

EXCAVATIONS AT SA 26-1: PRELIMINARY REPORT

SUMMER 1979

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#### Field Data: Trench A Section 5

Although excavations at SA 26-1 during the spring were initially limited to testing, it was decided to expand the project, and to excavate as much of the southern half of the site as time allowed. As mentioned before, the lot is being prepared for full construction, and it is essential to recover as much archaeological information as possible while this area is clear. Trench A was extended to the east, and Section 5 was excavated. The southwest stake of Section 5 was 16 meters east of the Charlotte St. curb. Section 5 measured 1.5 x 3 meters, and extends Trench A east to 19 meters from Charlotte St. Excavations at SA 36-4 and SA 34-1 (Deagan 1978) revealed that the 16th century wells excavated in St. Augustine all fell within 12 to 15 meters from the street. Though the location of Section 5 was actually 16-19 meters from Charlotte St. it was still hoped that evidence of well construction would be discovered.

Following previous procedures, the majority of Zone 1 was removed with a front-end loader. This zone consisted of black-brown compacted soil heavily flecked with building rubble. Much of the material contained in this zone dated to the 20th century. This zone is contiguous over the whole site. This zone was excavated and discarded in the other sections without any designation. However, in this section a sample of Zone 1, measuring 75cm x 75cm was screened and saved. Excavations were begun at a depth of 1.73 MMSL, and the zone was excavated in ten centimeter levels to a total depth of 28 centimeters or 1.45 MMSL. Level 1 contained modern materials, but levels 2 and 3 dated to the 19th century, with a Terminus Post Quem of 1830 (Whiteware). At the depth of 1.45 MMSL several areas and features were encountered, which were mapped and excavated separately. Due to the large number of intrusions and disturbances, no other zones were present in this unit until a zone of dark grey-brown soil with shell flecking was encountered in the western one

third of the square, at a depth of 1.31 MMSL. This corresponds with Zone 3 in previous excavations. This zone was excavated in two ten-centimeter levels to a depth of 1.11 MMSL. Zone 3 has a TPQ of 1565 (Olive Jar) and dates to the 16th century. Gold sterile soil was first encountered at a depth of 1.32 MMSL.

#### Intrusions

A large number of intrusions and disturbances were encountered in Section 5, which date from the 16th through the 19th centuries. Each will be discussed separately. Several amorphous areas were encountered and excavated, as well as six trash pits, two postholes, five postmolds, and and three well construction pits.

#### 19th Century:

Two areas in Section 5 date to the 19th century Territorial period (post-1821). Area 4 consisted of an irregularly-shaped feature of dark brown shell and char-flecked soil. It initiated at a depth of 1.42 MMSL and was 29 cm deep. Area 4 has a TPQ of 1813 (Ironstone). Area 10 adjoined Area 4 and may have been the result of the same cultural activity as Area 4, in that they contained highly similar artifacts. Area 10 was a small area of medium gray-brown and tan mottled soil heavily flecked with charcoal. Area 10 also initiated at 1.42 MMSL, and was 24 cm deep. Area 10 also has a TPQ of 1813 (Ironstone). Both Areas 4 and 10 contained an unusual ceramic type, 19th century white porcelain with a blue transfer print design similar to the willow pattern, and a gold overglazed line around the rim.

#### Second Spanish Period:

Four areas, one posthole, and one postmold date to the Second Spanish period (1783-1821). Posthole 1 intruded into Area 1, and consisted of a small circular area of dark black soil. It was 12 cm in depth and had a rounded bottom. It has a TPQ of 1780 (Shelledge pearlware). Postmold 1 occurred in the center of Area 2 at a depth of 1.41 MMSL, with an irregularly



shaped bottom. It has a TPQ of 1820 (Late Hand-painted Pearlware). Area 1 was an irregularly-shaped area covering the western one third of Section 5. It was composed of dark brown shell and char flecked soil. It initiated at 1.45 MMSL and was twelve centimeters deep, and overlay Zone 3 and numerous other areas. It has a TPQ of 1820 (Late Hand-painted Pearlware). Area 2 was composed of the same soil as Area 1, and was roughly circular. It initiated at 1.43 MMSL and was 27 cm deep. Area 2 has the same TPQ as Area 1. Area 3 was composed of the same soil as Area 1 and was highly irregular in shape and depth. It initiated at 1.42 MMSL and was 27 cm deep at its deepest point. It has a TPQ of 1795 (Mocha ware). Area 9 was a trash pit of medium gray-brown char-flecked soil. It initiated at 1.45 MMSL, and was 25 cm deep. It has a TPQ of 1795 (Annular ware).

#### 17th century:

Two features date to the 17th century, a well construction pit and a trash pit. The well construction pit will be discussed later. The trash pit, designated Area 7 was roughly semicircular, intruding into the north balk, and was composed of dark brown shell- and char-flecked soil.

#### 16th century:

Several features in Section 5 date to the 16th century. These include one posthole, two postmolds, four trash pits, two well construction pits, and two barrel wells. The wells and well construction pits will be discussed later. Posthole 2 was circular in shape, with a diameter of 20 centimeters. It initiated at 1.40 MMSL and was 39 cm deep. It has a TPQ of 1565 (Columbia Plain), but contained a single sherd of El Morro, tentatively dated at 1650. Two postmolds, roughly rectangular in shape and 16 cm in diameter, were excavated, one near the north balk, and the other intruding into the south balk. Postmold 4 was 50 cm deep, and Postmold 5 was 20 cm deep. Both initiated at 1.28 MMSL. Postmold 5 contained no artifacts, and Postmold 4 contained a single sherd of San Marcos. Four trash pits were excavated which date to the

16th century. Area 8 was roughly semi-circular in shape and intruded into the east balk. It consisted of medium gray-brown char-flecked soil. It has a TPQ of 1575 (Fig Springs Polychrome). Area 11 consisted of loosely compacted whole oyster shell in a matrix of gray-brown sandy soil extending east from the west balk. It initiated at 1.32 MMSL and continued to a depth of 28 cm. It has a TPQ of 1565 (Olive Jar). Area 12 consisted of loose gray-brown shell-flecked soil, and was oblong in shape. It initiated at 1.32 MMSL, and was only 4 cm deep. Caparra Blue majolica provided the TPQ of 1565. The final trash pit initiated below Area 13, and was never completely excavated because of heavy rains and its continuing below the water table. This feature has a TPQ of 1565 (Ichtucknee blue on blue).

(A word of caution should be expressed here regarding the description of soil colors in all above features. The soil in Section 5 was completely soaked in either kerosene or some other heating fuel that evidently had leaked into the soil from a fuel tank. The ground was completely saturated in this oil, even below the water table, and lenses of normally gold sterile soil was stained a black color. While distinguishing the boundaries of features was not any more problematic than in other areas of the site, it is possible that the soil color in these features was darkened by the oil saturation.)

When all of the aforementioned features and intrusions were removed, a series of three well construction pits were discovered, intruding into one another, and all intruding into sterile soil. These were labeled Features 57, 60, and 61 respectively. Feature 57 was determined to be the earliest, with Feature 61 the latest. There were two reasons for deciding to expand Section 5 to the south and attempt to fully excavate Feature 57. First, since Feature 57 was determined to be the earliest, it was felt that this feature would be the most likely to yield data from the 16th century. Secondly, and more pragmatically, expansion to the north would have necessitated removal

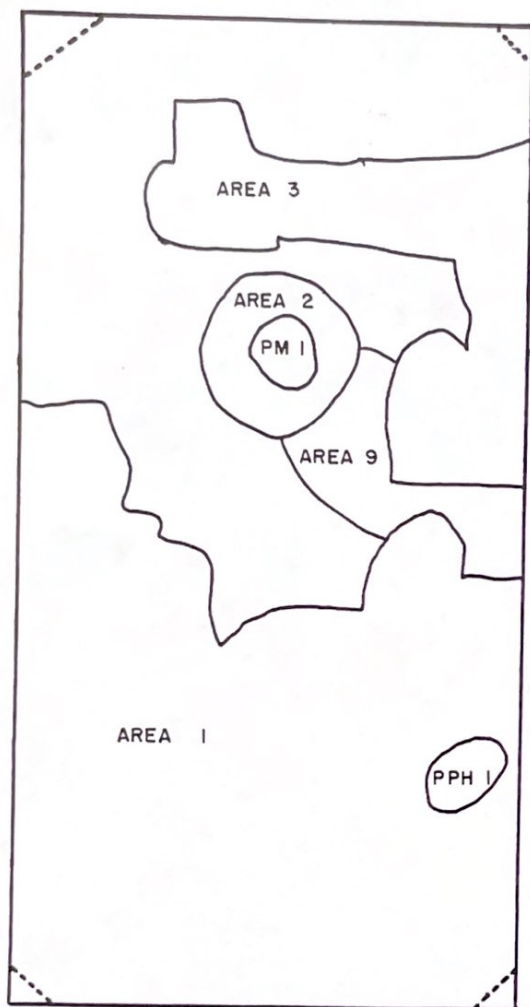
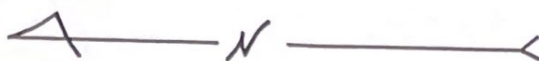


of a huge pile of building debris already perched precariously on the northern balk of the trench. Because of time limitations, the excavation unit was expanded with the use of a backhoe to measure approximately 3x3.7 meters. The dirt was removed with the backhoe to approximately the top of Feature 57, and then features and profiles were prepared for photographing with various hand tools. (See Figure 3.) Feature 57, a well construction pit, and Feature 62, a barrell well, were excavated in fifteen centimeter levels. Feature 57 initiated at 1.41 MMSL, and continued to a depth of .25 MMSL. This feature had an initial diameter of 2.01 meters, and tapered inward gradually. Feature 62, the barrell well, was a circular feature of dark gray-brown soil averaging .65 meters in diameter. Throughout excavation, the interface of Features 57 and 62 was often difficult to distinguish, possibly due to the deterioration of the barrell casing. The well initiated at .76 MMSL and was excavated to a depth of .08 MMSL, at which time sterile soil was encountered. Feature 57 has a TPQ of 1565 (Santo Domingo blue on white), with the exception of two sherds of Plain Creamware (1750-1820) found in level 8, which are probably the result of contamination during the excavation process. Feature 62 has a TPQ of 1650 (El Morro). Thus the well was constructed soon after the founding of St. Augustine, and was filled early in the 17th century.

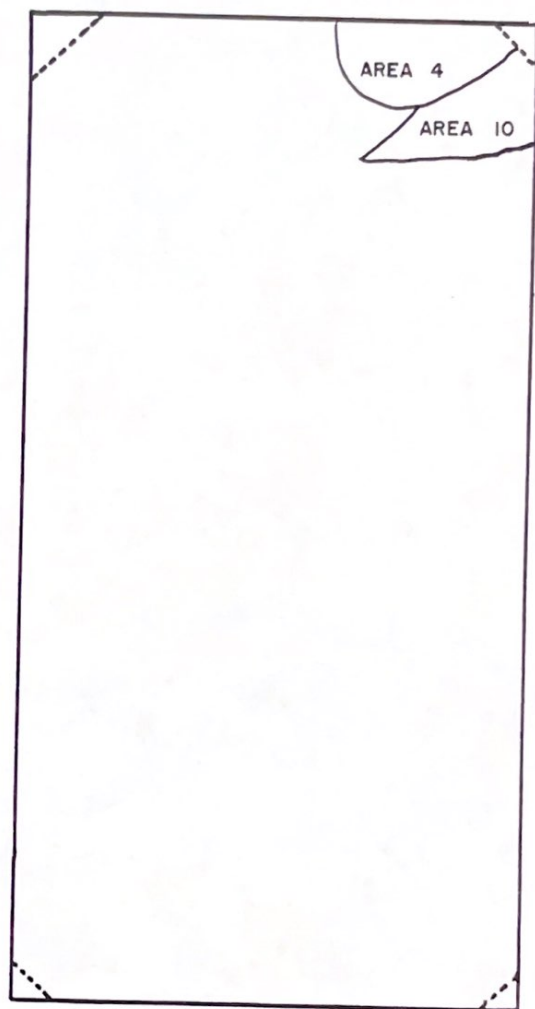
Another well construction pit and barrell well were encountered in this unit, labeled Features 60 and 66 respectively. These features were located in the northeast corner of Section 5, and thus could not be completely excavated. Feature 60 was first discovered at 1.40 MMSL, and was partially excavated to a depth of .34 MMSL. Feature 66 initiated at .44 MMSL and was excavated to an approximate depth of .27 MMSL before balk collapse and weather conditions prohibited further excavation. Feature 60 has a TPQ of 1600 (Ichtucknee blue on white), and Feature 66 has a TPQ of 1565 (Columbia Plain). Dating of these two features poses a problem, but from the data

we must conclude that the well was constructed early in the 17th century, and filled soon afterwards.

Three other features dating to the 16th or early 17th century were present in this excavation unit, and intruded into sterile soil. The aforementioned Feature 61 was composed of mottled tan, gold, and gray soil, and was located along the north wall of Trench A Section 5. From its shape and composition Feature 61 was designated a well construction pit. No evidence of a well inside this feature was encountered, however. Feature 61 initiated at 1.41 MMSL, and was completely excavated to a depth of .51 MMSL. Feature 61 has a TPQ of 1600 (Ichtucknee blue on white). Feature 63 was located along the west balk of the extension of Section 5. It was semi-circular and symmetrical in shape. It was composed of medium gray-brown shell-flecked soil, with white and gold mottling near the edges of the feature. Feature 63 was encountered at a depth of .97 MMSL and was 37 cm deep. Feature 63 has a TPQ of 1565 (Columbia Plain). Feature 64 intruded into the south wall of the extension of Section 5, and was irregular in shape. This feature was composed of dark gray-brown shell-flecked soil. Initiating at .97 MMSL, it was 13 cm deep, and was excavated in a single level. Spanish Storage Jar and San Marcos indicate a 16th century date of deposition. (See Figure 3.)



Second Spanish Period



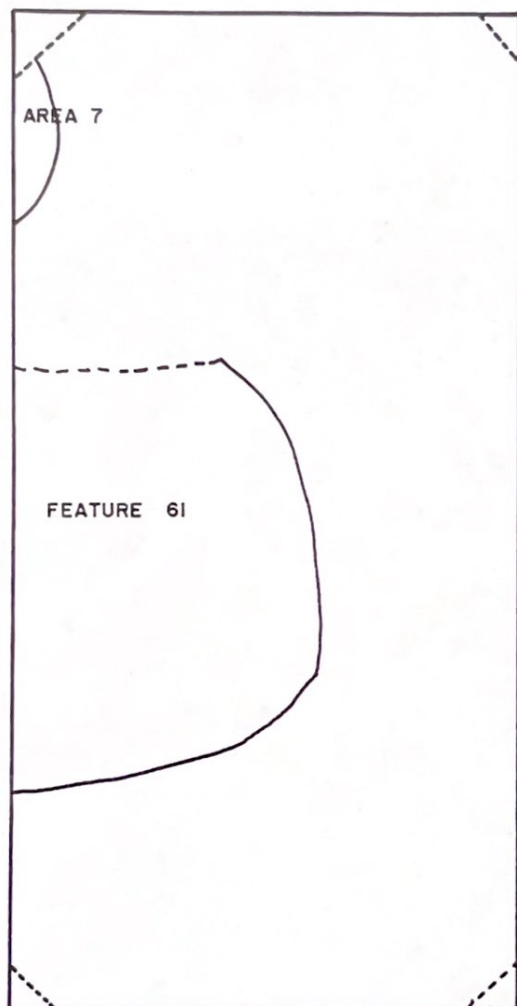
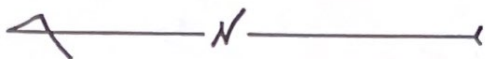
19th Century

# Trench A Section 5

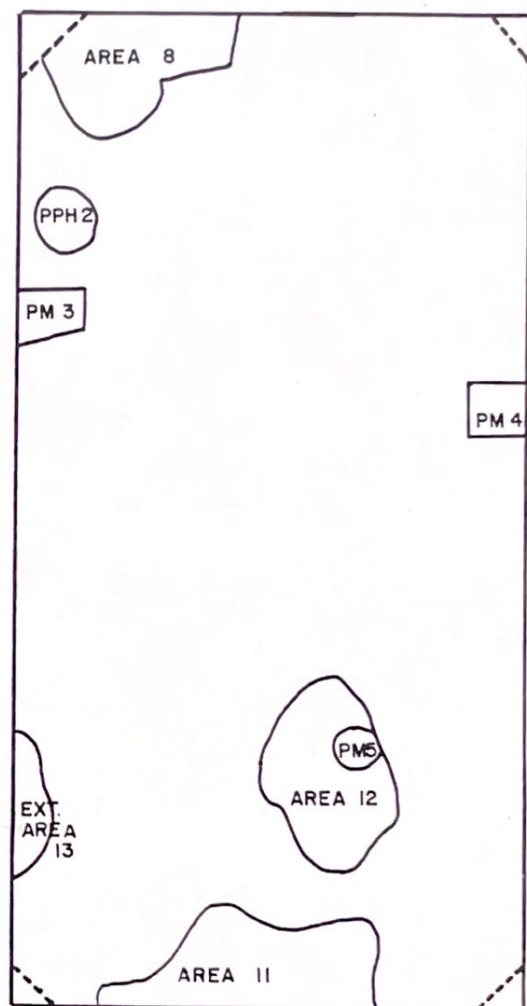
Scale 1:20

Figure 1





17th Century

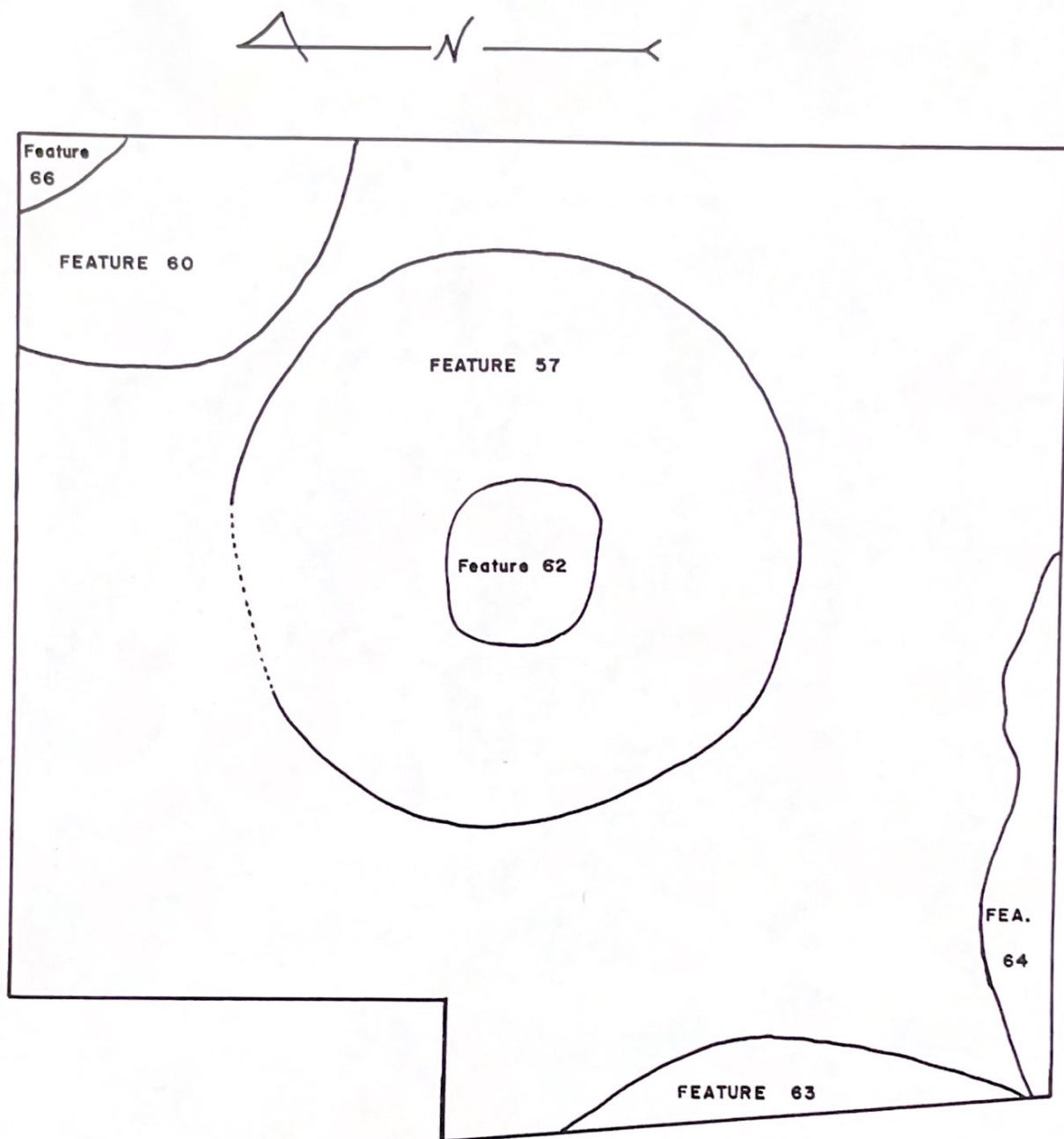


16th Century

### Trench A Section 5

Scale 1:20

Figure 2



16th Century Features  
TRENCH A SECTION 5  
& EXTENSION  
Scale 1:20

Figure 3

Field Data: Trench A Section 7

In addition to expanding Trench A Section 5, a backhoe was used to open a section of Trench A to the east of Section 5. The trench was 6.8 meters long and approximately 2 meters wide, with the northwest corner located 25.1 meters from the curb along Charlotte St. This trench was excavated to sterile soil. The main purpose of excavating this unit was to obtain a profile of the north wall, and thus a composite profile of the entire site running from east to west. However, several features were discovered intruding into sterile soil, and were excavated. These features dated from the 16th through the late 19th century.

16th Century:

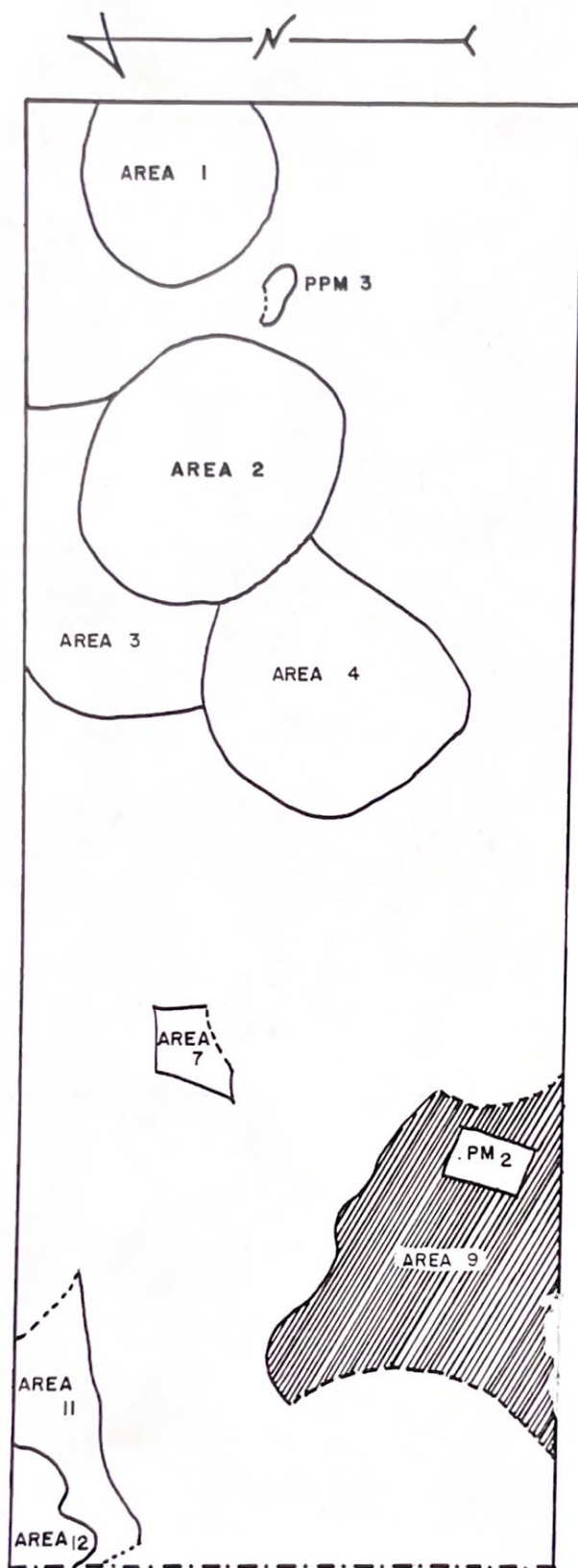
One feature, Area 9, dated to the 16th century, with a TPQ of 1575 (Fig Springs polychrome). Area 9 was an irregularly shaped pit of mottled gray, gold, and tan soil with slight char flecking. Area 9 initiated at 1.06 MMSL, and was 22 cm deep.

17th Century:

Two postmolds and six areas date to the 17th century. Postmold 2 was a rectangular area of dark gray-brown soil with shell and char flecking. It initiated at 1.08 MMSL and was 5 cm deep and contained a single sherd of San Marcos. Postmold 3 was irregular in shape and was composed of medium gray soil. It initiated at 1.04 MMSL, and continued to a depth of .75 MMSL. Postmold 3 contained only undatable aboriginal sherds. Area 2 was a circular trash pit of medium gray-brown shell-flecked soil initiating at 1.06 MMSL. It was 26 cm deep and has a TPQ of 1650 (Puebla polychrome). Area 4 was adjacent to Area 2 and was a trash pit composed of compact light and dark gray mottled soil with shell flecking. It initiated at 1.10 MMSL and was 34 cm deep. It has a TPQ of 1650 (Abo polychrome). Area 3 directly underlay Areas 2 and 4. It was a trash pit composed of medium gray-brown shell-flecked



levels to a depth of .02 MMSL, at which time sterile soil was reached. The well was constructed from interlocking coquina blocks 95 centimeters in length. The bottom of these coquina blocks was never reached. The four outside edges of the blocks were fit together to leave the corners notched. The blocks contained no traces of mortar, which would have indicated another level of coquina blocks or bricks. Thus the initiation of such a late feature at such a deep level poses a problem. Since all soil directly above Feature 70 was removed with a backhoe, no evidence of this feature at a higher level is available. It is tentatively suggested that the corner notches of the coquina blocks supported a wooden casing above the coquina blocks, thus raising the the top of the well to a higher level. Table 1 contains a complete list of artifacts recovered from Feature 70. A number of molded bottles with hand-tooled lips recovered from all levels provide a TPQ of 1881, and it is suggested that the well was filled soon after this (Lorrain 1968: 42). A portion of a hard rubber comb recovered from lower levels may indicate a later date of deposition. Artifacts recovered from this feature are still being studied.

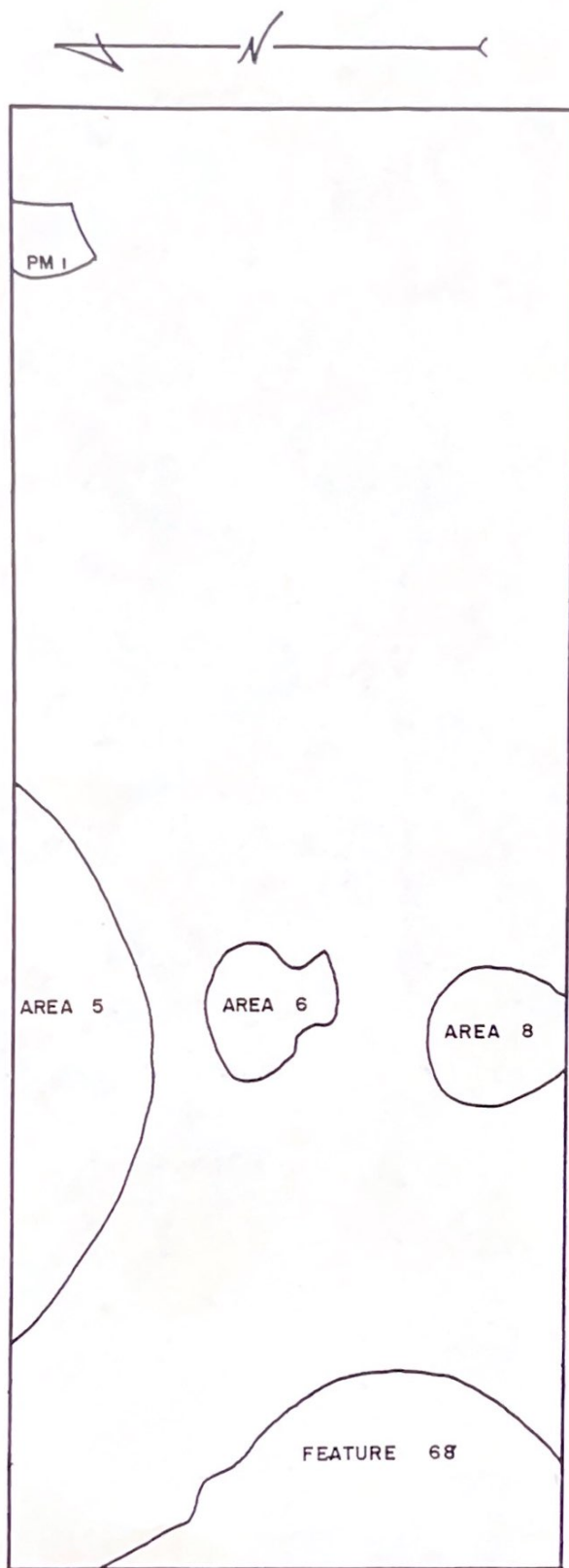


▨ 16th Century  
□ 17th Century

TRENCH A SECTION 7

Scale 1:20

Figure 4



18th Century

Second Spanish Period

19th Century

TRENCH A SECTION 7

Scale 1:20

Figure 5



TABLE 1  
ARTIFACTS RECOVERED FROM FEATURE 70

<u>Artifact</u>	<u>#</u>
<b>Ceramics:</b>	
San Marcos plain	1
San Marcos stamp	12
Sand Tempered plain	4
San Luis blue on white	1
Delft	2
Olive Jar	5
El Morro	4
UID Tin Enameled Coarse Earthenware	2
UID Unglazed Coarse Earthenware	1
White Saltglaze Stoneware	2
Lead glazed Redware	1
Plain Pearlware	2
Transfer print Pearlware	5
Polychrome Paint Pearlware	1
Creamware	1
Annular ware	3
Plain Whiteware	22
Hand-painted Whiteware	2
Gold Overglaze Whiteware	3
Ironstone	23
"Yellow ware"	1
Oriental porcelain	1
Modern White Porcelain	32
Utilitarian Porcelain	1
19th Century Crock	1
Ginger Beer	2
"Jackfield-like"	1
Ceramic Drawer pull	1
<b>Tin:</b>	
Milk Can lid	1
Tin Can	198 frag
<b>Brass:</b>	
Upholstery tack	2
Straight pin	6
Button back	2
Clothing eye	3
Clothing hook	2
Jewelry fastener	1
Lacing tip	1
Bolt	1
Napkin ring	1
<b>Copper:</b>	
Wire	4 coil
Clothing hook	1
Picture frame	2
Strap	1
Disc	1

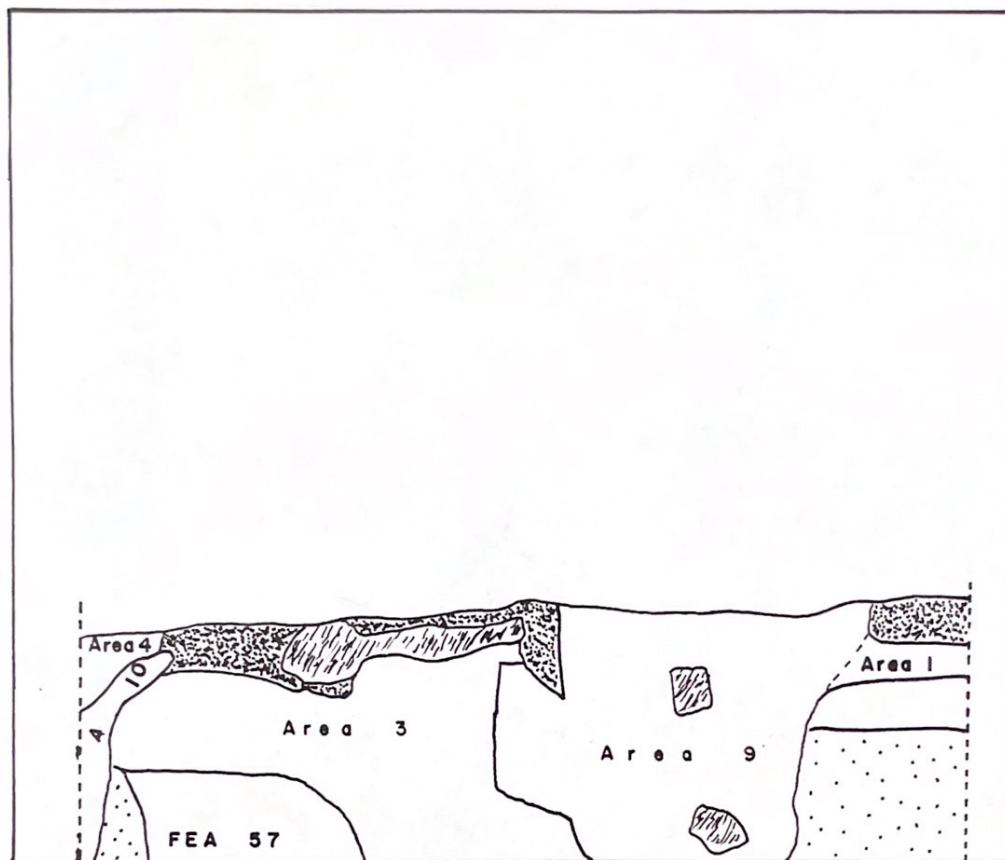
Table 1, cont.

Lead:		
Strip	2	
Minie ball	1	
Shot	1	
Iron:		
Nail	33	
Nail frag	328	
Strap	24	frag
Tack	2	
Strap hinge	2	
Stove part	1	
Strap with eye hook	1	
Spike	2	
Lump	+	
Pipes:		
Kaolin bowl	2	
Kaolin pipestem	1	
Sea Shells:		
Giant Cockle	1	
Angel Wing	2	
Clam	2	
Mother of Pearl	2	
Buttons:		
Bone, 4 hole	1	
Mother of Pearl, 4 hole	2	
Lead, 4 hole	1	
Milk Glass, 4 hole	2	
Mother of Pearl, shank	2	
Brass (button top)	1	
Jet, shank	1	
Military, brass	1	
Glass:		
Frag		
green	52	
brown	3	
clear	307	
light olive green	3	
aqua	1	
amber	5	
"black glass"	37	
milk glass	1	
clear flat	98	
Formal:		
Tumbler	18	frag
Glass tubing	2	frag
Shot glass	1	
Quart Milk bottle	1	
Medicinal	1	
Panel bottle	13	frag
Kerosene lamp chimney	92	frag
Mason jar (screw top)	1	
Ink well	2	

Table 1, cont.

goblet	1
Fruit jar	1
Marbles, clay	2
Comb, rubber	1
Fork, antler handle	1





ZONE 1



ZONE 3



STERILE SOIL



COQUINA

TRENCH A SECTION 5  
SOUTH PROFILE

FIGURE 6