The Well In The Entrance Hall Of Independence Hall

Independence National Historical Park

Archaeologist: Charles I. Wilson, Jr.

Excavated: Septerber, 1967

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INTRODUCTION

Before the invention of mechanical pumps, water had to be obtained from a stream or a dug well. These wells were made of brick stone or wood and only went down to first water. Quite often they were polluted by being dug to close to privies and more often, they became dry because populated areas sprung up around them.

Philadelphia in 1696, while not a city by today's definition, was a thrieving and growing community. It had over seven hundred dwellings and several thousand inhabitants.

One of these inhabitants lived on Chestnut Street in a brick "messuage". He had most likely to the rear of his property the well that is now below the Entrance Hall of Independence Hall. The property had originally been given by William Penn to Evan Oliver as a "bonus" lot in 1683. Oliver was a Welsh wood-ranger who so far has eluded the researcher. The chain of title for the property reveals that the lot was 49½ feet by 255 feet deep.

In 1696 the property was owned by David Powell who in that year mortgaged it to David Evans. The Evan Oliver transaction does not indicate a dwelling and therefore, in all probability no well was located on the site. It is most probable that the house and well were built for David Powell, a surveyor yeoman, between 1690 and 1696. No information on the description of the house or well has been found. The lot and perhaps the brick dwelling were sold in 1729 to the Province of Pennsylvania by Richard Hill, a wealthy merchant. The house, the evidence of which is now gone forever, was torn down prior to the erection

of the State House, remaining burried beneath was the forgotten well.

In Septerber , 1967 while breaking up concrete in order to lower the Entrance Hall floor to its original level, a workman broke through the cap on the well, thus sending architects, historians and archaeologists alike in search of a well that had remained hidden for over two hundred and seventy years.

Because of previous obligations of National Park Service, archaeologists and contractual obligations on work within the Entrance Hall outside help was obtained.

On September 12, 1967, the well was observed, found safe and excavation was started.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Site #1

Well

The well was found below in the northwest corner of the Entrance Hall. It was covered with a red sandstone cap which broke and in part fell into the well. The sandstone cap was over a 14" x 14" opening and was bonded with a white mortar. The square opening and a crobelled area below were bonded with a red mortar.

The upper part of the well was a void consisting of stale air and an accumulation of dirt on the brick walls. It had filled to a depth of 18.34 below the first floor datum line. On the surface there was a fine scrim that consisted of punky wood, cut nails, straight pins and the bulb of percussion of the red sandstone.

In order to make the well accessable, a scaffolding was placed over the opening and with the use of a set of blocks, the archaeologist was lowered into the well. Light was made available and all artifacts, detritus and excavating material were removed from the well in a bucket at the end of a rope.

Each morning and afternoon, fresh air was blown into the well. Work progressed slowly because of the cramped conditions. Dust and stale air were a constant problem. Often small pieces of dirt fell off the side walls.

A north-south orientation line and elevations were established within the well. (On several occasions, the archaeologist lost his sense of direction because of the shape of the well.)

The brick casing was 40½" in diameter and was made from red bricks that averaged 8¼ x 2 1/8. Only two bricks were measured for their width due to the precariousness of removing the brick. They averaged 4¼".

The first stratum encountered below the scrim was a compacted mud. It was excavated in its entirety as one unit. In some places the mud had fallen away from the wall and had been replaced by clay that had washed into the openings. Within the mud were found artifacts of late 19th and early 20th century origin. The layering of wooden chips within the mud indicates water deposition. The bottom of the mud had a concave section, the center of which was 4" below the sides.

The mud was underlain by a loam clay. This loam clay was interrupted by a 1" lens of brown sand. An additional stratum of clay was found below the brown sand. (All the excavating below the mud was done at one foot intervals alternating between the west and east sides.) The loam clay and brown sand contained no artifacts. It was apparent that this strata had washed into the well through small openings in the bricks.

Below this clay there were alternating layers of brown sand and clay. Each brown sand stratum contained artifacts of 19th century origin. The clay strata with the exception of the clay below the mortar and brick fragments contained no artifacts.

At the bottom of the well forming a slight concavity, there was a lens of mortar and brick fragments. This material came from the corbeled arch. It was over a lens of clay that contained three possible 17th or 18th century artifacts. It is most likely that these three fragments* washed in with the clay through the holes in the brick casing.

Below this casing was a coarse-grained brown sand. It is at least

* 1 fragment brown earthenware
1 fragment red earthenware
1 fragment blue striped delft

three feet deeper than the well. At the bottom where the brick and coarse sand meet, the well was 32" wide.

In order to prevent the collapsing of the casing, the well was completely filled with yellow sand.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Site #2

Trial Trench

In order to validate the age of the well, a trial trench was excavated across the center of the Entrance Hall parallel to and from four to six feet from the front paneling below the chair-rail.

The upper part of this area had been removed in preparation for establishing the original floor level. The western two feet of the trench was excavated in order to determine the deposition. A deep refilled area was encountered just below the surface. This was underlain by a lens of lime and a 7" old humus. The area below the humus was undisturbed.

After this section had been excavated by trowel, the remainder of the refilled area was excavated using a shovel and pick by Independence National Historic Park personnel. The lime and humus strata were excavated using a trowel. All the material was screened. Apparently all the artifacts in the refilled area are from the 18th century. It has not been determined and probably will not be determined if any of the artifacts in the humus are from the 17th century. In both the refill and the humus, there were many bone pottery and glass fragments.

Toward the eastern end of the trial trench, there were two bricks in place a little askew from being parallel to the sides of the trench. These bricks measured $8\frac{1}{4}$ x $4\frac{1}{4}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$. There occurance in this spot might have been to support a scaffold. Neither had any mortar on it.

The area above the corbelling and around the cap ajacent to brick flue work in the northwest corner of the Entrance Hall was filled with small pieces of red sandstone, The same material from which the cap was made. The use of red sandstone elsewhere in the building could help to deterrine the age of this part of the feature.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Site #3

Void In Steps

The void in the front steps was investigated before that area was filled with concrete. It was divided into three Zones A, B, and C. A 4" section of the entire void (Zone A) was troweled and then a test pit was dug in the northeast corner of the void (Zones B and C). This was excavated to a total depth of 138" below the first floor datum line. Undisturbed material was encountered at 132" below the datum. All the artifacts from Zones A, B and C could be 18th century in origin.

CONCLUSIONS

Why would someone in the mid-nineteenth century decide to excavate a well?

How could such a large opening be devoid of any conterpory artifacts?

The well as noted in the site description, contained with the possible exception of three small pottery fragments, no artifacts that could prove the age of the well. These three pieces could have been washed into the well within the loam clay. They are the only artifacts of 17th, 18th century origin that were found in the well.

The mortar and brick fragments at the bottom of the well would seem to indicate an early origin for the corbelling, Perhaps in connection with a wooden pump that was placed above. Yet, the refill around the well would seem to indicate a later origin for this corbelling and the cap. For had the well been corbelled and capped when the refill was placed in the Entrance Hall, then it should have covered that area also. However, this is not the case for a vertical wall of refill material and the red sandstone indicate that the stone was placed above the corbeled area and perhaps some detritus was removed in order to do this.

Another possibility is that all the area above the well was cleared off at the time that the brick lined flues were placed in the State House. This could account for the vertical wall of refilled material, the absence of refill on top of the corbelling and the necessity to fill in the area with the red sandstone chips.

That someone would bother to dig out the well for any reason is

most difficult to imagine.

The lime in the trial trench most likely comes from the building of the State House. The refill above was placed there while leveling the original floor, while the humus below has direct connection to the occupancy of the property before the State House existed.

The lime and humus strata within the trial trench bear a direct relationship to the well and corbeled area. The downward curved humus and lime where it intersects the wall of the well indicates that it settled and also helped to prove the connection between the humus and the well. How the well even with a pump above it could exist for 30 years without some artifacts finding their way into the well is strange. How the 19th century artifacts got into the well is not fully understood.

In all probability, the original cap was removed and replaced with the red sandstone cap after the artifacts were dropped in the well. This replacement could have taken place when the floor of the Entrance Hall was raised.

The loam clay intrusion into the brown sand could only have come from water washing this material into the well.

The mud had no large artifacts. It could have been water deposited in part by the water running through rodent holes. However, a couple iron fragments indicate that some of the deposition was from alone.

In all probability, the well was dug to the rear of the dwelling house owned by David Powell and David Evans. It is unfortunate that the excavation could not be related to a specific person or to a specific point in time. Perhaps historical research will some day shed more light on the occupants and the mystery of the well.

ARTIFACTS

Accession No. 2293

Artifacts were excavated from all three sites (the well, the trial trench and the void in the north entrance steps). They have been cleaned and are now in storage in the basement of the Second Bank.

The artifacts that were excavated from the well are diagnostically nineteenth century. The upper part of the mud could even be early twentieth century. A piece of plastic and two small brass objects indicate a late date. The 1890 nickel, cut nails, buttons and shoes show that some of the artifacts are of nineteenth century origin.

The brown sand strata below the mud contained several artifacts. They are all nineteenth century and could be as late as 1875.

The clay stratum below the well contained three very small pottery fragments. Any of the three could date from the eighteenth century. They are the only tangible proof of the wells early origin.

The trial trench that was dug across the Entrance Hall of Independence Hall contained only eighteenth century artifacts. While the old humus was found, no artifacts could be proven to be of seventeenth century origin. More work should be done on both the artifacts from the well and those from the trial trench.

Zones A, B and C were excavated in the void of the north entrance steps. The area above Zone A had been excavated previously. Zone C was undisturbed earth. Zones A and B contained artifacts. Both are conterpory with the building of the State House.

ACCESSION NO. 2293

Description: Excavated Material From:

1. Well below Entrance Hall in Independence Hall
2. Trial Trench across Entrance Hall
3. Material from Void in North Entrance steps

Date of Accession: Oct. 1967

Source of Accession: Found by
C. I. Wilson
Contractor

Gift / Loan / Purchase / Purchase with donated funds / Salvage / Transfer / A

Value:

Remarks:

Cabinet x 12

Acknowledgment sent:

Source of accession card:

Catalogued:

Certificate sent:

ARTIFACT LIST

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO. BAG NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
1		WELL	SCRIM	PUNKY WOOD	
2		WELL	SCRIM	FELSPAR CHIPS	
3		WELL	SCRIM	5 CUT NAILS 1 BUTTON SHANK	
4		WELL	SCRIM	SOIL SAMPLE	
5		WELL	SCRIM	2 CUT NAILS 1 BONE FRAGMENT 3 GLASS FRAGMENTS: LIME CLEAR WHITE	
					BAGS 1-5 PLACED IN ONE BOX

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO.					
6		WELL		MORTAR	
				SCREW, TAPERED	
				3CUT NAILS	
				LIGHT GREEN GLASS FRAGMENT	
				DARK GREEN GLASS FRAGMENT	
				STRAIGHT PIN 1 9/16	
				CLEAR GLASS FRAGMENT	

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO. 7.		WELL	MUD	10 WINDOW-LIGHT FRAGMENTS	
				3 STRAIGHT PINS	
				1 GLASS BUTTON	
				1 METAL BUTTON WITH RAMPANT LION	
				COIN. 5¢ 1890	
				1 SLATE PENCIL FRAGMENT	
				2 PEACH PITS	
				5 CUT NAILS, OR CASINGS	
				2 SMALL WOOD FRAGMENTS	
				1 PIECE RED SAND STONE	SAME AS CAP
				1 CLEAR GLASS FRAGMENT	
				1 FRAGMENT CURVED GLASS	
				1 CLAY PIPE BOWL	
				1 POTTERY FRAGMENT	
				1 PIECE FELSPAR	

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

Ft NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG # 8		WELL	MUD	1 SOLE + HEAL OF SHOE	
				5 SMALL PIECES OF CLOTH	FROM SHOE
				1 RIB BONE	
				12 CUT NAILS	
				1 PEACH PIT	
				9 SMALL FRAG-MENTS OF WIN-DOW LIGHT	
				1 VERTEBRAE	
				4 SMALL BONES	
				PLASTIC RED BOW	
				ROUND IRON FRAG-MENT 1 7/8"	
				2 HOLE BUTTON 5/8 DIA.	
				DARK. GREEN GLASS FRAGMENT	
				4 STRAIGHT PINS	
				1 Pc SLATE	
				BUTTON 5/8 DIA?	
				2 CLEAR GLASS FRAGMENTS	
				1 POTTERY FRAGMENT BLUE WITH GOLD	

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG # 9		WELL	MUD 17.00-1750 L.	LEATHER SOLE + HEAL 12 TUMBLER FRAGMENTS 20 WINDOW-LIGHT FRAGMENTS 22 IRON ENCRUSTATIONS 1 COPPER WIRE 2 RIB BONE FRAGMENTS 4 STRAIGHT PINS 1 BRASS "PAPER-CLIP" 4 GLASS BUTTONS 2 PIECES LEAD FROM PENCIL 1 CLOTH FRAGMENT 3 MILK GLASS FRAGMENTS "COPPER TUBE"	

9-15-67

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG # 10		WELL	MUD 1700-1750 L.	JET BUTTON WOOD 3 TUMBLER FRAGMENTS SLATE PENCIL FRAGMENT 3 RIB BONE FRAGMENTS 6 BONE FRAGMENTS 1 PIECE LEATHER 28 WINDOW-LIGHT FRAGMENTS 4 MILK GLASS FRAGMENTS 2 STRAIGHT PINS 1 REDEARTHENWARE FRAGMENT. SMALL 3 BOTTLE GLASS FRAGMENTS WOODEN PART OF PENCIL BRASS "ZIPPER" ?	

9-15-67

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO.					
11		WELL	17.00-17.50	IRON PLATE 5½ x 5½ x ½ 20 IRON ENCRUSTRATIONS 4 FRAGMENTS OF PLATE IRON SMALL	

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO.					
12		WELL	MUD	10 TUMBLER FRAGMENTS	
			1750-1800	IRON PLATE 5 1/2 x 3 x 1/4	
				WOOD, SMALL	
				14 IRON INCRUSTATIONS	
				COPPER WIRE	
				CLAY PIPE STEM, ORANGE	
				8 WINDOW-LIGHT FRAGMENTS	
				2 PIECES LEATHER	
				1 FRAGMENT FLAT-GLASS-THICK	
				1 BOTTLE TOP FRAGMENT	
				6 WHITE GLASS BUTTONS	
				1 BROWN " "	
				1 WOOEN BUTTON WITH SHANK	
				1 RIB BONE	
				1 COCONUT HULL FRAGMENT	
				2 LEAD PENCIL LEADS	
				1 STRAIGHT PIN	
				1 JET BUTTON	
				1 PIECE SANDSTONE, RED	FROM CAP
9-18-67				LARGE STONE	

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO 13		WELL	MUD	KEY 20 WINDOW LIGHT FRAGMENTS 9 TUMBLER FRAGMENTS WOOD 1 VERTEBRA 1 "WISH BONE" BROKEN CLAY PIPE, MOUTH PIECE 12 IRON INCRUSTATIONS 4 PIECES LEATHER 1 CLOTH FRAGMENT 3-4 HOLE GLASS BUTTONS 1 3 HOLE GLASS BUTTON 1 SLATE PENCIL FRAGMENT 1 BONE " COPPER CLIP" LAMINATED GLASS PINK + WHITE BLUE + WHITE HARD SUBSTANCE UNKNOWN	

9-18-67

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO. 14		WELL	1800-1850 L.	MORTAR 15 WINDOW LIGHT FRAGMENTS 10 IRON INCRUSTATIONS 1 CLAY MARBLE CHARCOAL 1 RIB BONE 1 FRAGMENT CLEAR GLASS THIN FRAGMENT OF RED SAND STONE	SAME AS CAP

9-18-67

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO. 15		WELL	1800-1850 L.	MORTAR 1 BRICK FRAGMENT 1 WINDOW-LIGHT FRAGMENT	
				1 FRAGMENT RED SANDSTONE	SAME AS CAP

9-18-67

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO. 16		WELL	1850-1900 L.	3 WINDOW-LIGHT FRAGMENTS 3 IRON INCRUSTATIONS MORTAR CHARCOAL 1 BOTTLE GLASS FRAGMENT	

9-18-67

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO. 17		WELL	18.00-18.50 L.	CHARCOAL BRICK FRAGMENTS SANDSTONE, FLAT	

9-19-67

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO 18		WELL	BROWN SAND 1850-1950 L.	3 IRONSTONE FRAGMENTS, FROM FOOTED VESSEL	
				3 IRONSTONE FRAGMENTS FLAT	
				1 FRAGMENT RED SANDSTONE	SAME AS CAP
				1 COPPER TACK CHARCOAL	
				2 IRON INCRUSTATIONS	
				1 WINDOW-LIGHT FRAGMENT	
					SAME STRATUM AS STONEWARE BOTTLES

9-19-67

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO. 19.			BROWN SAND 19.50-20.00 L.	2 STONE WARE BOTTLES a A. McFARLAND b C. WHITTEMORE MEAD 1 "CHISEL" ? 1 FRAGMENT BROWN EARTHENWARE, BASE ATTATCHED TO FRAGMENTS FROM GLASS BOTTLE 1 FRAGMENT SLATE PENCIL 4 IRON INCRUSTATIONS CLAY MARBLE 2 PIECES RED SANDSTONE 2 FRAGMENTS FROM TUMBLER BASE ROUGH - PONTIL BOTTLE 7 IRONSTONE FRAGMENTS 1 FRAGMENT LEAD-GLASS	

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

F3 NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO. 20		WELL	BROWN SAND 19.50-20.00 L.	OYSTER SHELL HANDLE RED EARTHEN WARE 5 IRONSTONE FRAGMENTS 1 WINDOW-LIGHT FRAGMENT 1 FRAGMENT SLATE PENCIL 3 PIECES MORTAR 3 FRAGMENTS OF BOTTLE GLASS A CLEAR B AQUA C DARK GREEN 1 BONE FRAGMENT 1 ROUND UNDETERMINED PIECE BROKEN	

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO. 21		WELL	BROWN SAND BELOW CLAY 20.00–20.50 (NOT LOWEST BROWN SAND)	8 TUMBLER FRAGMENTS CLEAR 3 IRONSTONE FRAGMENTS 2 FRAGMENTS BROWN EARTHENWARE 7 GLASS FRAGMENTS	

9-19-67

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

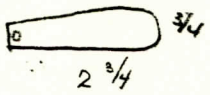
FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO 22		WELL	20.00-20.50	RED MORTAR	SAME AS AROUND CORBELING
BAG NO 23	COMBINED	WELL	RED.- ORANGE	SAMPLE	
BAG NO 30		WELL		BRICK	FROM CORBELING
BAG NO 24			LOWER BROWN SAND STRATUM	MORTAR 2 GLASS FRAGMENTS	
BAG NO 25	9-20-67			RED INCRUSTATION MORTAR	FROM CORBELING

9-20-67

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO 26		WELL	BROWN SAND L.	STONEWARE BOTTLE A.M. MC FARLAND 9 x 3 3/4 WOOD 23 GLASS BOTTLE FRAGMENTS 1 SEN GLASS 1 PIECE OF COAL 1 PIECE CHARCOAL 1 FOWL BONE 7 IRONSTONE FRAGMENTS 1 FRAGMENT BLUE + WHITE SOFT PASTE POTTERY 2 BOTTLE FRAGMENTS 5 IRON INCRUSTATIONS 1 COPPER SHANK BUTTON 1 FRAGMENT GREEN EARTHENWARE	

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO. 27		WELL	BROWN SAND L.	1 CUT NAIL 3 IRON INCRUSTATIONS, SMALL 1 FRAGMENT CURVED GLASS 2 SMALL FRAGMENTS OF POTTERY 1 BONE HANDLE  (ROUGH ON ONE SIDE SMOOTH ON OTHER)	

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO. 28		WELL	RED-ORANGE SAND	1 INCRUSTED NAIL 2 SOIL SAMPLES 2 FRAGMENTS OF WHITE MORTAR 1 FRAGMENT RED SAND STONE 4 WINDOW-LIGHT FRAGMENTS	— ON TOP OF RED ORANGE SAND
			IN CLAY	1 GLAZED BRICK FRAGMENT 1 IRON INCRUSTATION 1 FRAGMENT RED EARTHENWARE 1 FRAGMENT BROWN EARTHENWARE 1 FRAGMENT POTTERY WITH 2 BLUE STRIPES DELFT	
BAG NO 29			IN CLAY	SMALL WOOD FRAGMENT	

9-21-67

TRIAL TRENCH

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO A		TRIAL TRENCH	WEST END ABOVE HUMUS L.	7 BONE FRAGMENTS 2 WINDOW-LIGHT FRAGMENTS 1 STRAIGHT PIN 1 CLAY PIPE (BOWL) FRAGMENT 1 FRAGMENT RED-EARTHENWARE WITH BROWN GLAZE 1 FRAGMENT BROWN-EARTHENWARE (DARK BROWN GLAZE OUTSIDE ONLY) 2 SMALL COAL FRAGMENTS 2 FRAGMENTS SOFT PASTE, ONE WITH BROWN STRIPES	

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG # B		TRIAL TRENCH		2 GLAZED BRICK FRAGMENTS 7 SMALL WINDOW-LIGHT FRAGMENTS 1 BOTTLE FRAGMENT 2 CLAY PIPE BOWL FRAGMENTS 9 CLAY PIPE STEM FRAGMENTS 8 INCRUSTED NAILS 2 PIECES OF INCRUSTED IRON 31 BONE FRAGMENTS 1 TOOTH 43 RED EARTHENWARE FRAGMENTS 4 STONEWARE FRAGMENTS 1 FRAGMENT BUILDING STONE GRANITE	

9-25-67

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO C		TRIAL TRENCH	STRATUM BELOW LOAM CLAY— YELLOW SAND + LIME LENSES	2 BRICK BATS WITH MORTAR	BUILDING MATERIAL FOR STATE HOUSE

9-25-67

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO. D		TRIAL TRENCH	OLD HUMUS	65 RED EARTHENWARE FRAGMENTS	
			L.	2 EARTHENWARE FRAGMENTS UNGLAZED	
				4 EARTHENWARE FRAGMENTS - STIPPLED	
				1 EARTHENWARE FRAGMENT - YELLOW SLIP BASE	
				9 CLAY PIPE STEM FRAGMENTS	
				3 CLAY PIPE BOWL FRAGMENTS	
				1 SMALL CHARCOAL FRAGMENT	
				1 STRAIGHT PIN	
				8 WINDOW LIGHT FRAGMENTS	
				7" DELFT" FRAGMENTS	
				4 STONE WARE FRAGMENTS; 2 MATCHING WITH SWIRL DESIGN ON TIN GLAZE	
				1 JAW BONE DEER	
				1 LEG BONE COW	
				55 BONES OR BONE FRAGMENTS	
				27 NAILS OR SMALL IRON FRAGMENTS	
9-25-67					

FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

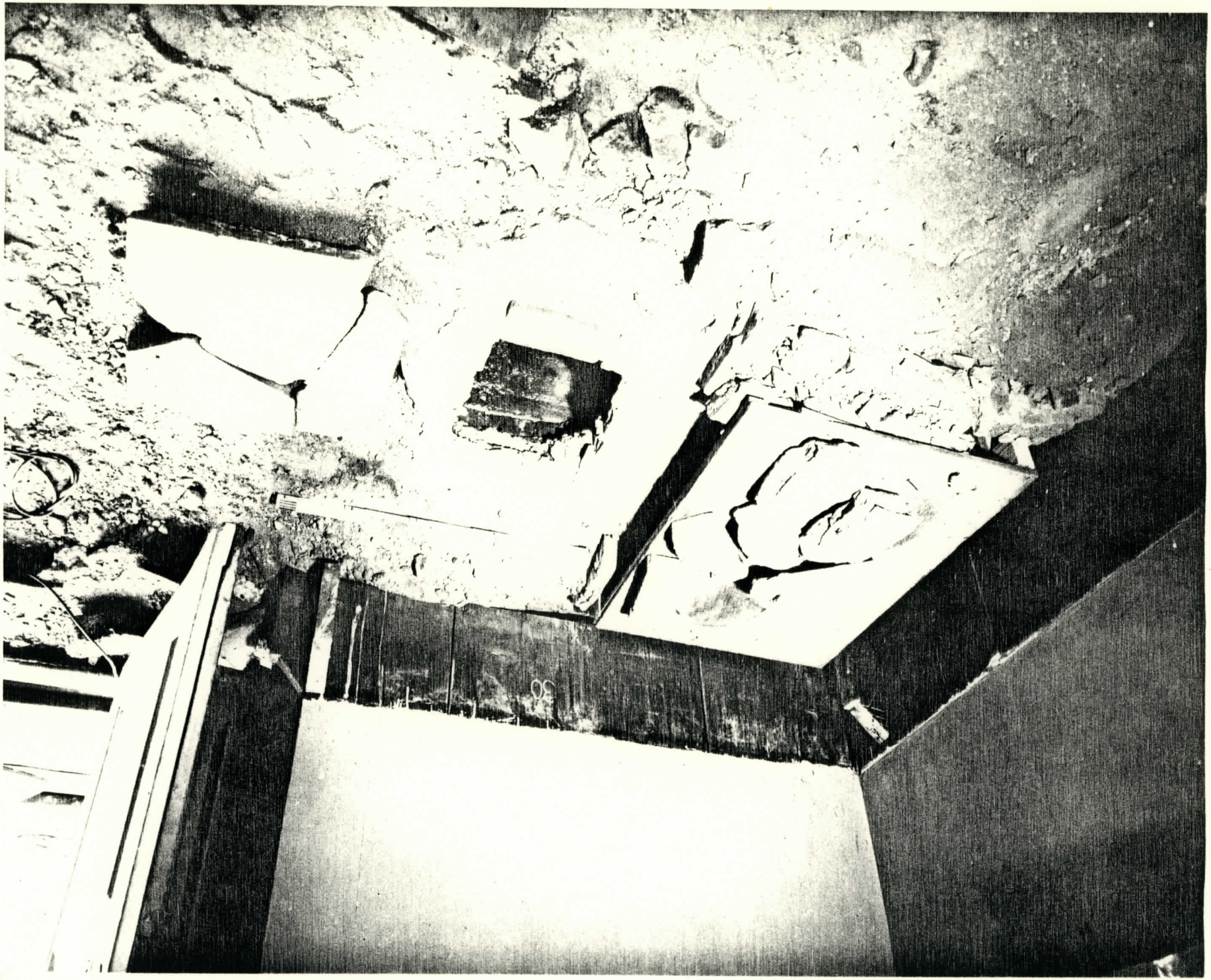
FS NO.	Lot	Square	Depth	Identification	Association
BAG NO E		TRIAL TRENCH	FROM AREA AROUND AND ABOVE CORBELING	MORTAR + STONE	
BAG NO F		TRIAL TRENCH		3 BRICKS, HAND STRUCK 8 1/2 x 4 1/4 x 2 1/2	ON OLD HUMUS IN YELLOW LOAM
BAG NO G		VOID IN STEPS	ZONE B	2 PIPE STEMS 1 BOWL FRAGMENT 2 IRON FRAGMENTS 5 BONE FRAGMENTS 1 PEICE OF LIME 7 FRAGMENTS EARTHENWARE 4 RED 1 WHITE SLIP 1 BROWN GLAZE	

9-27-67

PHOTOGRAPH 1
SITE #1
LOCATION Entrance Hall
SUBJECT Well

The well is located in the Northwest corner of the Entrance Hall of Independence Hall. It was covered with a red sandstone cap (shown to the right of the opening). Descent into the well was made through this opening.*

*No record of the well existed in the archival material for Independence Hall.



PHOTOGRAPH 2
SITE #1
LOCATION Entrance Hall
SUBJECT Well

This is the top of the corbeling that was placed above the well. The interior was laid up in order to make a 14" x 14" opening. Below are the bricks (stretchers) that comprize the well casing.

PHOTOGRAPH 3
SITE #1
LOCATION Below Entrance Hall
SUBJECT Corbeling

The corbeled section of the well is a magnificent piece of workmanship. It is comprized of headers fitted not only in a circular pattern, but also fitted to form the opening. The mortar that was found in these joints was also found along with brick fragments at the bottom of the well.



PHOTOGRAPH 4
SITE #1
LOCATION Below Entrance Hall
SUBJECT Bottom of Well

The bottom of the well was set in course sand. At this point it was 32" wide. Cramped quarters made photographing the interior of the well quite difficult. The area between the survey pin and the foot of the tripod is a vertical profile of alternating stratum of loam clay and dark brown sand. (Rule = 6")



PHOTOGRAPH 5
SITE #2
LOCATION Entrance Hall
SUBJECT Well Casing and Mandible

The mandible of a deer was found in the old humus. It was in association with 18th century artifacts.
No artifacts were found in the cavity created between the humus and the well casing. The entire undisturbed area was dotted with small holes.



PHOTOGRAPH 6
SITE #2
LOCATION Entrance Hall
SUBJECT Bricks

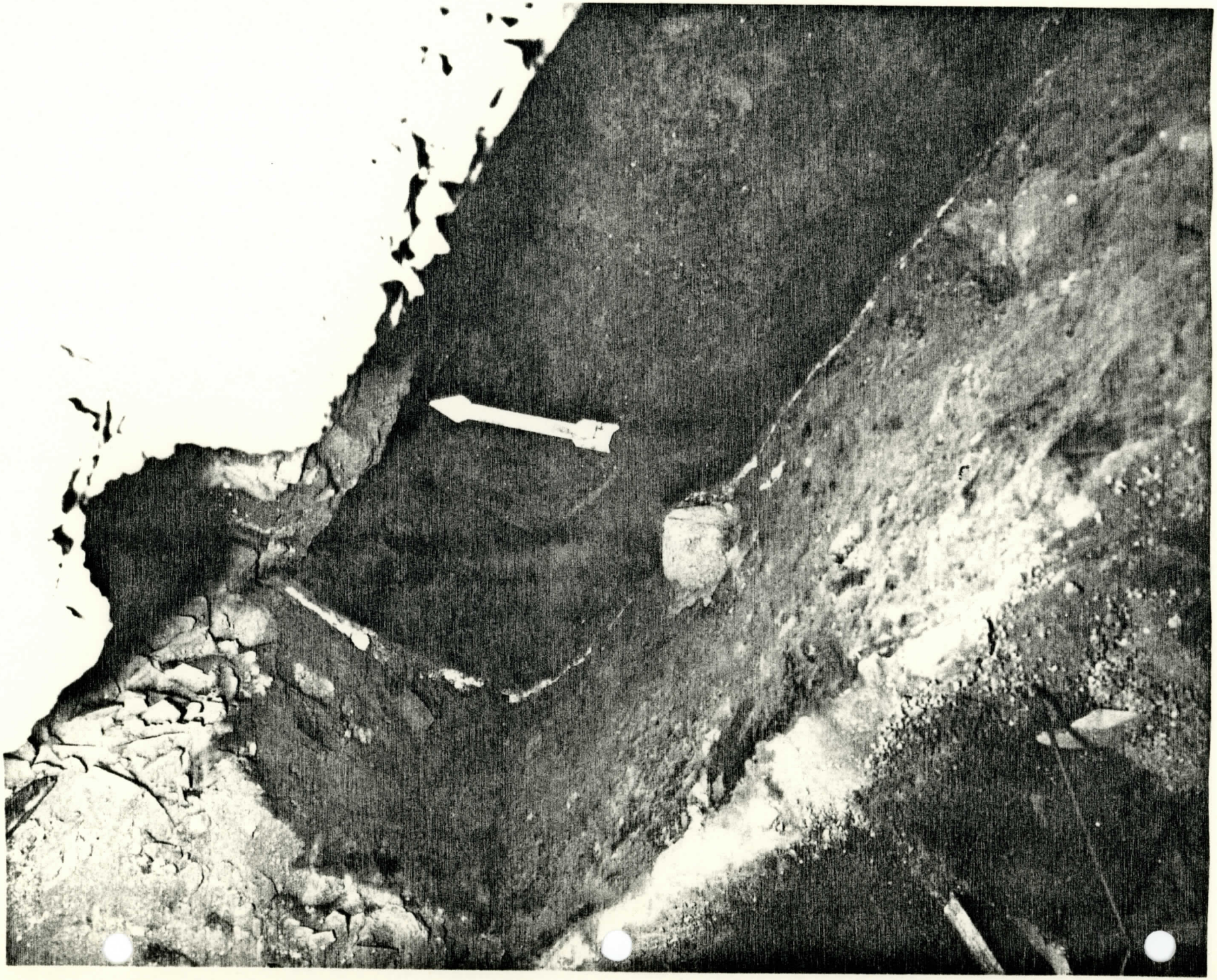
These are two of three bricks (8½ x 4¼ x 2 3/8) that were found on top of the humus.* There occurance in this spot would indicate that they were of the type used in the construction of the State House. They are 5 to 6' from the wood paneling and feet from the west wall.

*Third was to the north of those shown; there were none to the south.



PHOTOGRAPH 7
SITE #2
LOCATION Entrance Hall
SUBJECT Western Half of Trial Trench

There are five strata in the trench. The uppermost is refill that was placed there when the State House built. The lime lens was from craftsman working on the building. Below this is a lens of yellow sand (not noticeable in this picture). The humus pre dates the completion of the building. It contains 18th century material, but in all probability extends over a period of several hundred years. The loam clay below the humus contained no artifacts.



PHOTOGRAPH 8
SITE #2
LOCATION Entrance Hall
SUBJECT South West Corner of Trial Trench

The humus in this trench has a definite association with the well. They are contemporary.
No trees or large root systems were in evidence. The sub-soil was well full of minute holes. These were verticle and often extended the entire depth of the loam clay that was excavated.



PHOTOGRAPH 9
SITE #2
LOCATION Entrance Hall
SUBJECT Junction of Well and Old Humus

This is the west end of the trial trench. To the right of the photograph are the red sandstones chips that were used to refill the area above the well casing. To the left above the lime is the refill that was placed in the Entrance Hall when the State House was built. Below the lime there is a lens of yellow sand. These two lenses are continuous throughout the trial trench. Each lens varies from 1/2" to a trace. They were in all probability deposited when the State House was built. The downward curve of the lime lens has in part been caused by the caving in of the area surrounding the well casing. Note the relationship of the lime lens to the top of the brick. The humus is seven inches thick. It yeilded only 18th century artifacts. (17th century material may be found when the artifacts are further studied.)



PHOTOGRAPH 10
SITE #2
LOCATION Entrance Hall
SUBJECT Well Casing and Corbeling

Well casing was mortar covered at this level in order to retain corbeled area above. The bricks in the upper part of the picture are those that were found around the 14" x 14" opening. To both sides are the red sandstone chips that were used to fill in around the well casing.



PHOTOGRAPH 11
SITE #3
LOCATION North Entrance - Independence Hall
SUBJECT Void In Steps

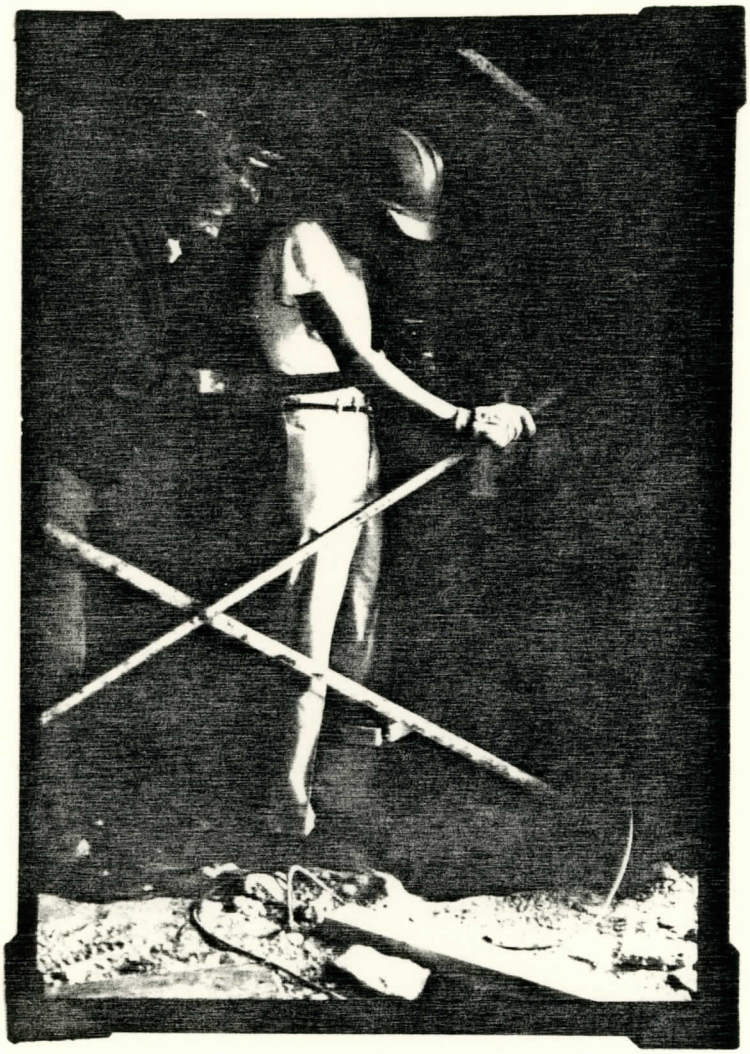
Ruler indicates depth of void before work began on Zone A.



PHOTOGRAPH 12
SITE #3
LOCATION North Entrance - Independence Hall
SUBJECT Void In Steps

Test hole dug in eastern end of void in order to determine depth to undisturbed earth. Undisturbed earth encountered at 132" below datum. Nineteenth century rubble and artifacts in void. Eighteenth century artifacts in Zones A and B. Zone C was undisturbed earth. Void was filled with concrete before steps were rebuilt.





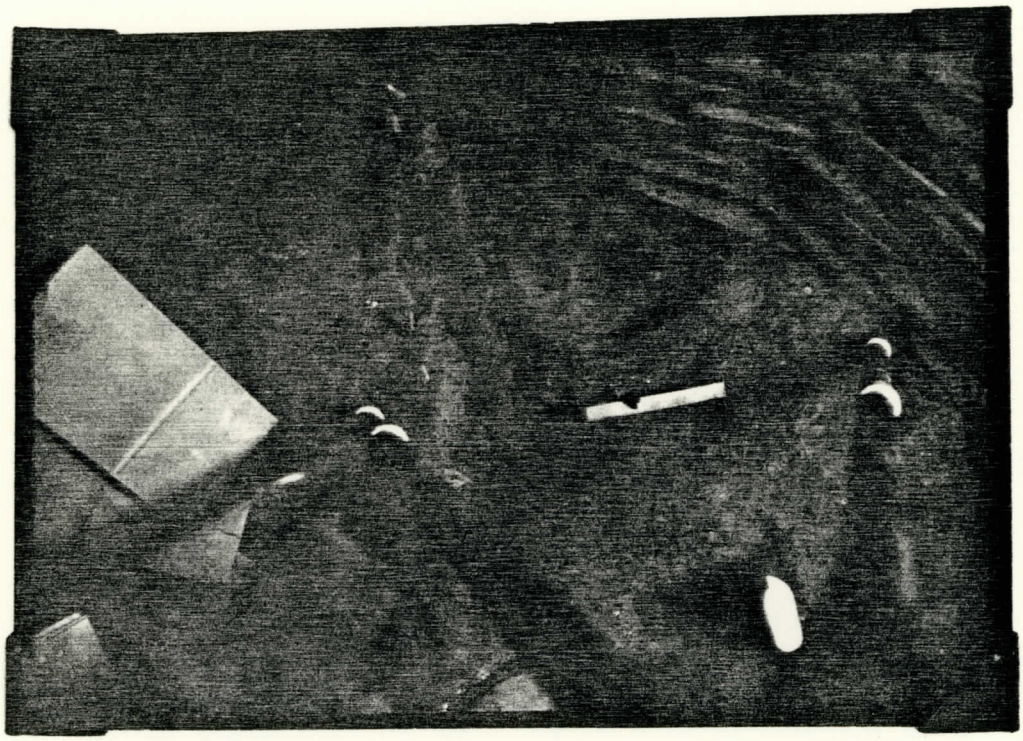
PHOTOGRAPH	13
SITE	#1
LOCATION	Entrance Hall
SUBJECT	Well

Lee Nelson, Architect Independence Hall National Park, preparing to be lowered by Ed Wittlock through 14" x 14" opening into the cavity of the well.



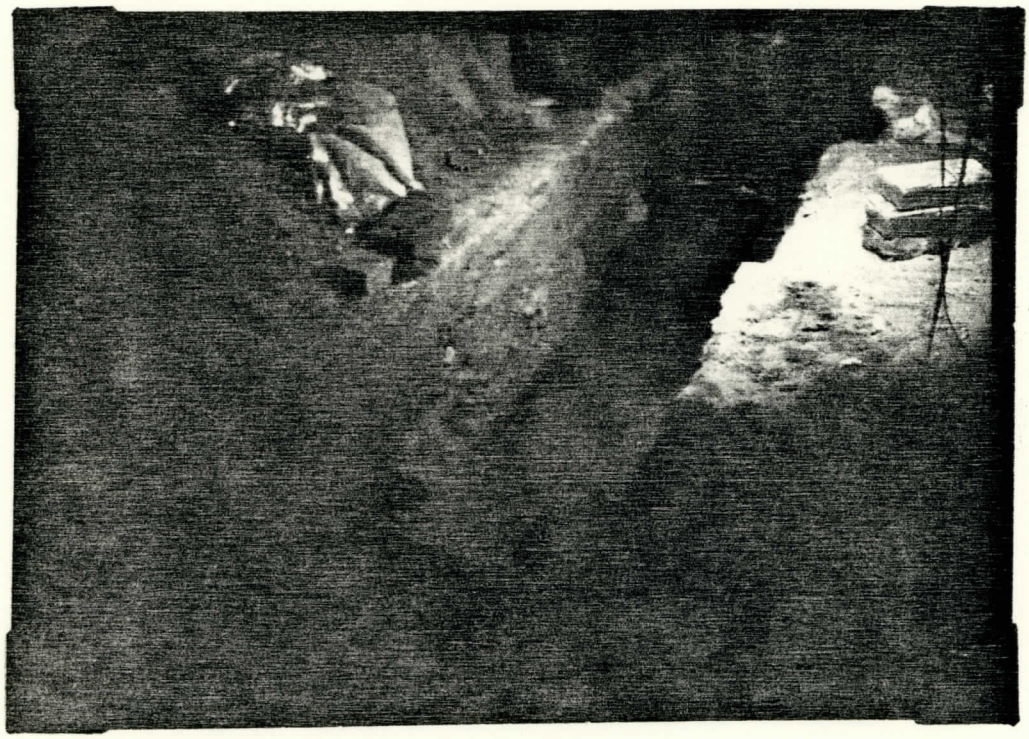
PHOTOGRAPH 14
SITE #1
LOCATION Below Entrance Hall
SUBJECT Corbeling of Well

The corbeling was built in concentric circles of brick to the point where the opening was begun. Then the brick continued as a square until it was capped. The original cap had been replaced with a piece of red sandstone. The date of this replacement has not yet been determined.



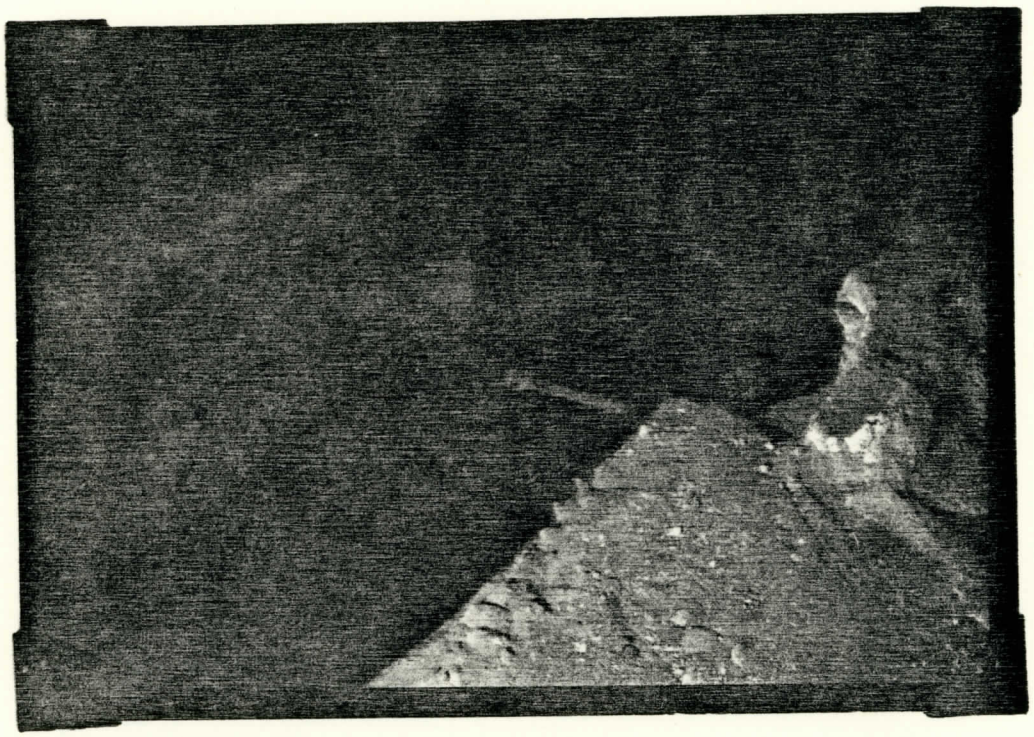
PHOTOGRAPH 15
SITE #1
LOCATION Entrance Hall
SUBJECT Bottom of Well

The entire well is dry set.
The lowest brick is 17' 2"
below the bottom of the cap.
(Rule = 6")



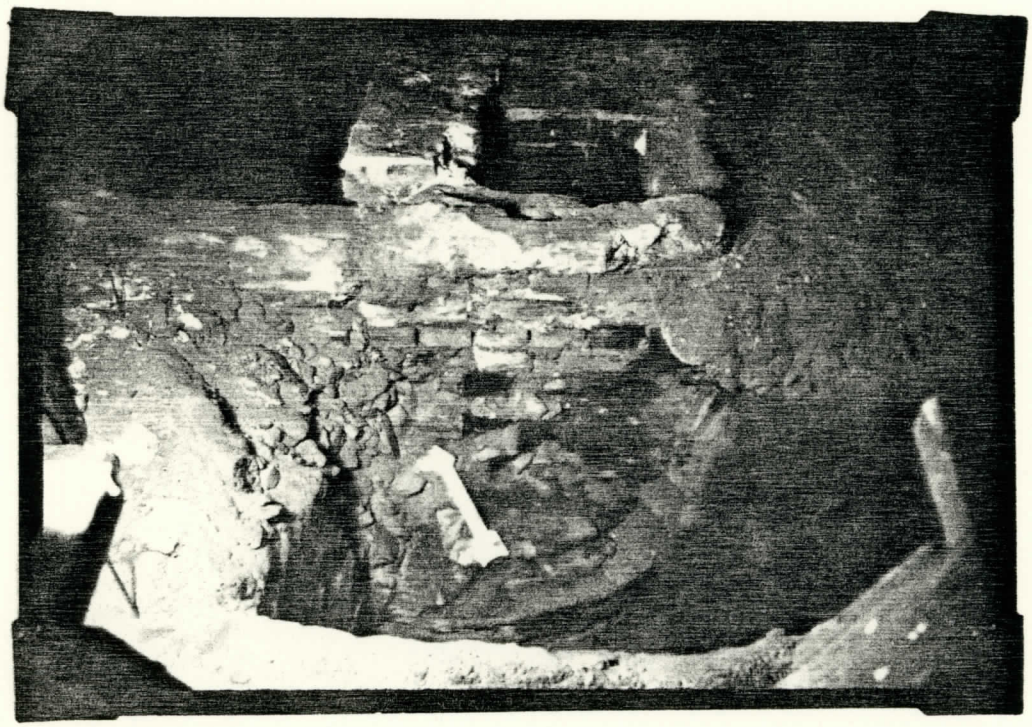
PHOTOGRAPH 16
SITE #2
LOCATION Entrance Hall
SUBJECT Trial Trench, looking West

The refill above the humus was removed with the aid of a shovel and pick by Independence Hall National Park workmen. The area around the bricks and the humus strata were excavated by the archaeologist.



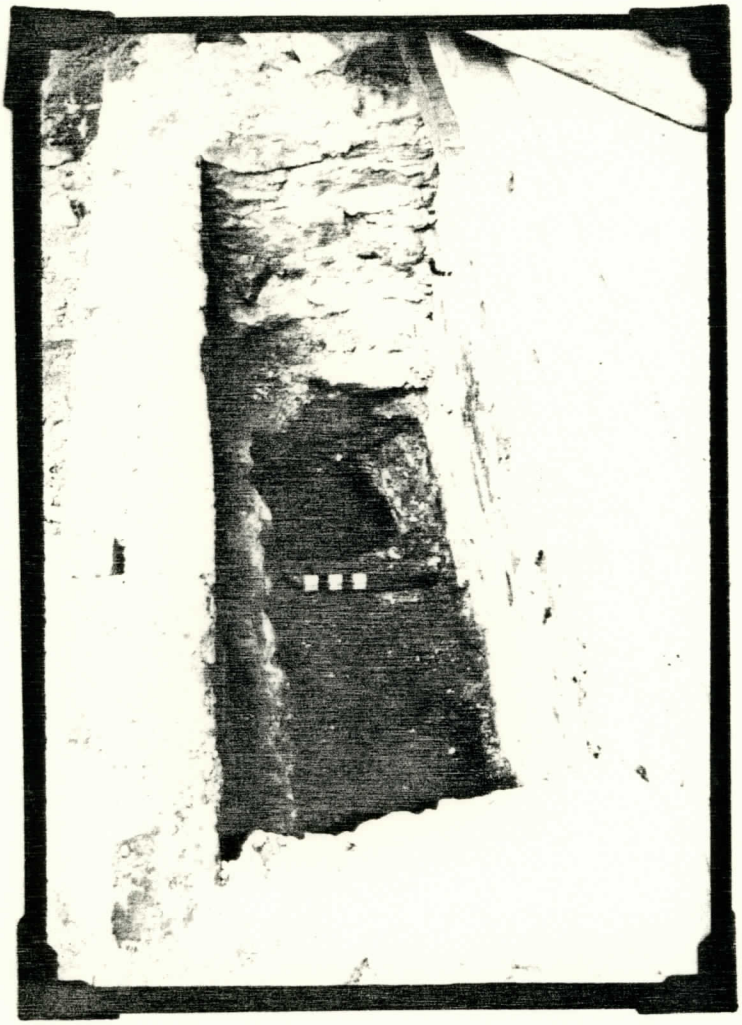
PHOTOGRAPH 17
SITE #2
LOCATION Entrance Hall
SUBJECT South West Corner of Trial Trench

The humus below the lens of lime contained many bones, bottle glass and window-light fragments. Both stoneware and earthware fragments were found also.



PHOTOGRAPH 18
SITE #2
LOCATION Entrance Hall
SUBJECT Corbeling and Well Opening

The upper part of the corbeling was broken apart just above the outer casing of the well. The red sandstone chips were placed over the corbeled area at the same time the cap was replaced.



PHOTOGRAPH 19
CITE #3
LOCATION North Entrance - Independence Hall
SUBJECT Void in Steps

The void in the steps was filled in when the steps were rebuilt in the 19th century. The area ajacent to the footing (zones A and B) is from the 18th century. Zone C not shown in this photograph was undisturbed earth.

SUPPLEMENT TO FIELD SPECIMEN DATA (Lee H. Nelson Sept 67)

Materials excavated in course of restoring front entrance steps of Independence Hall, September 1967. This listing supplements materials recovered in September 1965, which was included as Appendix "C" in Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data Section, Part II (Portion), on Independence Hall, entitled "Paving in the Central Hall and Tower Stairhall and Related Exterior Doorways, Sills, Steps and Pavements," by Lee H. Nelson, February 1966.

Designated: North Entrance, Ind. Hall, Feature 1, INHP Acc. No. 1762

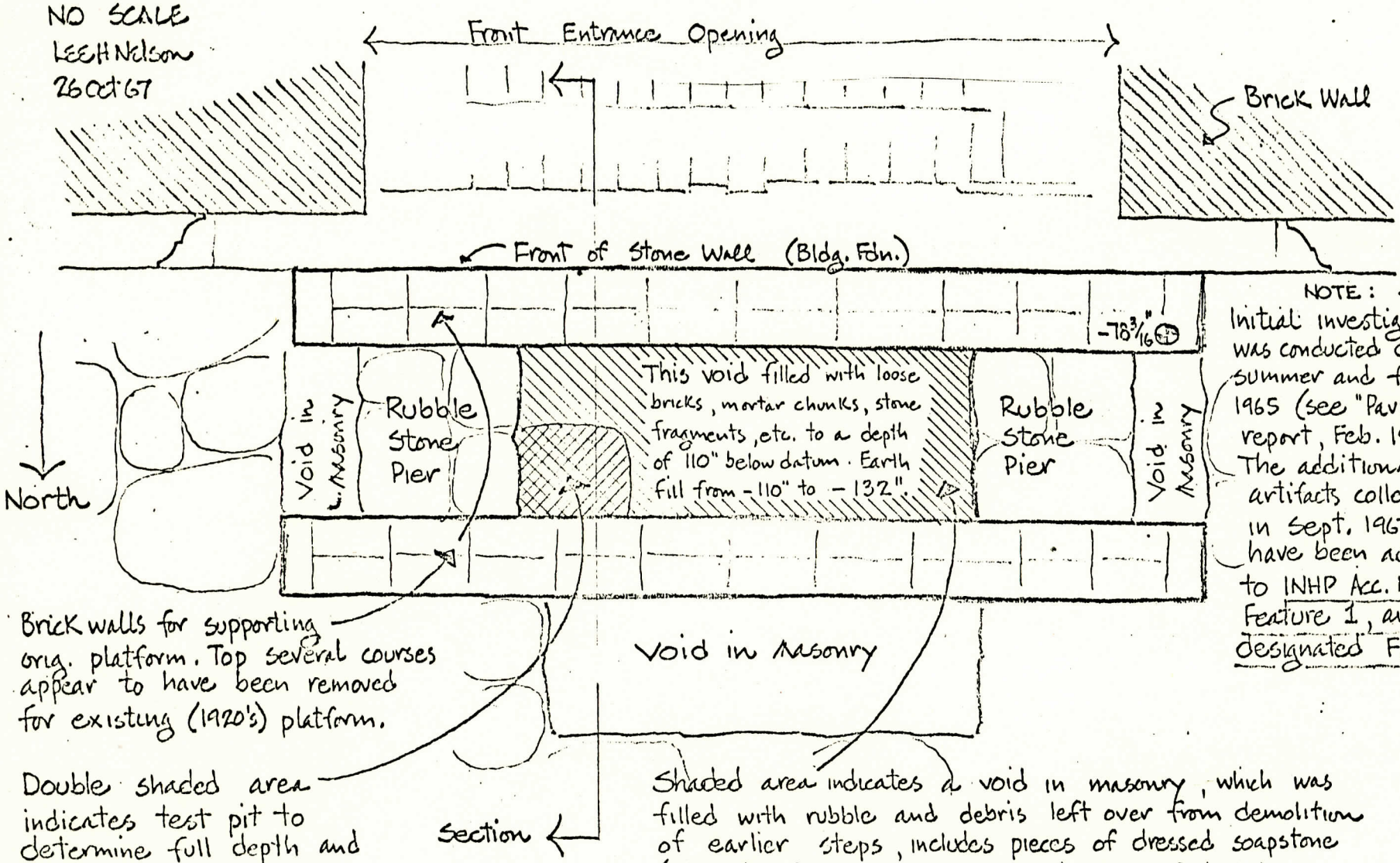
F.S. No.	Depth	Identification
2a	-78" to -110" below first fl. datum	Stone fragments and misc. artifacts, found in void of original foundation, which was filled with rubble and debris left over from demolition of earlier steps (see sketch). Includes a quantity of soapstone fragments (some are dressed), probably from original steps, and tooled marble step fragments and nosings, a tapered archway brick, a late 19th c. bottle, and misc. iron, glass and [illegible]

SUPPLEMENT TO FIELD SPECIMEN DATA

F.S. No.	Depth	Identification
2a	-110" to -129" (Zone "A") (see cross-section)	Bones, sagger fragment, pipe stems, indeterminate iron (nails?), glass bottle fragment, shell fragments, slip decorated earthenware fragment, glazed and unglazed redware, brick fragments.
2a	-129" to -132" (Zone "B") (see cross-section)	Lime mortar chunks
2a	-132" to -139" (Zone "C") (see cross-section)	Indeterminate iron fragment

SKETCH PLAN SHOWING ADDITIONAL EXCAVATIONS AT FRONT ENTRANCE, IND. HALL

NO SCALE
LEE H Nelson
26 Oct 67



NOTE: Initial investigation was conducted during summer and fall of 1965 (see "Paving..." report, Feb. 1966). The additional artifacts collected in Sept. 1967 have been added to INHP Acc. No. 1762, Feature 1, and designated F.S. 2a.

Brick walls for supporting orig. platform. Top several courses appear to have been removed for existing (1920's) platform.

Double shaded area indicates test pit to determine full depth and nature of fill material in this void, excavated by J.L. Cotter and C.I. Wilson, archeologists, 14-19 Sept 1967. See cross-section.

Shaded area indicates a void in masonry, which was filled with rubble and debris left over from demolition of earlier steps, includes pieces of dressed soapstone (probably from orig. steps), and pieces of tooled marble (probably from second set of steps), incl. pieces of marble step nosings. These objects excavated 13 Sept 1967 by Lee H. Nelson.

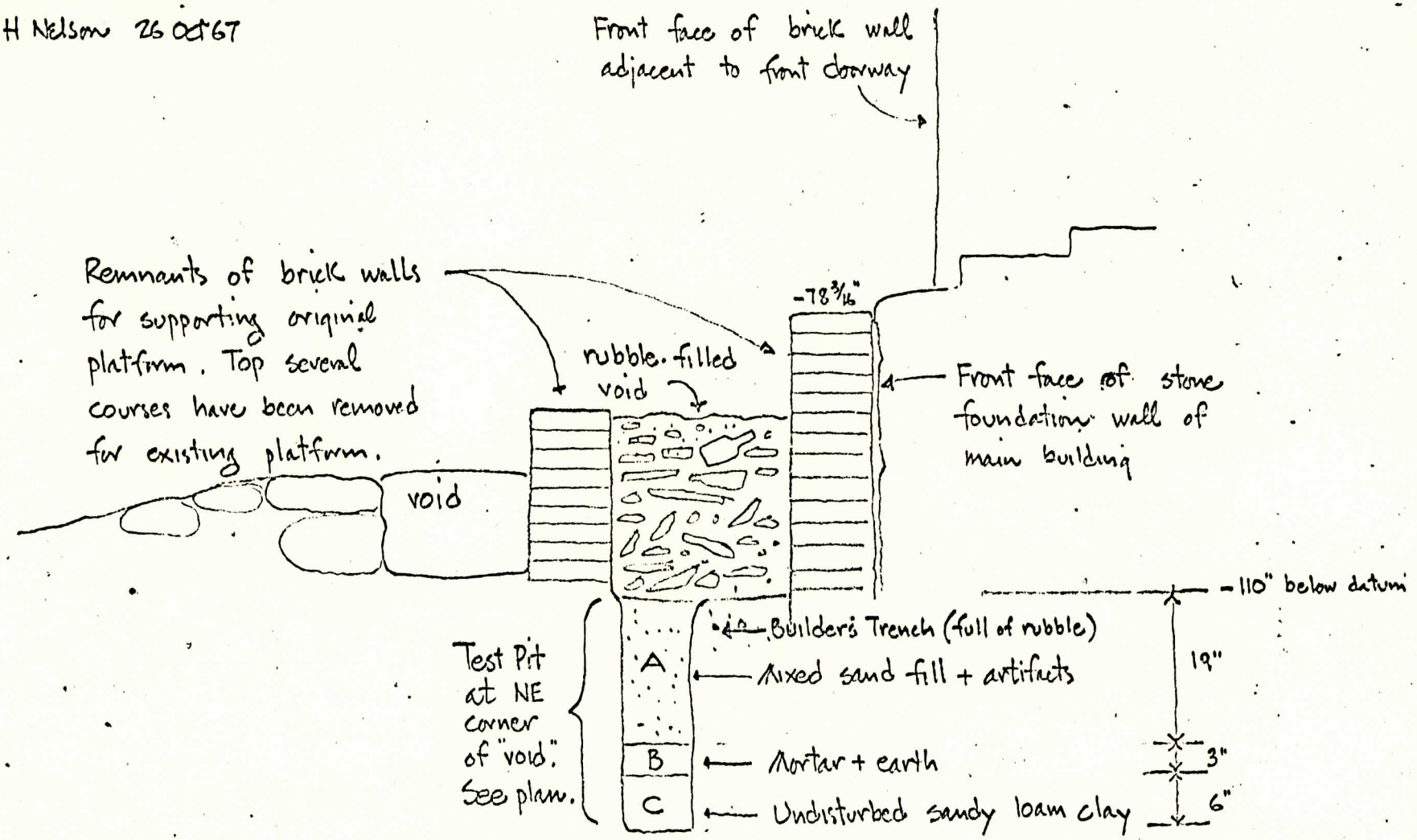
For relation to entire fdn., see Drg. No. NHP-IND 3520, sheet 9 of 17.

13c.

SKETCH SECTION SHOWING ADDITIONAL EXCAVATIONS AT FRONT ENTRANCE • IND. HALL

SECTION LOOKING EAST • NO SCALE

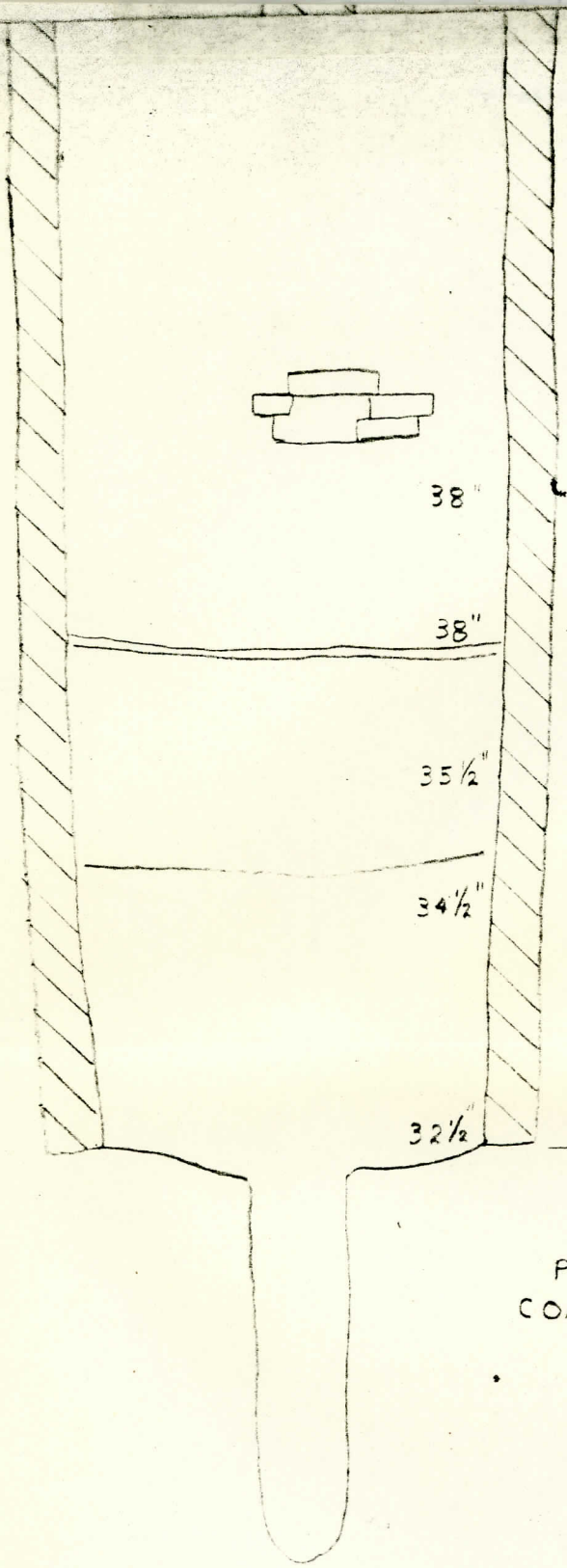
LEE H Nelson 26 Oct 67



Rubble-filled void excavated by LEE H. Nelson • fill consisted of mortar chunks, pieces of broken soapstone and marble steps + artifacts.

Test Pit excavated by J.L. Cotter and C.I. Wilson, 14-19 Sept. 1967.

13d.



POST HOLE
COARSE BROWN SAND

THE VOID, OTHER SMALL
ARTIFACTS COULD BE RODE
DEPOSITED.

THE CLAY, EXCEPT FOR THA
FOUND BELOW THE BRICK, CONT
NO ARTIFACTS. IT WAS WASH
FROM BEHIND THE CASING.

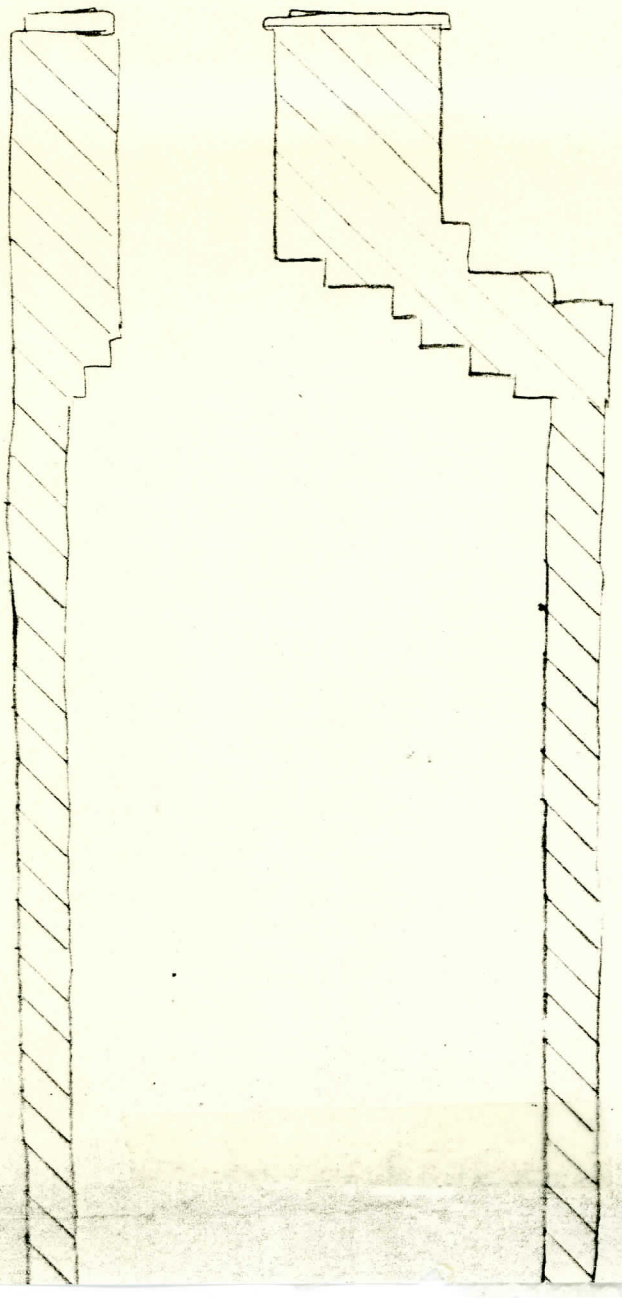
BRICK FRAGMENTS AND MO
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL
FROM THE CORBELED AREA.
CLAY BELOW THE BRICK FR
CONTAINED THREE POTTERY FR
OF POSSIBLE 17-18th CENTURY
ORIGIN.

1' BROWN

½" R

NORTH-SOUTH CROSS-SECTION T
SCALE 3/4" = 1' C

0' CHAIR-RAIL LINE 17 5/8" BELOW D

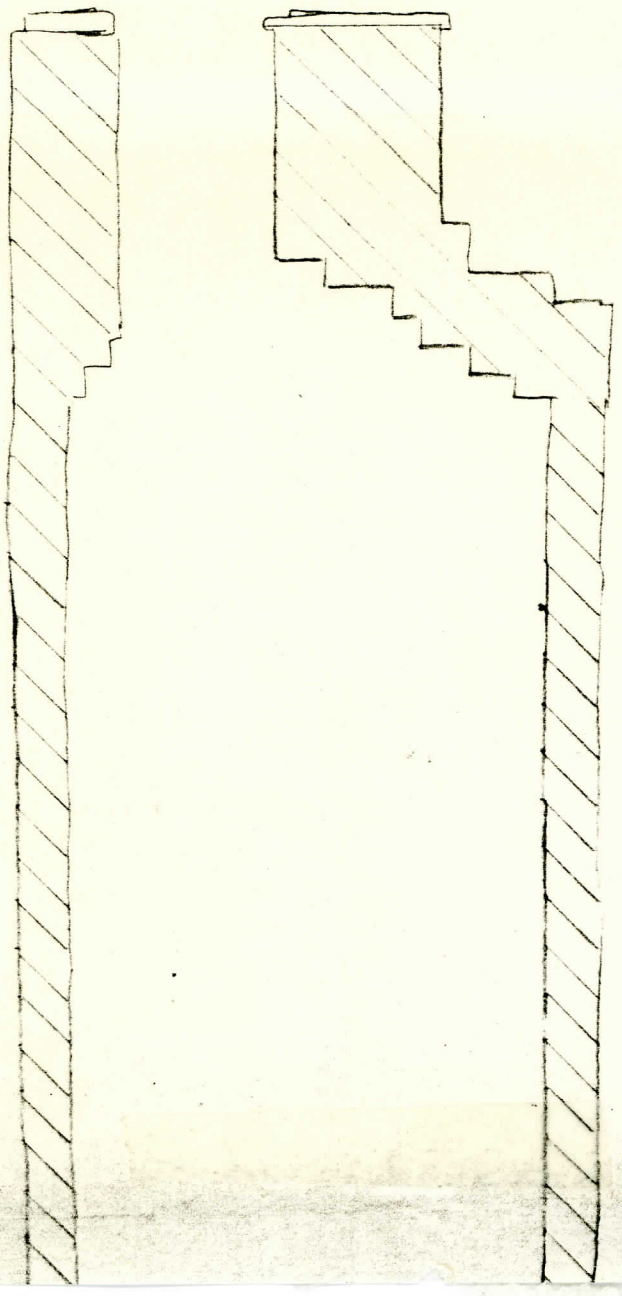


BRICK CURB-LINE

(B)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE
DETERMINED THAT THE FILL IN
WELL ACCUMULATED DURING
MID TO LATE NINETEENTH
URY, THAT THE WELL WAS
AT AN EARLY DATE, POSSIBLY
IT WAS DUG. THE SIZE OF
ARTIFACTS PROVE THAT MOST
ALL OF THEM WERE DROPPED
THE VOID, OTHER SMALL

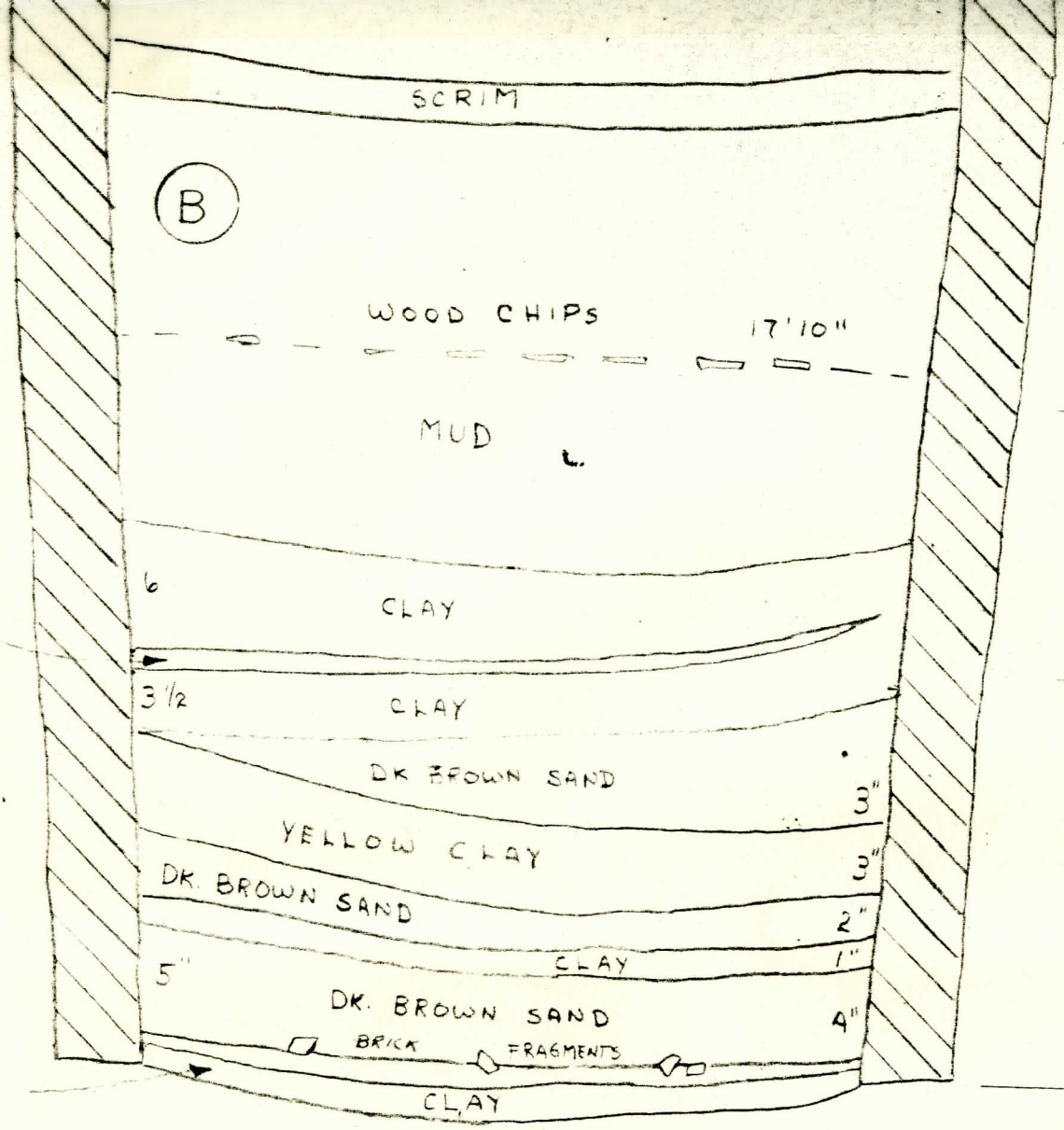
0' CHAIR-RAIL LINE 17 5/8" BELOW D



BRICK CURB-LINE

(B)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE
DETERMINED THAT THE FILL IN
WELL ACCUMULATED DURING
MID TO LATE NINETEENTH
URY, THAT THE WELL WAS
AT AN EARLY DATE, POSSIBLY
IT WAS DUG. THE SIZE OF
ARTIFACTS PROVE THAT MOST
ALL OF THEM WERE DROPPE
THE VOID, OTHER SMALL



ENLARGED PORTION OF WELL
SCALE 1 1/2" = 1' 0"

DATUM

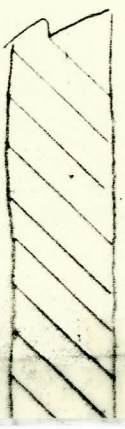
(A)

THE OLD HUMUS CONTAINED MANY BONE, POTTERY AND GLASS FRAGMEN ALL WERE AT LEAST 18th CENTURY. COULD BE PROVEN TO BE FROM TH LATE 17th CENTURY ALTHOUGH IT I ALL BUT CERTAIN THE WELL DAT FROM 1690

THE MATERIAL ABOVE THE HUMUS CONTEMPORY WITH THE BUILDING OF THE STATE HOUSE

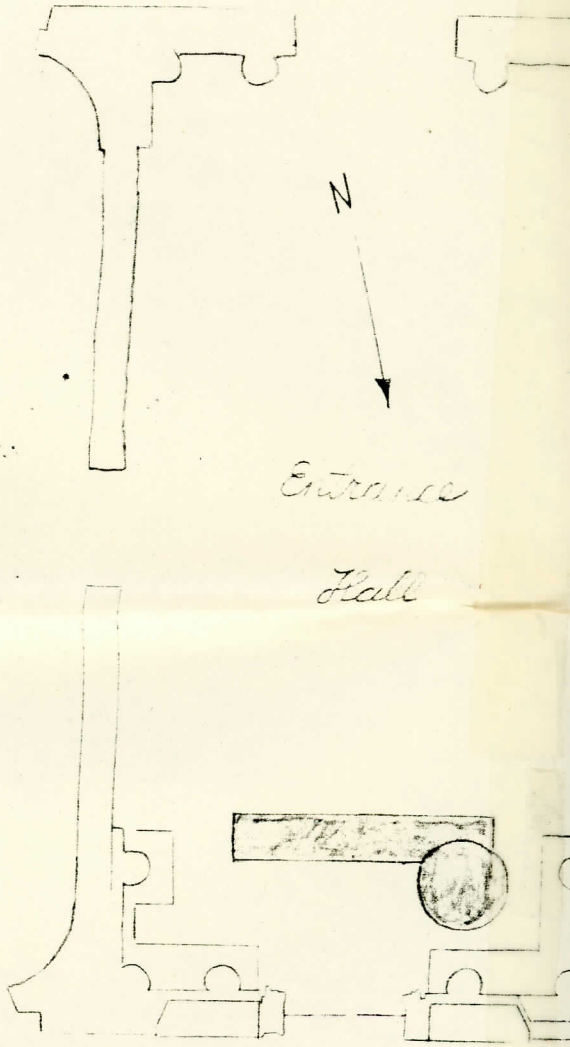
THE RED SANDSTONE CAP AND SANDSTONE CHIPS WERE MOST LIKELY PLACED AROUND THE CORBELING AT THE TIME THAT THE BRICK FLUE WORK WAS PLACE IN THE BUILDING

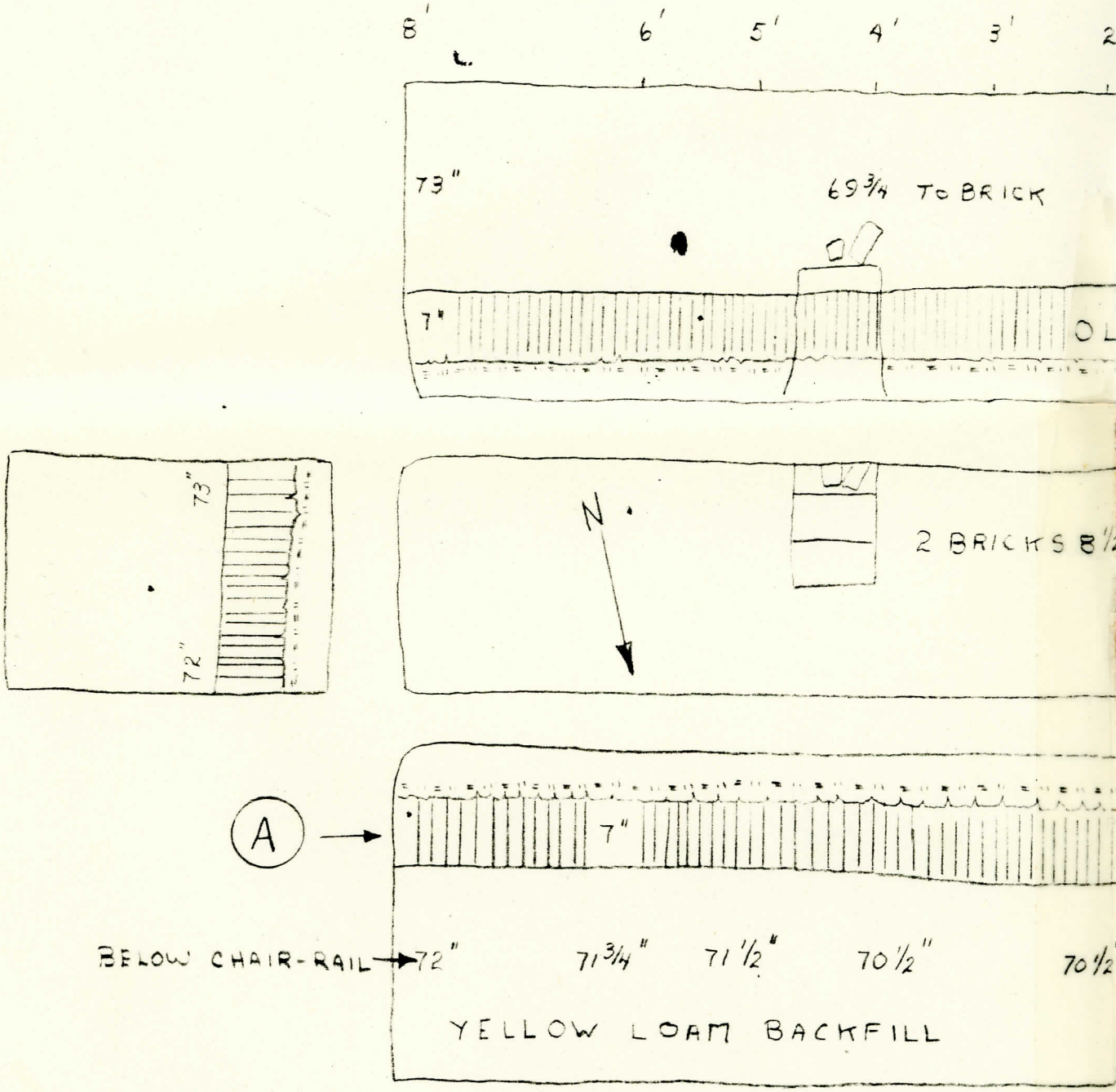
CE
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H CENT-
CORBELED
N
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ED. INTO
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1½" = 1'

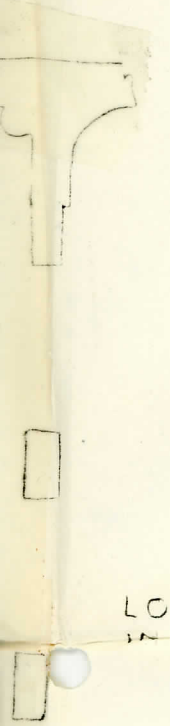



N
Entrance
Hall



TRIAL TRENCH PARALLEL TO

SCALE ¾" = 1



LOCATION OF WELL
IN ENTRANCE HALL



Budd Wilson

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
OFFICE OF
ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ARCHEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF WATER WELL
ENTRANCE HALL - INDEPENDENCE HALL
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

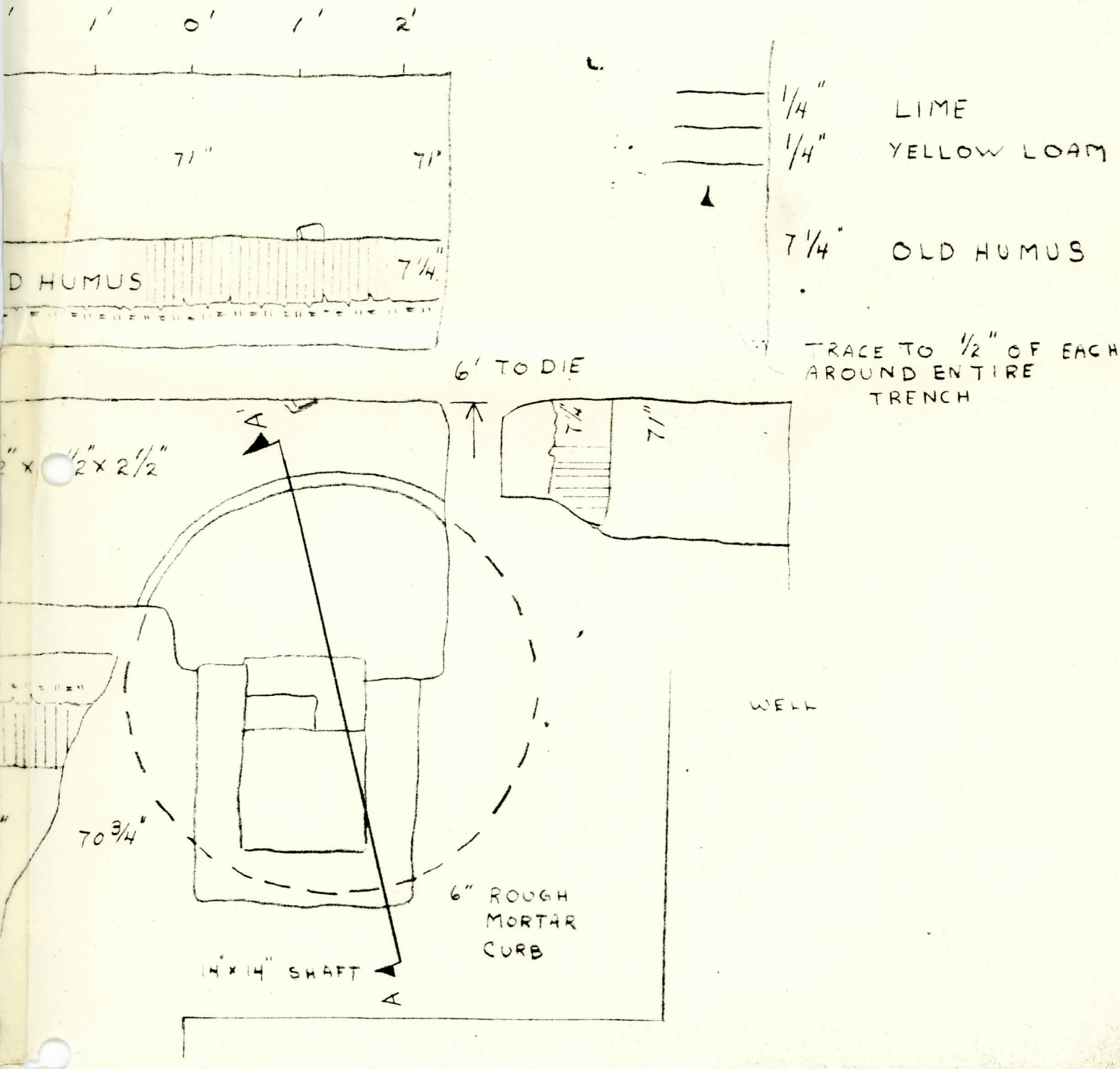
REGION
NORTHEAST

PCP NO.

SHEET 1 OF 1

DRAWING NO.
2026

DATE OCT. 1967


1'
0'
1'
2'
71"
71"
D HUMUS
7 1/4"
1/4" LIME
1/4" YELLOW LOAM
7 1/4" OLD HUMUS
TRACE TO 1/2" OF EACH
AROUND ENTIRE
TRENCH
6' TO DIE
A
A
70 3/4"
6" ROUGH
MORTAR
CURB
14"x14" SHAFT
WELL

FRONT DOOR

0"