28. Green glass recovered from the Purinton House Site, comprised of case and wine bottles.

The various types of pearlware present on the site as exemplified in Table 1, run the full range of pearlwares available over time. As can be seen in Table 1, the largest category of pearlwares were undecorated, but this can be very misleading. Many if not most of these undecorated sherds were actually from a decorated piece. The next largest category of pearlwares was various transfer-printed wares. These were the most expensive type of pearlware available, followed by polychrome, edge decorated and finally plain pearlware. Not only were there a large quantity of transfer-printed wares, but there were a wide variety of patterns among these, suggesting many different sets of ceramics were purchased over time. This assemblage is more like what one would expect to find from an upper social class family.

Several of the pearlware vessels had makers marks. A set of transfer-printed cups and matching saucers had the word "HARP" surrounded by a wreath painted on the bottom, below which was stamped the letters E.W.&S. This suggests that the manufacturer of these wares was Enoch Wood & Sons, previously discussed. The painted name "HARP" is probably the pattern name, and in fact there is a harp pictured in the pattern. Another stamp on a small green edge-decorated plate was the words "Joseph Stubbs Longport" within a circle, and contained an unidentifiable mark in the center. The name Joseph Stubbs has yet to be found, but Longport is a town in Staffordshire, England, that had pottery factories active in the 19th century. One transfer-printed bowl exhibited the name "WEDGEWOOD" with a crown above painted on the bottom. Across the painted inscription is a stamped name which might be "Wedgewood" but is to illegible to tell for sure. The name Wedgewood is that of a famous pottery making family from Staffordshire, England. The name first appeared in 1754 and continues to this day. The initials H•I on three dinner plates and a serving dish has yet to be identified. Other marks include numbers which may refer to dates or production runs.

There is a great potential for the future use of these data in further analyzing the Purinton House Site as well as comparing this site with other contemporary sites. For example, one current train of thought among historic archaeologists would suggest that these data can determine the relative social

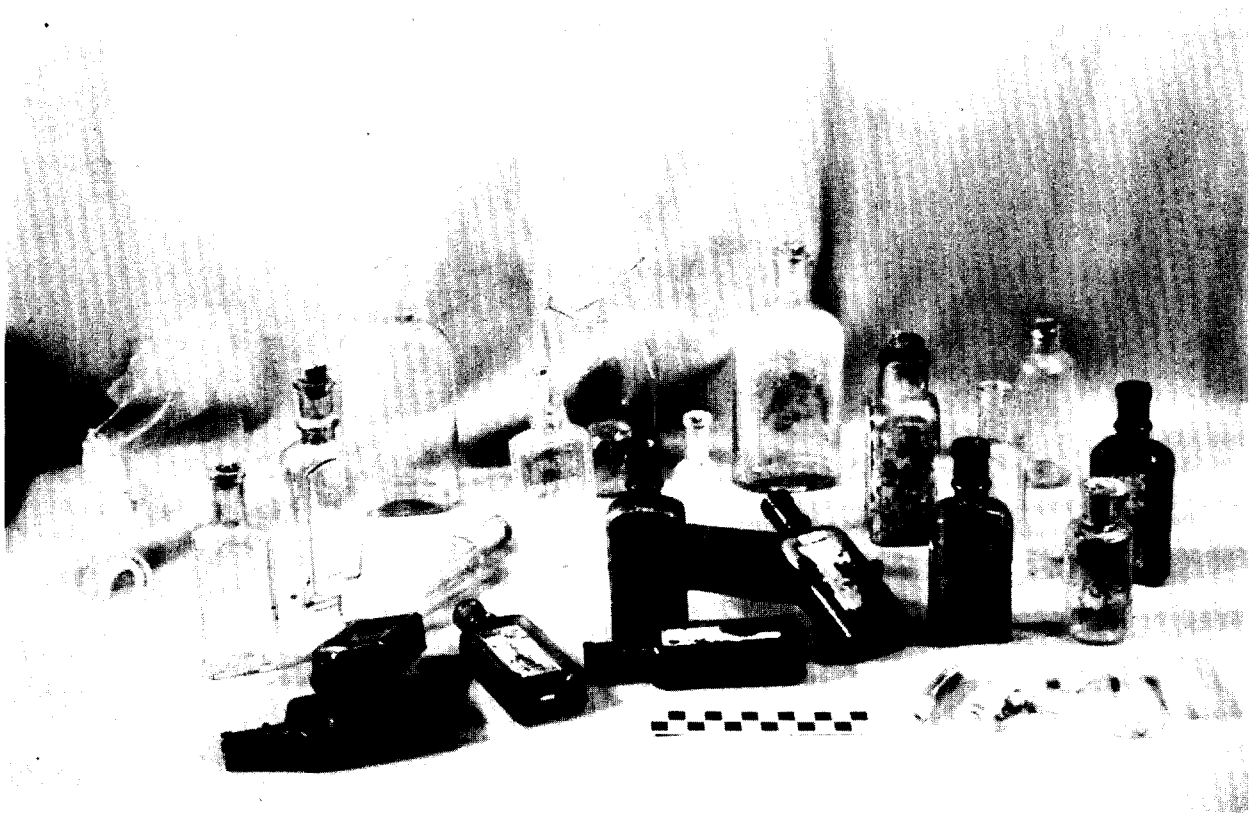


Figure 29. Bottles from the Purinton House Site.

status of the Purinton family compared with the occupants of other well documented archaeological sites. One method to accomplished this is by the use of a 19th-century ceramic indices which assigns a numeric value to ceramic vessels based on the initial cost of these vessels (Miller 1980). This index is broken down by type of ware, vessel form, and type of decoration. Another theory, using vessel form, suggests that the cup and saucer ratio to mugs or plate to bowl ratio can be used to determine social status (e.g., Wall, Diana DiZerega 1991). There are many advocates for the use of ceramics to determine social status as well as many who feel this theory is not valid. This debate makes the prospect of using this ceramic assemblage to try and determine the Purinton Family's social status even more appealing. However, such an analysis is beyond the scope of this project, but the information is now available in Tables 1 & 3 for future researchers to take advantage of and build upon.

A total of 64 sherds of ironstone/hardwhite were recovered from the site. This ware, which is still common today, was first introduced possibly as early as 1830-40. This ware is much harder and higher fired than were creamwares and pearlwares, but initially was not as delicately made as some of those latter wares were. Two incomplete ironstone flatware pieces contained makers' marks. One partial dinner plate, recovered from surface collection below the shed, displayed on the bottom a stamped emblem of a lion, shield with a crown, and a unicorn, below which were the words "IRONSTONE CHINA J& G MEAKIN." The Meakin factory was established in 1845 in Lanes End, Staffordshire, England, and continues to the present

(MacDonald-Taylor 1962: 246). A small hardwhite saucer had a lozenge stamped on the bottom with several indistinguishable marks around it. This was an English Registration mark which was used in two cycles: 1842-67 and 1868-83 (MacDonald-Taylor 1962: 266). The indistinguishable marks around the lozenge represent day, month, year, bundle, and class. In a circle around the Registration mark were several faint letters which included "DENHAM" "TOC" and "BOT". None of these marks have been identified.

Twelve sherds of two green glazed, buff--bodied cups were recovered. These appear to be sherds of "green-ware," Wedgewood's earliest ceramics, produced from 1759-75 (Noël Hume 1982: 124-25). This green-ware along with two sherds of Jackfield, 1745-1790 (Noël Hume 1982:123) and one sherd of Staffordshire (combed-yellow slipware) 1670-1795 (Noël Hume 1982: 107, 134-36) all represent 18th-century occupation of the site. The distribution of these few sherds, however, were throughout the site so they can tell us nothing of 18th-century activity areas.

The small quantity of porcelain recovered from the site is surprising. Porcelain was a highly prized 18th and 19th-century ceramic, and much more would be expected in the assemblage from an upper-class family. Fifteen of the 55 sherds recovered cross-mended to form a handled, gold painted rim tea cup with the name "NIPPON" painted on the bottom (see photo Spiess and Cranmer 1990: 19).

Most of the 109 sherds of stoneware were of American Manufacture. However, there were 6 sherds of a scratch-blue bowl dating 1760-75 (Noël Hume 1982: 117). Four additional stoneware sherds represent two salt-glazed mugs, manufactured in England from perhaps early as 1720 through the 18th century (Noël Hume 1982: 115). These English stonewares therefore are of 18th-century manufacture while the remaining American stonewares appear to be of a 19th-century origin.

Nails

A total of 14,137 iron nails were recovered from the Purinton House Site. Of these, only 689, or 4.9% were handforged. Nails were individually hand-made until the invention of a machine in 1790 which could mass-produce cut nails. By 1795 virtually all nails used in this country were cut nails with one exception. When nails were hand-made, the "grain" of the iron ran the length off the nail, permitting the nail to be "clinched," or bent over in the back. Hand-made clinched nails were therefore used where extra holding power was required such as on door hinges. The original method of manufacturing cut nails required that the grain of the iron of the nails run perpendicular to the length of the nail. If one attempted to bend these nails they would break. Therefore a very few handforged nails continued to be made until 1836 and the invention of the Burden rotary squeezer which produced clinchable cut nails (Hattori and Brigham 1990: 38). For the purpose of this report we will consider all handforged nails to be of 18th-century origin.

The distribution of handforged nails throughout the site shows three major concentrations (Figure 27). As might be expected, the highest concentration of handforged nails was found in area 6, the cellar hole of Structure 1. Another concentration was found in area 2. This suggests that both Structures 1 and 3 are 18th century and probably contemporaneous. Another concentration was found in area 3, the cistern. Since we don't know where the fill to backfill the cistern came from, we can't make a deduction from this evidence. What is most surprising about this distribution is the scarcity of handforged nails in area 5. If the hypothesis that Structure 2 was an early workshop is correct, one would expect more handforged nails from this area. Area 4A, where a fourth structure is suggested, had even fewer handforged nails that Area 5. If nothing else, this might suggest that Structures 2 and 4 were constructed in the same manner. Even if time were available, the development of a distribution of cut nails to try and determine if Structures 2 and 4 date later might only confuse the issue since cut nails would have been used in the construction of the extant structures and thus be scattered everywhere.

Figure 30. Glassware recovered from the Purinton House Site.

Glass

A total of 8,203 shards of glass were recovered from the Purinton House Site. Of this figure, well over two-thirds was window glass which will not be discussed in this report. Also eliminated from this discussion is a total of 120 shards of 20th-century brown bottle glass, 3 shards of green/-white lamp shade and 11 milkglass shards. Thirty-one shards of glass were burned beyond identification. The remaining glass consisted of green case and wine bottle glass, various colors of 19th and 20th-century bottles, and clear glassware.

A minimum number of 3 dark green glass case bottles (based on complete necks) were recovered (Figure 28). Case bottles are distinctive in appearance, being square in cross-section, with a nearly flat base, low shoulders, a short neck, and an everted lip (Noël Hume 1982:62, 69). Case bottles were the earliest glass containers brought to this country, being introduced around 1625-30. By mid-19th century case bottles were beginning to be replaced in popularity by the newly invented cylindrical wine bottle. Case bottles remained in production and gained in popularity again in the latter part of the 19th century as "Dutch gin bottles," being used for that liquid. They are still produced today, but with longer necks and in clear glass, but they still contain gin. The three examples from the Purinton site probably date to the last half of the 18th century. A total of 13 shards representing two bottles were found in Feature 22, suggesting this was an 18th-century feature, as discussed above.

Fewer dark green wine bottle fragments were recovered, and those that were represent a mini-

mum number of three bottles as determined by complete and fragmentary neck shards (Figure 28). Only two of these neck fragments were complete enough to attempt a date: based on form, they appear to date to the third quarter of the 19th century (McKearin and McKearin 1948: 424-25). The overwhelming majority of dark green bottle glass (n=248), both case and wine bottle, came from the cellar hole of Feature 2.

A total of 20 complete bottles were recovered from the site, all in one piece with the exception of a pale green bottle 31.12 cm. (12.25") tall, found in Feature 33 and reconstructed from 19 shards (Figure 29). This bottle was blown in a dip mold, has a fairly deep kick-up exhibiting a bare-metal pontil scar, and has an applied, flattened string rim and smoothed lip. No similar examples have been found to date which would help identify or date this bottle. The color and thinness of the glass would suggest this might have been used as a very simple, unadorned, decanter rather than a bottle to transport a beverage. The dip mold method of manufacture may suggest a date of production of 1790 until sometime after 1810, but this date is questionable since it is for wine bottles made in dip molds (1978: 79).

The remaining bottles were all molded medicine/bitters, cologne, and dye bottles. All appear to have been manufactured in a two-piece mold. No attempt will be made to date individual bottles, but this type bottle and method of manufacture generally dates from the 1840-50s into the 20th century (Barka 1979: 80; McKearin and McKearin 1948: 431). Often this type bottle is found in quantity on some archaeological sites since bitters had a high alcohol content and "many people, largely women residing in rural districts, were habitual users of these bitters" (Van Rennselaer 1926: 37). This was not the case at the Purinton House, however, where the largest quantity of one type of bottle was for "whisker dye."

Nine brown glass rectangular bottles were recovered (as were all the bottles remaining to be discussed) from below the extant structures of the Purinton House and barn. These nine bottles had four sunken panels with the lettering "WHISKER DYE" and "BUCKINGHAM" on the side panels and remains of paper labels containing directions on some of the front and back panels. Two pale green rectangular bottles contained no lettering but both had corks in place. One of these had four sunken panels and the other had three. A pale blue rectangular bottle had the inscriptions "PAIN KILLING" and "MAGIC OIL" on either sunken side panel and on the front sunken panel "RENNE'S," a symbol, horizontal line, and "IT WORKS LIKE A CHARM." One clear rectangular bottle with four sunken panels retained it's cork but no lettering. A final rectangular bottle of clear glass with four sunken panels had "COBURN'S PURE EXTRACTS PORTLAND MAINE" embossed on the front panel.

Two larger oval aquamarine medicine bottles were found which were of almost identical size. One of these exhibit the vague remains of a label and has an "H" molded into the bottom. One square shoe blacking bottle contained its cork and inside the probable remains of the applicator. On three of the sides was the remains of a label with a building (from Bowdoin College?) on the front and the probable name of Brunswick Maine on one of the sides. A round aquamarine bottle retaining its cork had embossed vertically around it " JOHNSON'S AMERICAN ANODYNE LINIMENT." The remaining complete bottle was a small tapering round clear glass cologne bottle which retained its cork and had embossed in a sunken front panel "HOOD'S FRENCH COLOGNE M C HOOD BOSTON."

In addition, four glass vials which had probably contained medicine were recovered, all of clear glass. Three of these were complete but very small, probably of the same size (one was slightly melted and deformed) and two retained corks. The fourth, also of clear glass, was larger but had to be reconstructed from seven pieces. The resulting vial had a missing rim and lip.

Glassware, or drinking glasses, were represented by 235 shards. Of this number, 4 tumblers and 2 wine glassed were reconstructed (Figure 30). A minimum number of vessels count was not attempted for the glassware, but a minimum number

Figure 31. White clay tobacco pipe fragments and one complete red clay tobacco pipe found at the Purinton House site.

of wine glasses based on foot ring form was determined to be 5 pieces. A number of shards of wheel turned glass were recovered, including the large partially reconstructed tumbler shown in Figure 29. This method of glass decoration may have been brought to America as early as the 17th century by the Dutch at New Amsterdam (McKearin and McKearin 1948: 32). Thus, dating this Purinton House sample would be difficult at best. Two shards of press glass were found which crossmend and may be from a small bowl or large goblet (Figure 30). This method of glass decoration meant to represent cut glass was first developed in 1827 (McKearin and McKearin 1948: 334-35). Our two shard sample may date to any time between 1827 through the 20th century, however, the design, general form, and quality suggest a date to the first half of the 20th century. Of the remaining glassware, several tumblers were decorated with annular painted rings suggesting a second quarter 20th-century date.

Clay Tobacco Pipes

The clay tobacco pipe is a useful diagnostic tool for the archaeologist because such attributes as the size of the smoke hole through the stem, the bowl form, makers' marks, and decoration all changed over time and can be used to develop a mean date of occupation for a site. Unfortunately,

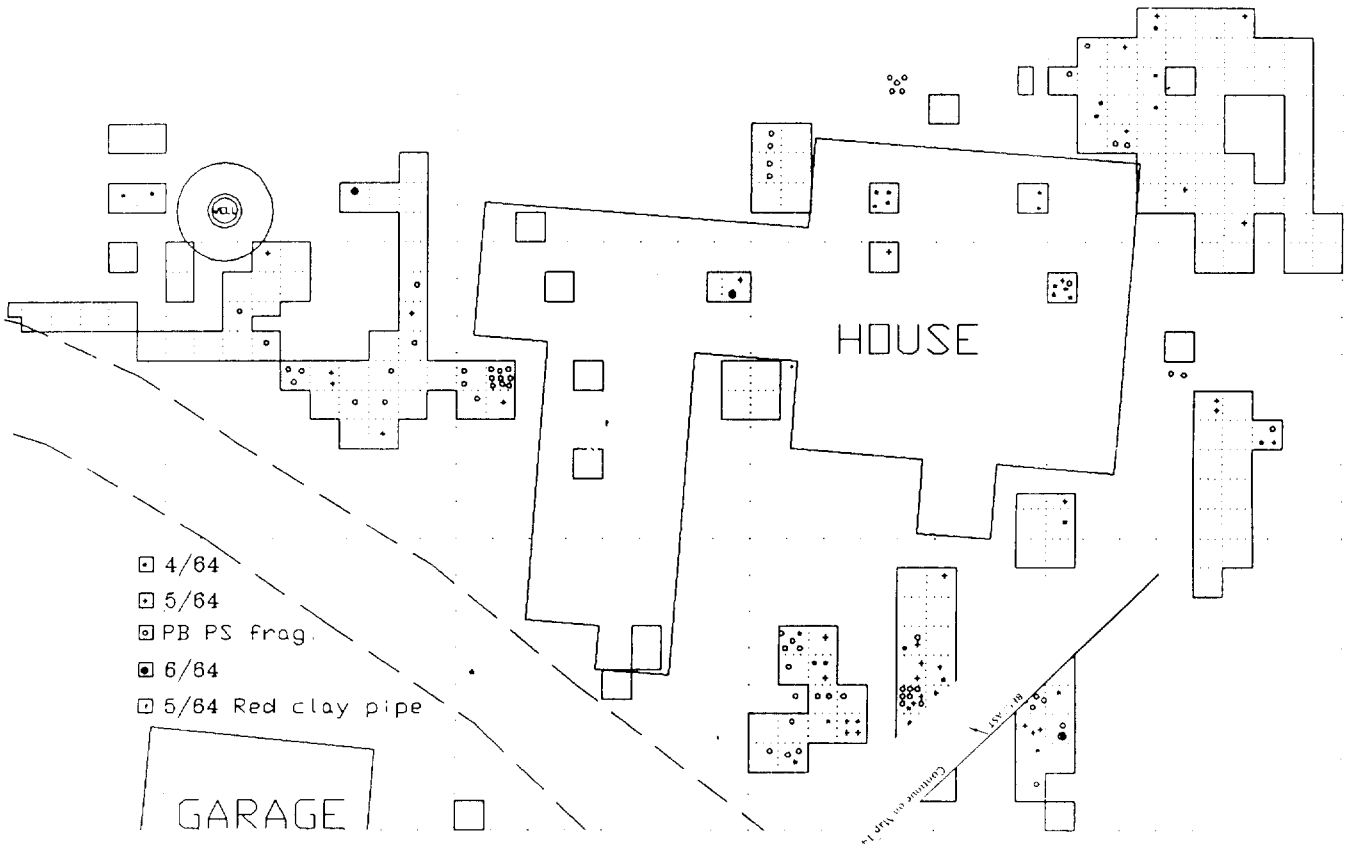


Figure 32. Distribution of clay tobacco pipe fragments around the Purinton House.

the tobacco pipe assemblage from the Purinton House Site is not as useful as that from other Maine sites because of the time period involved. For example, The bore diameter of the smoke hole in clay tobacco pipe stems became smaller over time, from $^{10}/_{64}$" diameter in the 16th century to $^{4}/_{64}$" diameter in the late 18th century. A formula has been devised, called the Binford Formula, which calculates a mean date of occupation for a site based on the bore diameters of all the pipestems from a site (Noël Hume 1982: 299). Clay tobacco pipes were in use from the late 16th century into the 20th century, but the Binford Formula is not accurate at either end of this range. This can be seen in an analysis of the pipestem assemblage from the Purinton House Site. The 93 measurable pipe stems (Figure 31) yielded a Binford Formula date of 1757 as a mean date of occupation for the site.

The decoration on pipestems and bowls and the form of bowls is diagnostic as well. However, in the case of the Purinton House assemblage there were no truly diagnostic pieces. There were no complete white clay pipe bowls, but a few fragments gave a suggestion as to the form of the complete bowl (Figure 31). These forms are thin walled with pedestal spurs and a gradually curving front suggesting a date of 1770/80-1820 (Ayto 1979: 8; Noël Hume 1982: 302). Three fragments decorated with ribbing suggest a date of 1780/90-1820 (Noël Hume 1982: 302). From the fourth quarter of the 18th century through the 19th century, pipe bowl decoration reached a peak and every design and motif imaginable was incorporated into tobacco pipes. The remaining decorated pipe bowl fragments from the Purinton House only exhibit floral designs which were common through

Figure 33. Coins from the Purinton House Site. Top row: English half-pennies; bottom row: U.S. cents.

this period, and thus are not readily datable.

A final approach to gain information from the Purinton House tobacco pipe assemblage is to look at the distribution of pipe fragments throughout the site. Figure 32 shows the distribution of pipestems (n=5 $^{6}/_{64}$", n=43 $^{5}/_{64}$", n=45 $^{4}/_{64}$") and 71 bowl and stem fragments. As has been the case throughout this report, the largest concentration of tobacco pipe fragments was found in area 6, Structure 1 cellar hole. The small number of fragments remaining are evenly distributed around the house and lie relatively close to the house except at areas 4A, B, and C where few fragments were found. The distribution of the $^{5}/_{64}$" and $^{6}/_{64}$" stems, which might indicate 18th-century activity, appear to be very evenly distributed around the extant house. One hypothesis which might be derived from this small sample is that pipe fragments drop to nothing in the direction of the barn because smoking was not permitted in the barn due to the fire hazard. This, however, does not explain the lack of fragments off the northeast corner of the house. Perhaps, this being part of the formal front yard, it was used very little. The small number of fragments off the northwest corner may be due to the presence of Structure 2, or because the front door of the house was on this west side before railroad construction. These are all tentative hypothesis based on a small number of fragments with small variations in numbers (assuming the large quantity of fragments from Area 6 is not considered).

A complete red clay pipe was found on the surface below the shed (Figure 31). Red clay pipes first appear in Maine during the latter part of the third quarter of the 17th century and probably disappear by the first quarter of the 18th century. Red clay pipes are manufactured once more in the 19th century in Canada. The red clay from the Purinton House is certainly a 19th-century example but does not match with the few known Canadian examples. Thus the exact date and place of manufacture is unknown at this time.

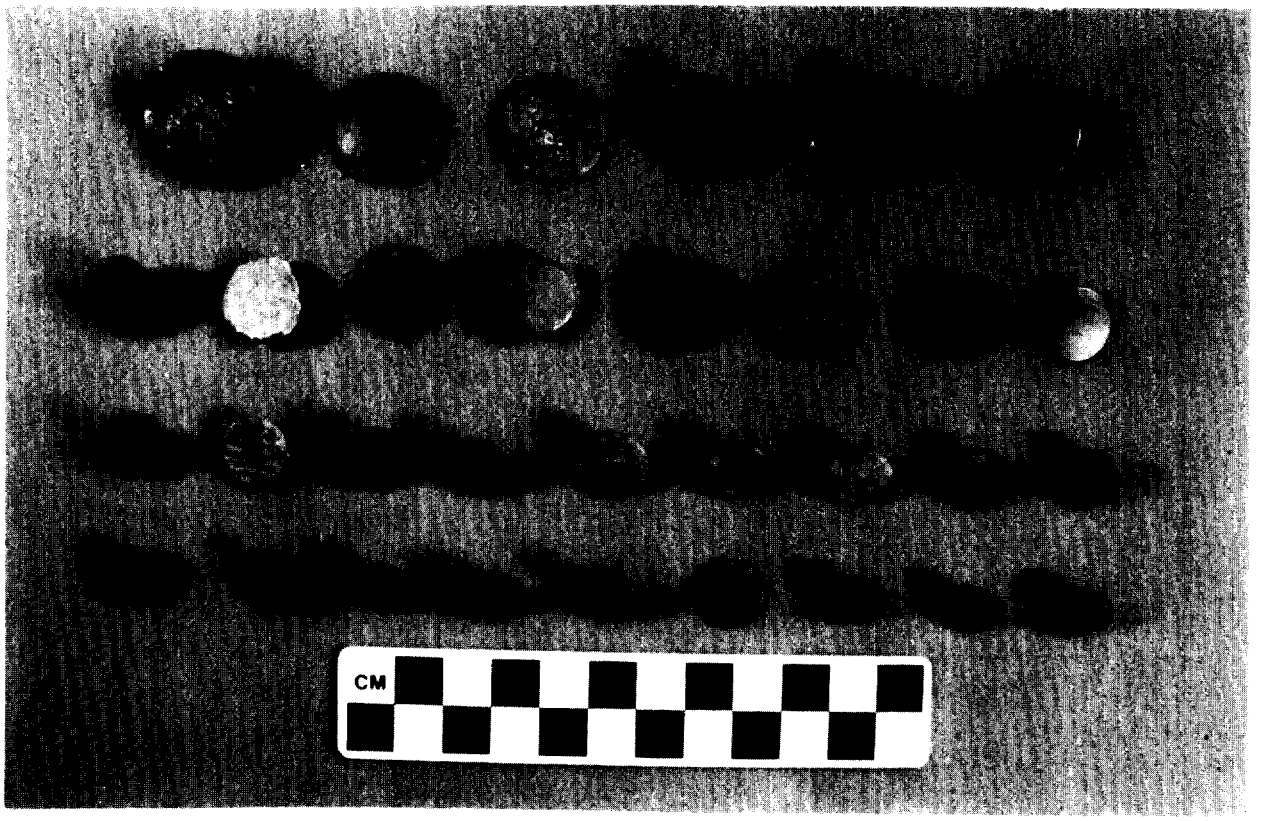


Figure 34. Metal buttons recovered from the Purinton House site.

Coins

A total of fifteen coins were recovered from the Purinton House site. Four of these were English half-pennies with two dating to 1732, one to 1737, and a George II (1727-60) of unknown date (Figure 33, top row). All four of these 18th-century coins were found in the cellar hole, Feature 2, providing another strong indication that Structure 1 was an 18th-century structure. From below the slumped clay of Feature 11 (cistern) came a U.S. large cent dated 1822, establishing a *terminus post quem* ("date after which") for the destruction of the cistern. Also pictured on the bottom row of Figure 33 are another large cent dating 1847, an Indian head cent of 1884, and a Lincoln cent from 1918. Not shown were U.S. pennies dating 1923, 1930, 1934, 1936, 1941, and 1944, and a U.S. nickel from 1940.

Buttons

Over 68 buttons were recovered from the Purinton House site. This large number of artifacts does not permit discussion of each individual button, but rather a general description will be given of some of the types of buttons beginning with those of Figure 34. All of these buttons pictured here are metal, either iron, brass, Britannia metal, or pewter. Most of these are plain, flat buttons and all are of a style popular in the 18th century and extending into the first half of the 19th century (No_l Hume 1982: 90-92; Epstein and Safro 1991: 70, 72). Six of these examples are stamped brass with words on the back indicating that they had been gold washed or "gilt," a style popular from 1830 to 1850 (Epstein and Safro 1991: 72).

Figure 35 illustrates buttons from the assemblage made of various materials. The top row (L. to R.) shows a large wooden button, a one hole horn button, and the remainder made of bone.

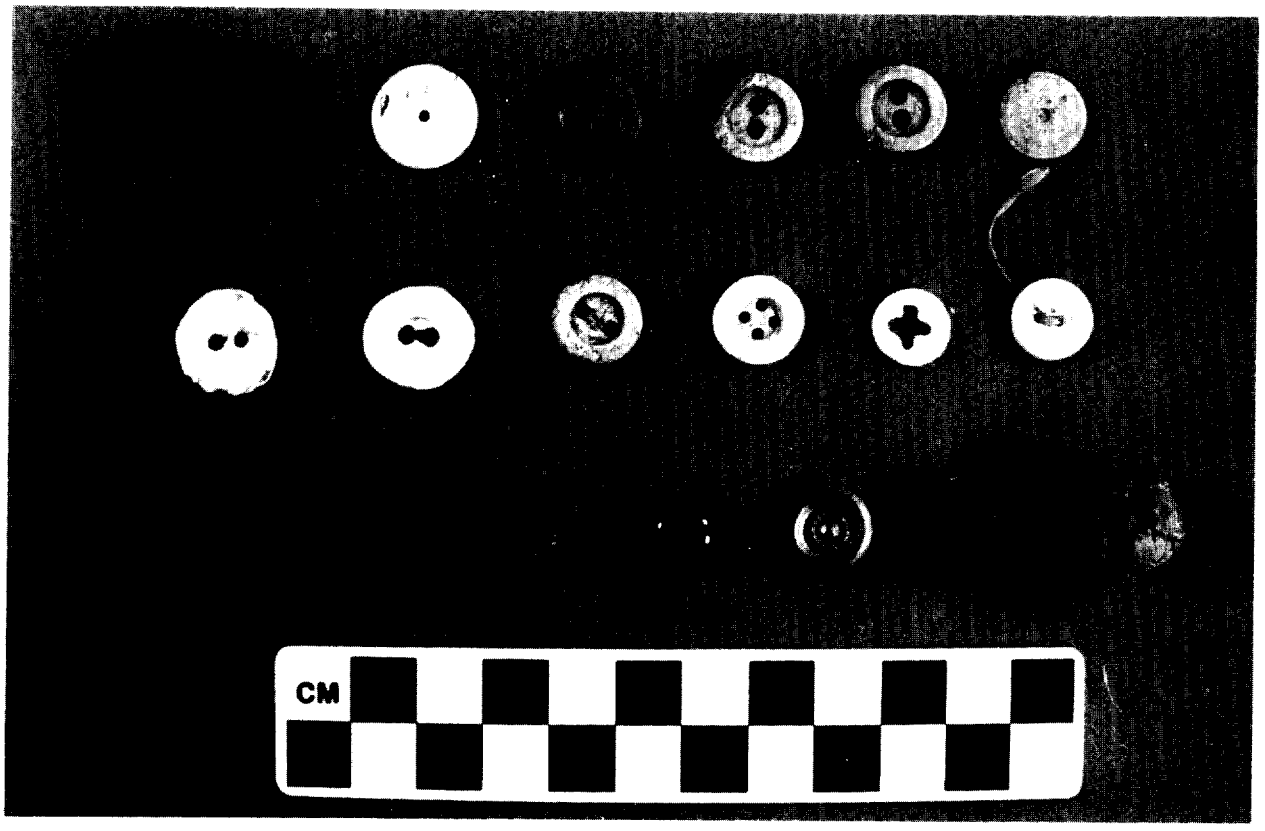


Figure 35. Various button types found at the Purinton House Site; top row: wood, horn, and bone buttons; middle row: shell buttons; Bottom row: various types of buttons.

These buttons could date to anytime during the site occupation. The second row of buttons in Figure 35 are all made of shell. Shell has a long history of use for buttons, and after the mid-19th century mass-produced buttons appeared. Again, these buttons could have been used at any time during our period of study. The first three buttons in the third row of Figure 35 are made of black glass. These probably date to the last half of the 19th century when the fashion was to imitate the dress of Queen Victoria who always wore black (including the buttons) after the death of her husband, Prince Albert, in 1861, until her own death in 1901 (Epstein and Safro 1991: 86).

In this same category can be considered sleeve and collar buttons (Figure 36). A total of two complete pairs and five single (one not shown) sleeve buttons (or cuff-links) were found on the site. All are made of brass and oval in shape, a form which did not become popular until after 1770 (Noël Hume 1982: 89). Several are decorated, but the decorations are non-diagnostic and therefore are of no help in more accurately dating this sample. The collar buttons (Figure 36, bottom row) probably all date from the 19th to the early 20th century. Of note is one example of brass with a possible jade inlay. Another unique piece is of lead and looks like two ganged shot; but shot was not molded in this fashion, so we suggest that this too may be a collar button (Figure 36, bottom far right).

Personal Items

Figures 37 to 39 show a wide variety of personal items found at the Purinton House Site.

Figure 36. Sleeve and collar buttons from the Purinton House Site.

Since an analysis of each individual piece is not practical, these items will only be mentioned as groups of artifact types. Figure 37 illustrates several types of beads and cut and molded glass "jewels" from jewelry. None of the beads are Indian trade beads, but rather all date from the 19th and 20th centuries. Of these are four faceted carnival glass beads which date from 1907 to 1925. One black glass bead and four black stones probably date to the Victorian period discussed above.

Other personal items illustrated in Figure 38 include two rings, a locket with a heart stamped on the cover, a possible hat pin, fragment of gold chain, and a piece of filigree work. Also shown are two thimbles, straight pins, a slate pencil with a ring around the end for a string, and a mouth harp. Not shown was a small heart shaped necklace with chain.

Figure 39 illustrates two pocket knives, a bone-handled folding knife, and various tableware. The latter include a wooden and a bone handled two tine fork and two bone handle fragments. Another two tine fork without a handle was also found but not illustrated. Figure 40 shows various buckles recovered from the site, including two shoe buckles (top row). The large buckle shown in the lower right corner is tentatively identified as horse hardware.

Faunal Remains

An analysis of the bone from the Purinton House Site has been conducted by Liz Trautman, and her findings are presented in Appendix A. The only point to be made here is the findings regarding the bone from area 5. Much of the identifiable bone from this area was from non-edible parts of the animal, specifically the feet. This identification supports the hypothesis of Structure 2 having been a cordwainer/tanner's shop. Feet parts may very well be left on hides received by a tanner for processing.

Figure 37. Beads and cut glass jewelry from the Purinton House Site.

Miscellaneous

This category is designed specifically to mention a group of artifacts discovered below the barn at the Purinton House Site. This collection included a quantity of postcards of Europe, photographs, and other papers such as a "Guide to Grenoble." Many of the photos appeared to be of soldiers in World War I uniforms. The hypothesis that this collection is the remains of a soldier's World War I memorabilia is strengthened by the fact that the remains of a small pamphlet is the "Official Programme" for the Henley Regatta of July 4, 1919. Also found among this collection was the military emblem shown in Figure 41. At first it was thought that this was a battlefield memento, but further research told a different story. This emblem is from a Prussian line officer's helmet, c. 1861 (WilkinsonLathan 1975: 66-67). The date is probably accurate since this particular design was not introduced until 1861, and King Frederick whose initials appear on the emblem as "FR" died in 1861. Even though this piece was not brought beck from the World War I battlefield, it was probably brought back at the same time as a collectors item.

CONCLUSIONS

Three years of archaeological work at the Purinton house site has afforded us the rare opportunity to study a 19th-century Maine farmsite. Among historic archaeological sites in Maine, there are so many 17th and early 18th- century sites which are threatened from various quarters, that 19th-century sites have been given little attention. But these 19th-century sites, too, are rapidly disappearing, and the work at the Purinton House has shown the vast quantity of valuable information available from such sites.

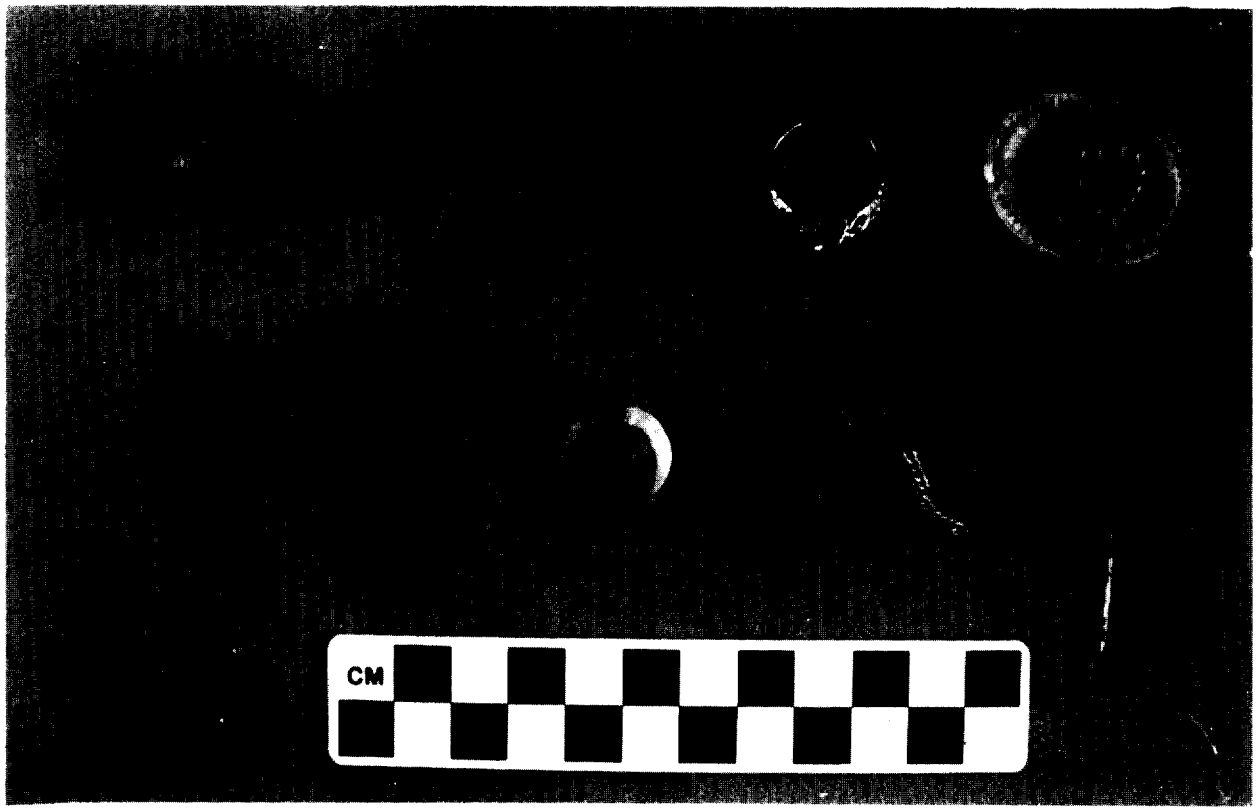


Figure 38. Personal items from the Purinton House site.

We have been able to add important information regarding the existing National Register listed structures. For example, we have learned that Structure 1 which had sat on the excavated cellar of Feature 2, was no doubt moved to the west and turned counterclockwise to become the rear portion of the extant main house.

The question arises as to whether or not Structure 1 was Gore's garrison house. It seems likely since this is the only archaeologically identified structure with such a high concentration of 18th--century artifacts. For example, all four 18th-century English coins were all found near the floor of Structure 1. Also, if Gore indeed built a garrison house, as mentioned in the Wheelers' history of the area, it would have been a substantial structure by definition, which corresponds with the evidence of Structure 1 (Wheeler and Wheeler 1878: 652). And if it was a substantial structure, it is quite likely that James Purinton would have remained in this original house until his son built the extant house in 1810, since "Most farmers seem to have kept buildings inherited from previous settlers for as long as practical" (Hubka 1984: 164).

The results of our archaeological work also provides a sequence for activities in the dooryard behind the house. Structure 4 was probably removed before either of the two privys, Features 33 and 44, or the well were constructed. It can be hypothesized that Structure 4 was an English style barn associated with Structure 1 with which it aligns. Due to Structure 4s suggested location so close to the extant ell, it was probably removed when or by the time the ell was constructed. Feature 44 privy probably did not co-exist with the extant well so close. Possibly the privy was cleaned out and abandoned when the well was dug. Profiles of the soils associated with Feature 44

Figure 39. Personal knives and tableware recovered from the Purinton House Site.

shows backdirt from the well excavation lying on top of the already filled-in privy. The possible date when the Feature 33 privy might have been filled-in has previously been discussed. This mid 19th-century date might also correspond with the date for the construction of the shed with its own built-in privy, thus making the Feature 33 privy obsolete, allowing it to be filled-in.

The archaeological evidence suggest that Structure 2 off the northwest corner of the extant house was an early workshop for Gore and possibly Purinton. The evidence further suggest that this workshop might have been a tannery. Whether it was also used as a cordwainer's shop could not be determined. Perhaps the vague remnants of a fourth structure off the northeast corner of the extant house is the remains of the cordwainer's shop.

Perhaps most fascinating of all is the information and potential for information gathered from the artifactual assemblage. Some of this potential has been hinted at in previous sections during the discussions of the social status of the Purinton Family. A contradiction seems to exist among different artifacts and between the apparent social status of the Purinton Family and the artifacts. For example, the lack of decorated creamwares suggest a poorer family than the abundance of expensive pearlware types. Perhaps the answer lies in the possibility that when James Purinton moved to the site in 1775 the family was not that well off, but, over time, the wealth and social status of the Pur

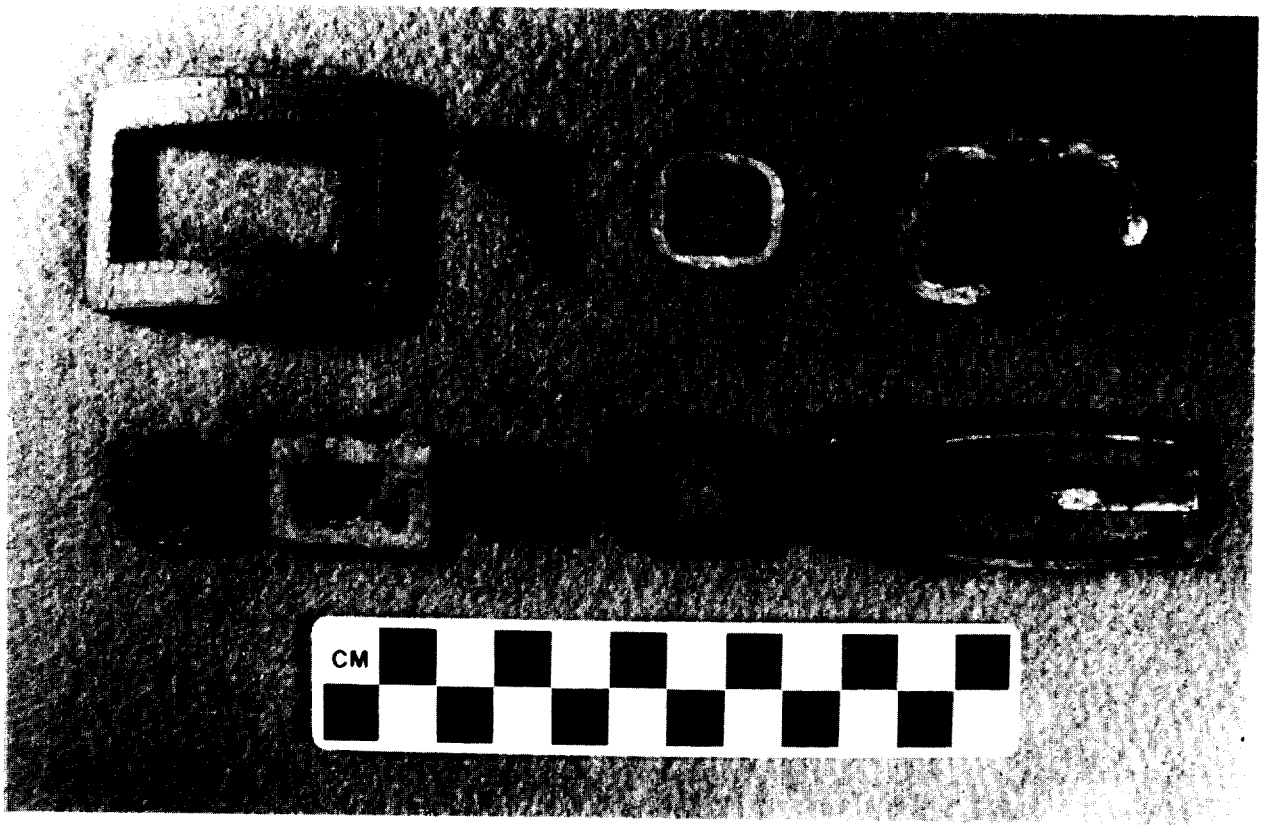


Figure 40. Various buckles from the Purinton House Site.

inton Family increased and they could afford to purchase more expensive goods. This is just one example of the types of questions which may be answered from further analysis of extensive data base obtained from the Purinton House Site artifacts. Also comparative analysis can be made between the Purinton household and other households of the same time period in New England, and hopefully, between other Maine households as well, once the necessary data is obtained.

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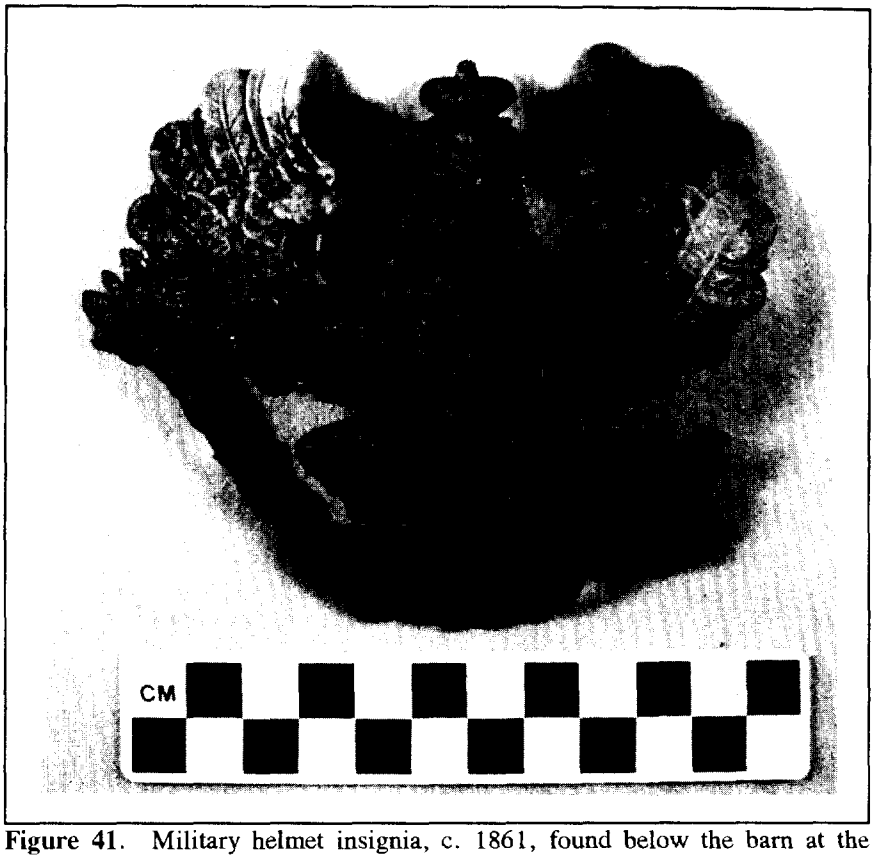

Figure 41. Military helmet insignia, c. 1861, found below the barn at the Purinton House Site.

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Appendix: The Purinton House Faunal Assemblage

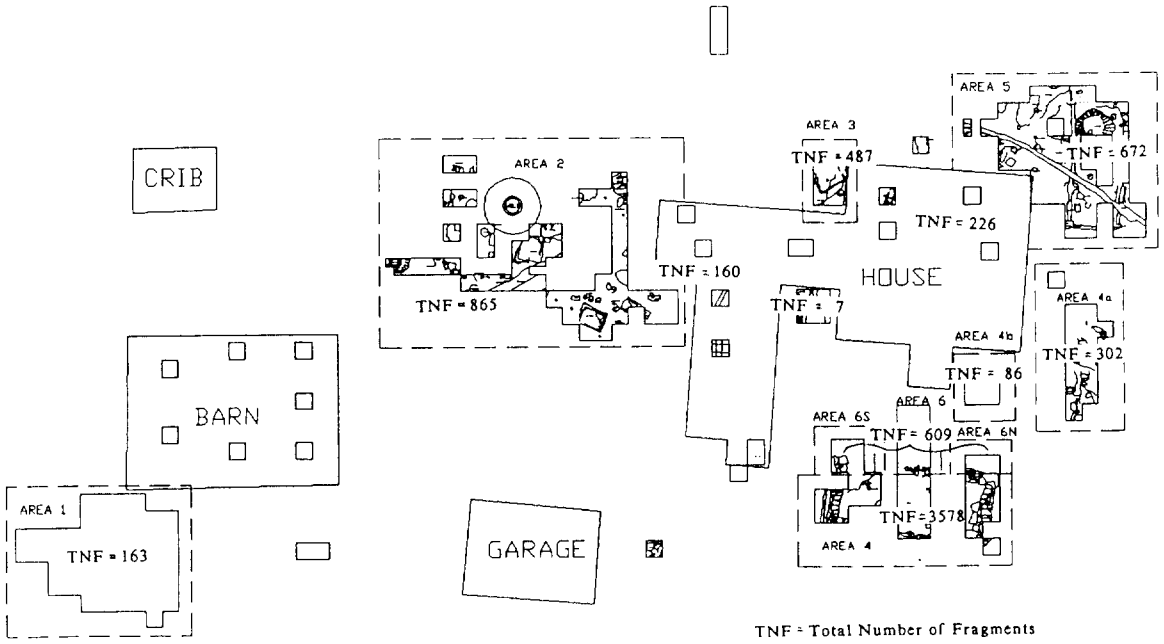
Elizabeth Trautman

A substantial faunal assemblage was recovered during excavations at the Purinton House site. Due to the constraints of time, and to the large size of the total faunal assemblage (n=8,823) a 32% sample of the bone (n=2,865) was examined for this report. These remains were recovered from several features and the large area north of the 19th-century, extant Purinton House. Additionally, only the bone considered to be readily identifiable at least to the family level was pulled from the examined sample and analyzed further.

Comparative faunal materials at MHPC and the University of Southern Maine were used for identification. Analysis included taxonomic classification, body part identification, examination of butchery marks and patterns, aging of individuals based on tooth wear and eruption, and the establishment of minimum numbers of individuals (MNI) per species identified (Amorosi 1989; Crader n.d.; Grant 1975; Silver 1969).

The sample amounted to 32.5% of the fauna from the entire site and 44.0% of the bone assemblage recovered from Areas 2, 3, 4, 4a, 5 and 6. Figure presents the distribution of $^4/_5$ of the entire sample of bone recovered across the Purinton House site. Figure indicates the distribution of the examined and analyzed fauna.

All of the bone from Features 33 and 44 (n=199), two privies located in Area 2, was examined. This

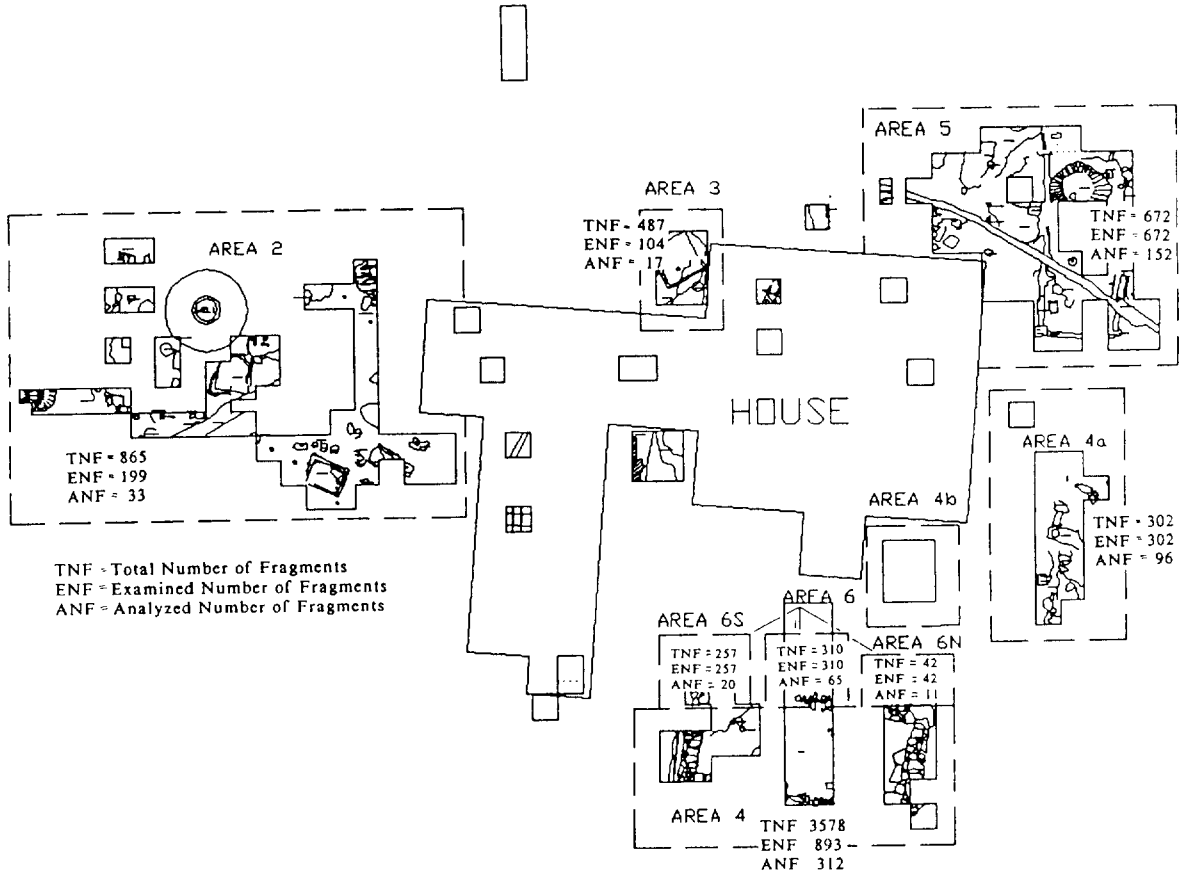


Appendix Figure 1. Sitewide distribution of bone fragments.

sample constitutes a 23.0% sample of the faunal assemblage from Area 2. Of this sample, 33 bones (16.3%) were identified. In Area 3, the entire bone assemblage from feature 22 (n=104, a 21.3% sample of the area) was examined and 17 bones (16.3%) were identified. All the bones from Areas 4a and 5 were examined; of these 96 (31.8%) and 152 (22.6%) respectively, were removed for identification. The largest amount of bone was concentrated in Feature 2 (or Area 4), an 18th-century cellar hole. In Feature 2, 3,578 bones were recovered from mixed fill in 1989, 1990 and 1991. Of these 3,578 bones, a sample of 893 (25.0%) were examined and 312 (34.9% of the examined sample) were removed for further analysis and identification. From Area 6, along the western edge of Feature 2, all the bone was examined with 96 (15.8%) pulled for further analysis.

Areal Comparison of Identified Fauna

Feature 2 was not only the source of the greatest number of faunal remains, but was also the source of the greatest diversity of fauna. Of the 14 species or genera represented in Tables 1 and 2, all but two apparently incidental species, sturgeon (*Acipenser* sp.) and Norwegian rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), are found in Feature 2. All of the MNI, with the exception of the two species just mentioned, were established by the faunal remains found in Feature 2. Most of the bone from wild species present on the site are concentrated in Feature 2. Although the presence of one squirrel (Sciuridae) and one small duck (Anatidae) may not represent much in the way of calories, they probably represent a welcome change of fare at the least, and at the most, perhaps a crucial dietary contribution during a difficult year. The nine fish (seven shad or alewife [*Alosa* sp.], one cod [Gadidae]



Appendix Figure 2. Distribution of the bone assemblage among the areas selected for faunal analysis.

and one fish of the salmonid family) represented in Feature 2 also provided some variety, as did a goose (Anserinae) and three chickens (*Gallus gallus*). But the diet represented by the fauna in Feature 2, and the other areas as well, was dominated by pork (*Sus scrofa*), beef (*Bos taurus*) and mutton (both sheep and goat [Ovi-capridae]). The numbers of bones identified to each of these three taxons and the two inclusive categories of medium and large Artiodactyla (sheep, goat, pig in the medium category and cow in the large category) for each area are presented in Table 3. Although both white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and moose (*Alces alces*) are also members of the Artiodactyla family in Maine, there were no bones identified to either of these two species at the Purinton House site. Taken together with the combined category of medium or large Artiodactyls (not presented in the table, n=45) these categories comprise 62.9% of the identified faunal remains. Even this percentage must also be considered very conservative, since the rate of identification of whole small bones (all the bones of the smaller species) is greater than that for the broken up bones of the larger species. Given their large size when compared with the other species represented at the site, it is clear that beef, pork and mutton greatly dominated the meals at the Purinton site.

Area 6, located in an undisturbed context along the western edge of Feature 2 contained faunal remains very similar to those found within the foundation. The percentages of the domestic fauna represented in Table are very similar to those from the foundation sample. The chicken remains especially are largely confined to Areas 4 and 6, as are the cat (*Felis domesticus)* remains. A goose was identified in Area 6, by a right scapula, and a bone from a small duck found in Area 6, further ties its fauna assemblage to that of Area 4 (Feature 2). The Area 6 assemblage differs from the Feature 2 remains

Taxon	Total Bones	Cranial & teeth	Vertebra	Scapula & ribs	Forelimbs & carpals	Pelvis	Hindlimbs & tarsal	Indet& podials	MNI
MAMMALS									
Bos taurus	84	45	2	0	10	5	11	12	2
Sus scrofa	92	38	10	2	9	2	19	12	5
Ovi-capridae	43	13	2	6	4	5	10	4	3
Felis domesticus	14	3	0	2	5	1	1	2	2
Artiodactyla (medium)	84	4	48	0	9	1	7	14	0
Artiodactyla (large)	103	14	57	1	9	3	3	15	0
AVES (birds)									
Gallus gallus	35	4	0	14	14	0	3	0	3
Total	420	121	119	11	45	17	52	57	12

Appendix Table 1. Identified domestic faunal remains from selected areas of Site 435.4, ordered by taxa and body regions. Note: Artiodactyla categories almost certainly represent domestic fauna. The medium artiodactyl category would be comprised of goat, sheep and pig while the large artiodactyl category would represent cow. No deer, moose or horse remains were identified among the examined faunal assemblage. The two cats identified were probably pets.

Taxon	Total Bones	Cranial & teeth	Vertebra & ribs	Shoulder girdle	Forelimbs & carpals	Pelvis	Hindlimbs & tarsal	Indet & podials	MNI
FISH									
Alosa sp.	32	31	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Gadidae	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonidae	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acipenser sp.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	scute-1	1
AVES									
Anserinae	7	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	1
Anatid-small	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1
MAMMALS									
Sciuridae	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Rattus nor.	5	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	65	36	12	8	3	1	2	1	13

Appendix Table 2. Identified wild faunal remains from selected areas of Site 435.4, taxa are listed by their suggested importance as a food source. The goose and duck remains could represent domestic faunal remains. Note: Although the Norwegian rat remains are undoubtedly incidental, there is a cut mark on the identified squirrel femur.

by their low identifiability rate (15.7% compared with 31.8% from Feature 2). The lower identifiability of the remains from Area 6 may be explained by its location along the outer wall of the 18th-century foundation: Area 6 may well be the location of discarded kitchen remains which were reduced to smaller size through the cooking process. The bones near the house would have also undergone later taphonomic disturbance in this area of considerable household activity. In contrast, the 18th-century foundation itself was probably filled with a mixed refuse when the 19th-century foundation was excavated. Located away from the house, much of the

Area	# Id. Bones	*Sus scrofa*	*Bos taurus*	Ovi-capridae	Artiodactyl (medium)	Artiodactyl (large)
Area 4	312	45 14.4%	14 4.5%	16 5.1%	36 11.5%	24 7.6%
Area 5	152	23 15.1%	30 19.7%	17 11.2%	16 10.5%	30 15.1%
Area 6	96	11 11.4%	6 6.3%	4 4.2%	9 9.4%	23 24.0%
Area 4a	96	7 7.3%	31 32.2%	5 5.2%	15 15.6%	17 17.7%
Area 2	33	6 18.1%	0 0%	2 6.1%	5 15.2%	7 21.2%
Area 3	17	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 5.9%	2 11.8%
Total	706	92 13.0%	81 11.5%	44 6.2%	81 11.5%	103 14.5%

Appendix Table 3. Identified domestic faunal remains which contribute a large percentage to the Purinton House diet from selected areas. The artiodactyl categories are presumed to represent remains which originated in the cow, sheep, goat or pig categories. Note: The percentages shown represent the percent of *all* the identified bones from each area.

bone in this fill was probably composed of both kitchen waste (secondary disposal) and initial butchery waste (primary disposal) discarded before it reached the kitchen. Larger, less processed bones would have been discarded away from the house where butchering was taking place. The location of the vast majority of fish bones within the foundation rather than along side it, may suggest that fish, too, were processed away from the kitchen. The chicken remains, on the other hand, suggest that chickens were processed and possibly butchered within Area 6. Their small size and relatively clean butchering could have facilitated in-house or door-yard processing. All of the identified chicken cranial elements were recovered from Area 6.

The faunal assemblage within Feature 2 and Area 6 were also similar in the proportion of bones which represent more edible portions of the individuals identified. In both areas more body and upper limb elements were recovered than were cranial or lower appendage elements. The reverse is true for the other areas considered below, which could indicate that the fauna deposited in Areas 2, 3, 4a and 5 was composed of more primary waste.

The species distribution from Areas 4a and 5, is somewhat dissimilar to the remains identified in Areas 4 and 6, in that there is much less diversity present in the faunal assemblage. In area 4a, the domestic cow, pig and sheep or goat remains (along with the medium and large artiodactyl categories) 68.0% of the identifiable remains, while in Area 5 they account for 61.6%. The individual bones in these samples, however, do not suggest anything so drastic as a different occupation. Indeed, the cow remains in Area 4a contain two left hyoids (bones located in the base of the tongue), while two right hyoids were recovered from Area 4 (Feature 2). And in Area 5, cod and chicken remains indicate a similar source of deposit as that found in Feature 2. The one sturgeon element recovered at the site was also located in Area 5. The rate of identifiable faunal remains in Area 4a is similar to that in Area 4 which, again, may indicate a large proportion of initial butchery discard. The remains of a structure identified in Area 4a may have belonged to a butchery shop or a smoke shop. The percentage of identifiable bones in Area 5 is in the middle range. At 22.6% it is approximately half way between the lowest rate of 15.7% in Area 6 and the highest rate of 34.9% in Area 4. As suggested for Area 6, Area 5 may be an area of considerable disturbance and activity, as well as an area of both primary and secondary disposal. Perhaps the noon meal was consumed in this area where a workshop may have existed which would help account for a portion of the secondary disposal patterning. The presence of many bones from the less edible portions of the various individuals identified in Area 5 may indicate that the hides processed at the tanning workshop were accompanied by attached leg and feet bones.

In Area 2, the low percentage of identifiable bone

from the two privies (Features 33 and 44) may well result from the high organic content of these two features. Chemical weathering was apparent within the sample from Area 2. Interestingly, the majority of the identifiable elements may easily have originated from two or more pig lower limbs. The specific elements identified in Area 3 do not suggest any particular disposal or consumption patterning. Like Areas 4a and 5, the majority of the fauna identified in Areas 2 and 3 is attributable to large domestic mammals. (In Area 3, the 17 bones pulled for analysis could be identified only to the artiodactyl or general mammal categories).

General Comments

Although the majority of the faunal sample examined was considered to be unidentifiable, the analyzed sample can still be utilized to interpret observed similarities and dissimilarities among various features present on the site as discussed above. The diet of those living on the site, along with some butchery practices, are also indicated by the assemblage.

The high number of unidentifiable bone fragments in the Purinton House faunal assemblage, may indicate that many of the meals which produced these bones were comprised of soups, stews fricassees and casseroles. Examination of the recipes in an 18th-century cookbook by Susannah Carter (1772) indicate that meals of this nature may well have been typical of the 18th century. The faunal assemblage from the Purinton House indicates that other meals which appear in *The Frugal Colonial Housewife* were also consumed at the site. Cut marks on cranial elements indicate that tongue and probably brain was consumed. Cut marks also indicate that the squirrel identified in Feature 2 was butchered and did not die accidentally amid the fill. Other bones which show butchery marks are not surprising. Ribs and vertebra dominate the bones with cut marks and other signs of butchery. Saw marks are few and are confined predominantly to a few large leg bones such as femora and humeri.

Bones from all parts of the individuals consumed at the Purinton House site are present in the assemblage which indicates that butchery took place on site. The presence of young pig and sheep or goat remains in the assemblage indicates spring or summer butchering and may also reflect the consumption patterns of relatively high class individuals. Although the majority of the diet at the Purinton House probably consisted of beef, pork and mutton, other meat sources were also utilized including poultry, waterfowl, fish and squirrel.

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Erratum from page 11, Harbour Mitchell III, A Salvage Effort on the Coast of Maine: The Lehmann Site (40-3), *The Maine Archaeological Society Bulletin* 32(2):1-14, 1992. The total and percentages in the Foundation Grid (right hand) column have been changed to reflect corrections to typesetting errors.

Table 3. Debitage material counts recovered from the Septic Grid and Foundation Grid.

FLAKE MATERIAL TYPE	SEPTIC GRID Count	%	FOUNDATION Count	%
Felsite	172	76	135	81
Quartzite	41	18	0	0
Metamorphosed igneous	2	0.8	0	0
Fine grained basalt	0	0	16	10
Quartz	7	3	9	5
Chert	1	0.4	7	4
Other	4	2	0	0
TOTAL	227	99	167	100