

In 1941 the Trenton House Company sold the deteriorating hotel to the firm of Warren, Inc. (Merc. Co. Deed 818 203). Henry Kaplan, the president of this firm, immediately announced plans that called for the total reconstruction of the building's first floor to create a new entry and bar and additional retail space that could accommodate 17 stores. This project was partially realized and resulted in the relocation of the hotel's entrance to East Hanover Street and the development of a total of 14 commercial rental properties (Figure 4.22 and 4.23). In 1950 the ownership of the hotel passed from Warren, Inc. to Kaplan and his partner, Albert Kahn (Merc. Co. Deed 1130 156; the Kaplan and Kahn families continued their ownership of the property until 1979), and in 1952 it was renamed the Earle Hotel. The much-deteriorated hotel was closed by the City of Trenton in 1962 (Trenton Times, March 30, 1941, February 12, 1953, and August 20, 1962).

## B. Archaeology

The Phase 1 investigations of the Trenton House property identified a sizable 30 by 90-foot area within the former hotel yard that appeared to be without basements (Figure 1.4). Two small test trenches excavated through the floors of the early 20th-century structures in this area confirmed the presence of archaeological strata, producing evidence of structural features and approximately a four-foot build-up of cultural deposits. The recovery of 18th-century artifacts from these trenches further confirmed the archaeological potential of this zone.

The Phase 2 investigations, during which the bulk of the fieldwork was performed, involved excavation of three large excavation units (described in detail below) covering an area of roughly 385 sq.ft (Figures 5.1 and 5.2). Two of these units (Excavation Units 1 and 2) produced an especially rich archaeological sequence. The third unit proved somewhat less revealing, the earlier deposits having been more drastically affected by the early 20th-century modifications. The Phase 3 investigations involved the excavation of four minor extensions to the two more productive units. These extensions covered an additional 100 sq.ft. or so of the 30 by 90-foot zone within the hotel yard.

During the course of six months of fieldwork within the Trenton House yard the archaeological team became extremely familiar with the buildings on the property and, as part of the work effort, measured plans were prepared for the basement and first floor levels of the hotel (Figures 5.1 and 5.2). These drawings emerged as an essential part of our understanding the history and physical development of the property and also proved of critical assistance in the analysis of the archaeological data (see below, Chapter 5C).

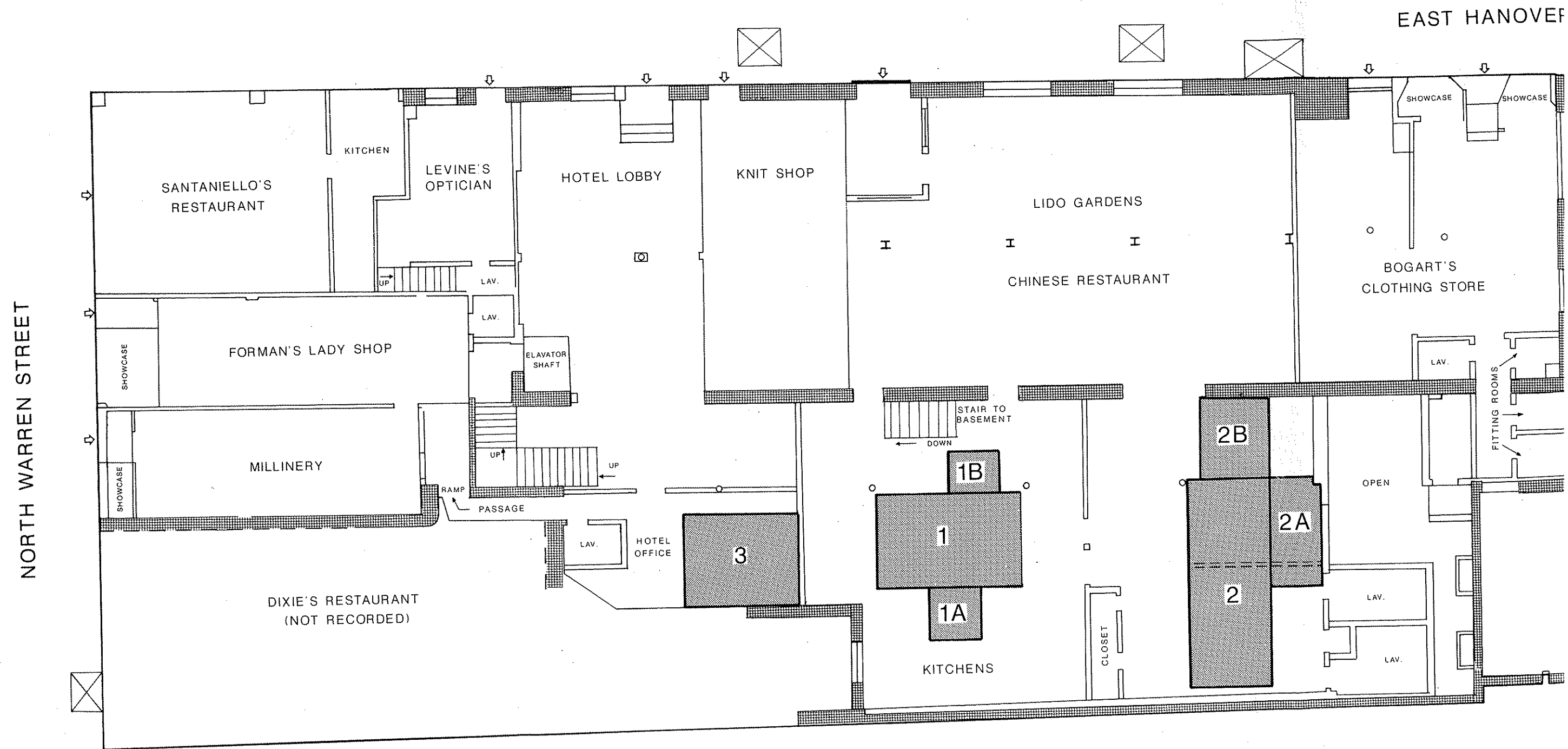
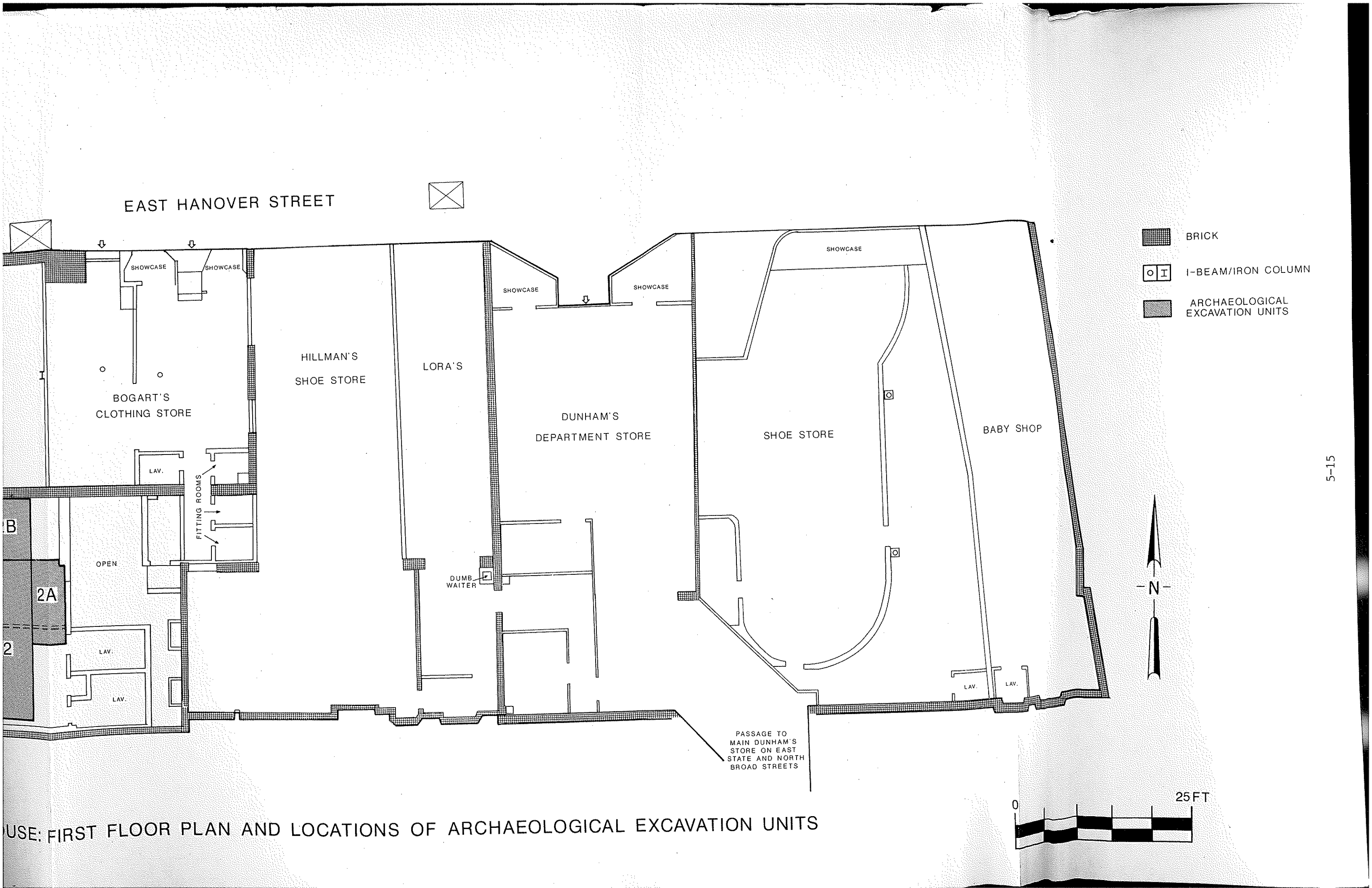


FIGURE 5.1. TRENTON HOUSE: FIRST FLOOR PLAN A



USE: FIRST FLOOR PLAN AND LOCATIONS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION UNITS

NORTH WARREN STREET

EAST HANOVER STREET

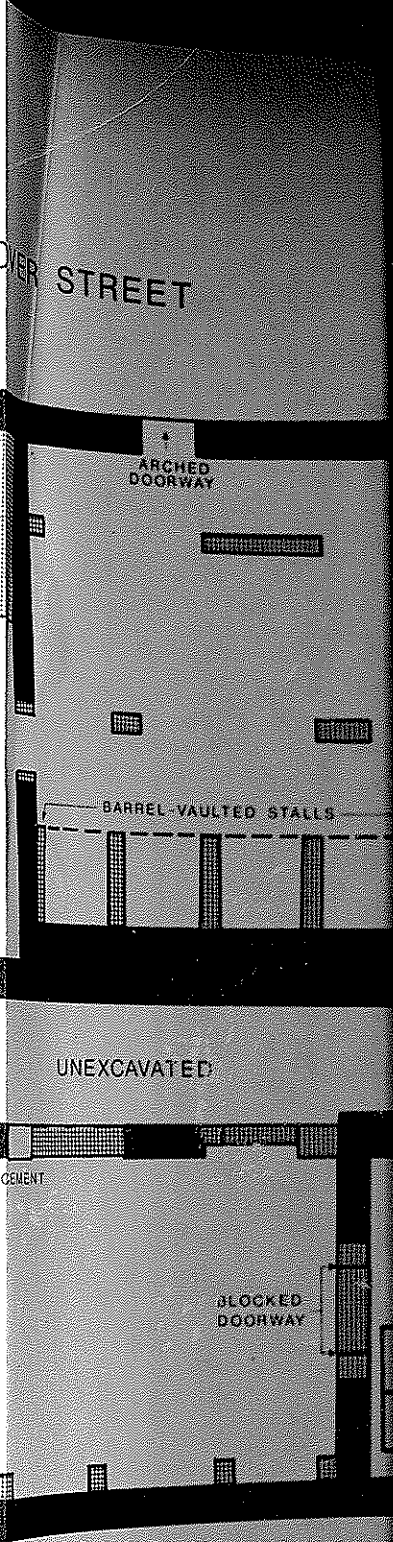
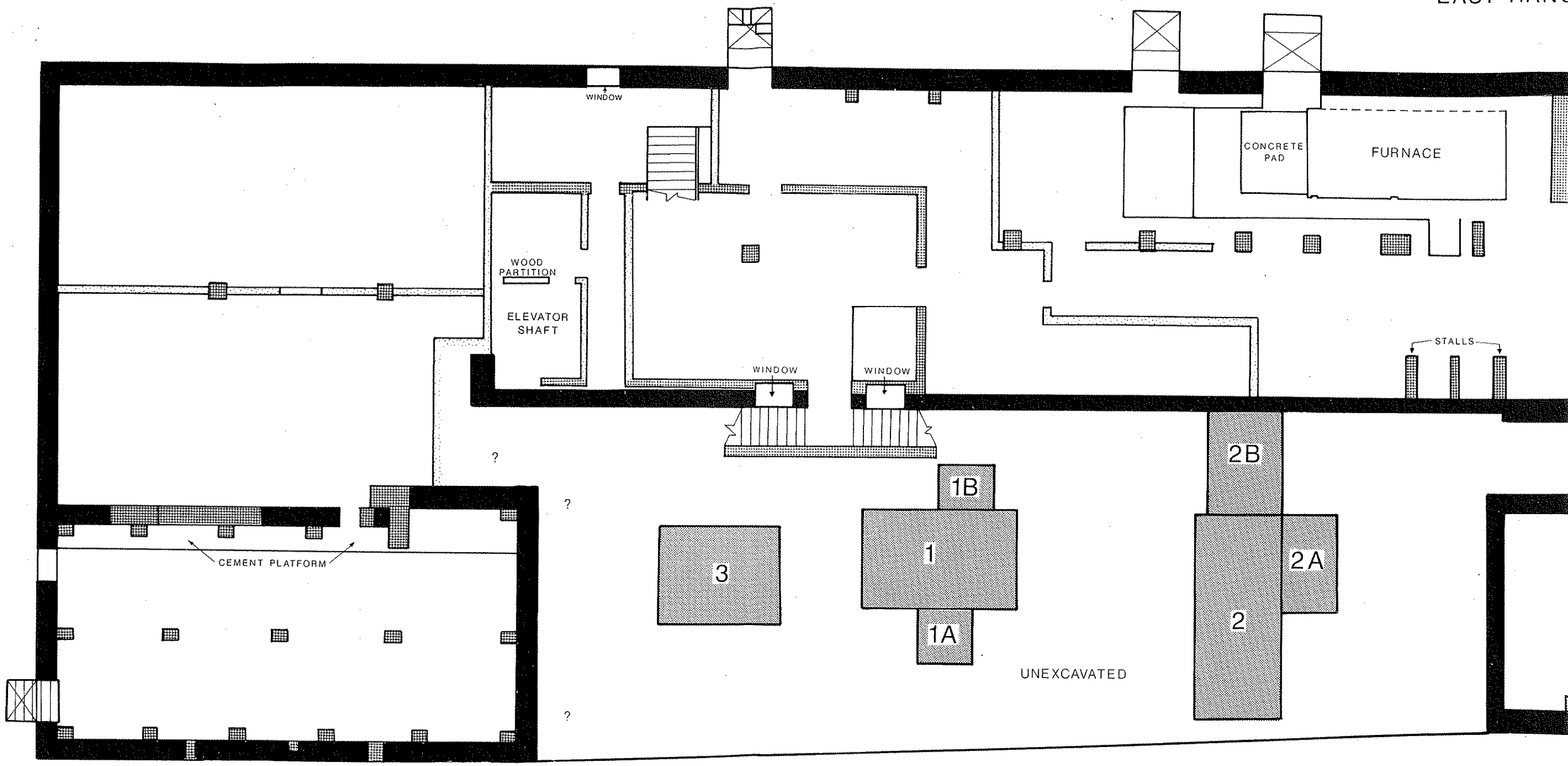
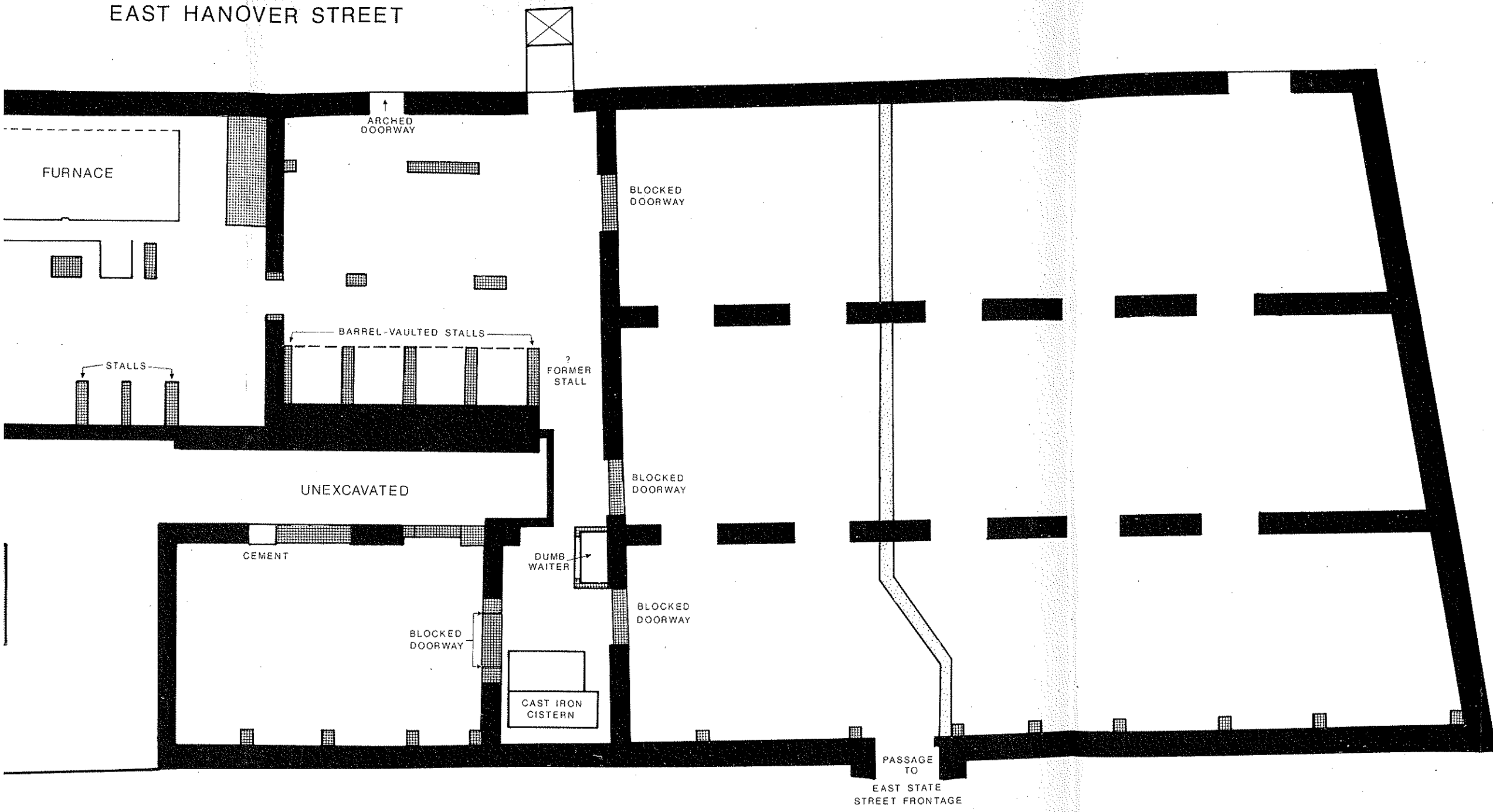


FIGURE 5.2. TRENTON HOUSE: BASEMENT PLAN AND LOCATIONS OF

EAST HANOVER STREET



- STONE
- BRICK
- CINDER BLOCK OR CONCRETE
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION UNITS



5-16

BASEMENT PLAN AND LOCATIONS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION UNITS

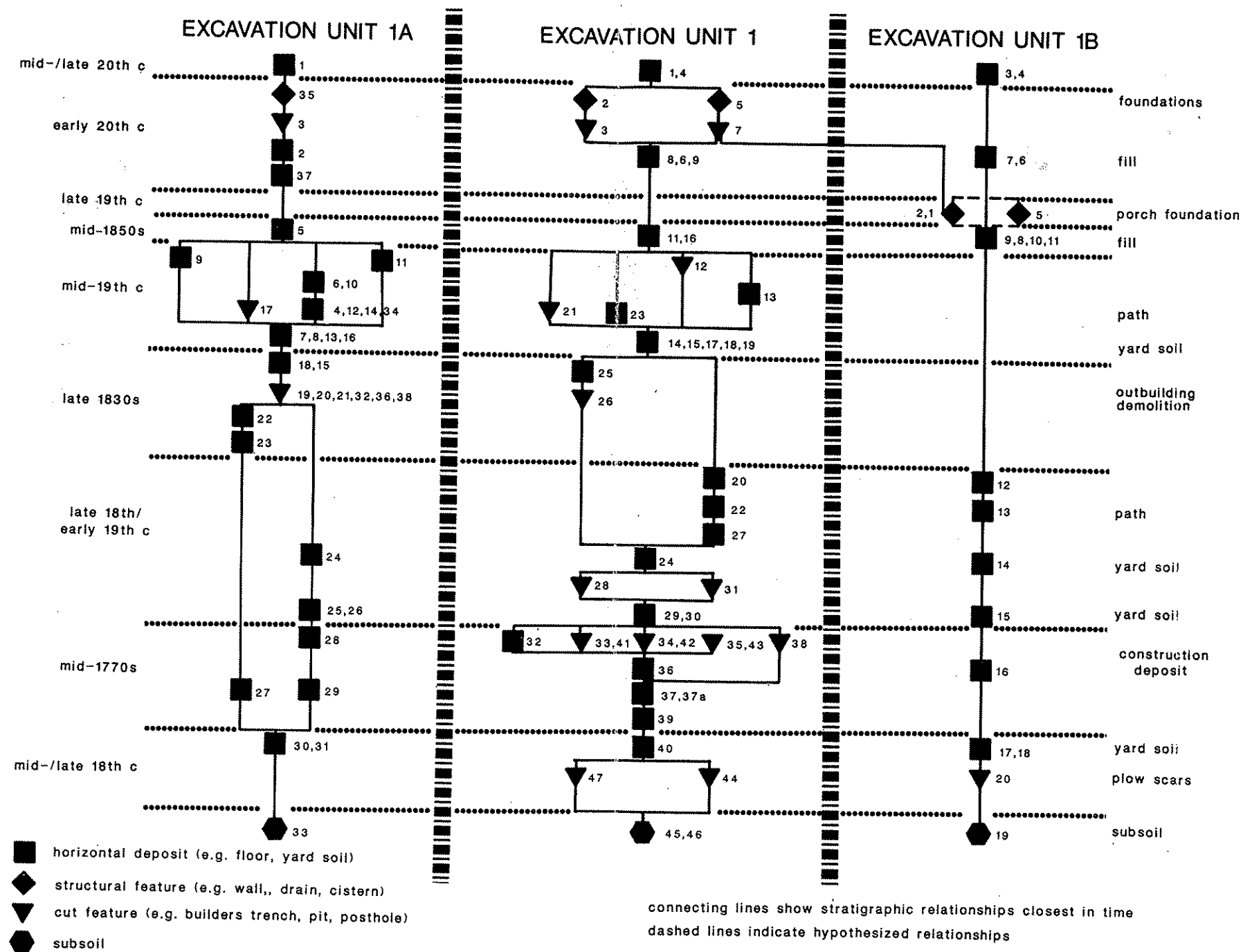


Excavation Units 1, 1A and 1B (Matrix 5.1; Figures 5.3-5.8; Plates 5.2-5.20; Appendices B.i and C.i) were located roughly in the center of the Trenton House yard within the kitchen area of the Lido Gardens Chinese restaurant. Excavation Unit 1 was excavated in its entirety during the Phase 2 studies before work was begun during Phase 3 on Excavation Units 1A and 1B. An integrated description for these three units is presented here to avoid unnecessary duplication. Archaeological contexts are referred to by number with a prefix indicating which unit is involved (e.g., 1A/14 refers to unit 1A, context 14).

Removal of the kitchen floor resulted in the exposure of its supporting joists and wooden sills atop two east-west brick foundations [1/2, 1/5, 1A/35, 1B/1, 1B/2] that ran through the entire unit (Plates 5.2, 5.13 and 5.18). These foundations represent the footings for the single-story structure that was erected over the former hotel yard sometime between 1908 and 1927. Between and on both sides of the brick foundations was a thin, loose and much disturbed layer of soil and debris interpreted as a mid- to late 20th-century sub-floor build-up and destruction deposit [1/1, 1A/1, 1B/3]. The destruction debris is probably related to the extensive charring that was noted on the floor joists and together these suggest that the Chinese restaurant (or its immediate predecessor) experienced a serious fire earlier this century. The sub-floor build-up overlaid a compact layer of sandy fill [1/8, 1A/2, 1A/37, 1B/7] that appears to have been a leveling deposit associated with the construction of the single-story structure (Plate 5.2).

While the southernmost of the two brick foundations [1/2, 1A/35] was clearly constructed in a single building episode (Plates 5.13 and 5.15), the northern wall was considerably more complex. The south side of this foundation [1/5] had been applied in the early 20th century against an earlier brick foundation [1B/2] that, when viewed from the north (Plate 5.20), itself showed two separate phases of construction. The lower seven courses of this ten-course brick wall were of one "build", comprising five rows of stretchers sandwiched between two rows of headers. In a separate building action three additional courses of stretchers had then been added on top of the lower seven courses, bringing the wall to its full height. This two-phase wall supported the Chinese restaurant floor via a wooden sill beam and a series of uncharred joists, indicating that these timbers were part of a mid- to late 20th-century replacement (post-fire) framing system.

MATRIX 5.1. TRENTON HOUSE, EXCAVATION UNITS 1, 1A AND 1B  
 (See Appendix B.i for details of contexts)



Immediately northwest and northeast of Excavation Unit 1, enclosed within the floor framing and resting directly on top of the two-phase brick foundation (but not on the later foundation applied to the south), were two cast iron columns (Plates 5.2, 5.3 and 5.18). Two other similar columns were found to the west and east in adjoining rooms within the single-story structure that spanned the hotel yard (Figure 5.1). This line of columns appears to represent part of the final phase of the porch that ran along the south side of the East Hanover Street wing of the hotel overlooking the yard. The underlying brick foundation therefore reflects two separate phases of porch construction: the more recent phase with the cast iron columns probably dating from around the turn of the century; the earlier phase perhaps dating from mid-way through the second half of the 19th century. A still earlier phase of porch construction, assigned to the mid-1850s, was observed in Excavation Unit 2 (see below).

An important factor in unraveling this complex sequence of porches was their relationship with the entry into the basement of the extant East Hanover Street wing of the hotel. Excavation Unit 1B was deliberately located beneath the porch adjacent to the basement entry in an effort to link the archaeological stratigraphy in the yard with the porch and this wing of the hotel (Figures 5.1 and 5.2). As observed in 1987 the basement entry consisted of a pair of stairs leading down alongside the back of the building, although the western staircase had been blocked off in the early 20th century. Windows originally allowed light to pass from the yard across these two stairways into the hotel basement. Interestingly, the two upper treads of both staircases were constructed in wood, whereas the remainder were built in stone. The side of the uppermost stone tread was encountered in Excavation Unit 1B [1B/5] (Figure 5.8; Plate 5.19) and it was thus possible to stratigraphically link the stone basement stairway to the earlier phase of the brick porch foundation and the upper wooden treads with the turn-of-the-century porch modifications. These latter modifications evidently involved a raising of the porch floor level. The original stone stairway into the basement, in fact, probably dated to the mid-1850s and was part of the original construction of the East Hanover Street hotel wing.

The rubble fill make-up level for the mid-1850s expansion of the hotel by Peter Katzenbach was clearly evident in Excavation Units 1, 1A and 1B [1/11, 1A/5, 1B/9] (Figures 5.5-5.8; Plates 5.5, 5.6, 5.9-5.12, 5.15-5.17 and 5.19). This deposit contained noticeably larger amounts of rubble to the north (e.g., Figure 5.6; Plates 5.5 and 5.6) and it is presumed that destruction material from the earlier wing along East Hanover Street may account for this. As one might expect with this mid-century demolition and construction activity, a wide range of artifacts was recovered dating chiefly from the first half of the 19th century.



Sealed beneath the mid-1850s rubble fill was a three- to three-and-a-half-foot thick sequence of mid-18th through mid-19th century deposits. The upper part of this sequence comprised a group of garden or yard-related features apparently dating from the late 1830s through into the mid-1850s. In the western half of Excavation Unit 1 the sand and gravel base [1/13] of what was probably originally a brick walk were found (Figures 5.3 and 5.5; Plates 5.3 and 5.4). This walk consisted of two connecting sections, both apparently curvilinear in plan. The eastern arm of the walk continued through the western part of Excavation Unit 1A [1A/4] where an in-situ brick was found in the southwest corner of the unit [1A/6]. A scatter of bricks in the center of Excavation Unit 1A [1A/11] appeared to be material dislodged from the walk, presumably in the mid-1850s (Plate 5.13).

In the eastern half of Excavation Units 1 and 1A a prominent north-south line was recognized, consisting of a soil change [1A/7 and 8], a line of three postholes [1/21, 1A/17] and a single brick set on edge lengthways [1/23] (Figure 5.3; Plates 5.4 and 5.13). These features were stratigraphically linked with the brick walk found to the west and appear to represent a garden border or fence line. Binding these various garden/yard features together was a well-mixed loamy soil interpreted as a garden deposit [1/14, 1/15, 1/17, 1/18, 1/19, 1A/7, 1A/8, 1A/13, 1A/16]. This soil contained a large quantity of early 19th-century and some late 18th-century cultural materials including ceramics (tablewares, kitchenwares, clay pipes), glass, metal objects, bone and shell (Appendix C.i). The late 1830s though mid-1850s garden phase was not represented in Excavation Unit 1B as the disturbance and filling associated with the mid-1850s construction extended to a greater depth further to the north (i.e., closer to the East Hanover Street wing of the hotel).

In Excavation Unit 1A and the southwest corner of Excavation Unit 1 the mid-19th century garden deposits sealed a well-defined trench filled with compact rubble [1/26, 1A/19] (Figures 5.4, 5.5 and 5.7; Plates 5.4, 5.6-5.8, 5.14-5.17). This trench represented the robbing of a square or rectilinear foundation, the northeast corner of which was located close to the junction of Excavation Units 1 and 1A. Stratigraphic relationships and associated artifacts date this robbing action to the late 1830s at the earliest, although the building itself is believed to have been erected in the late 18th or very early 19th centuries.

Material very similar to the robber trench fill was encountered within what would have been the interior of this structure, evidently representing a contemporary destruction deposit [1A/18]. Below this layer, within the outbuilding footprint, were two sandy deposits [1A/22, 1A/23], which, based on the artifacts contained within them, appear to have

FIGURE 5.3. TRENTON HOUSE, PLAN OF EXCAVATION UNITS 1, 1A AND 1B  
[19TH - CENTURY FEATURES]

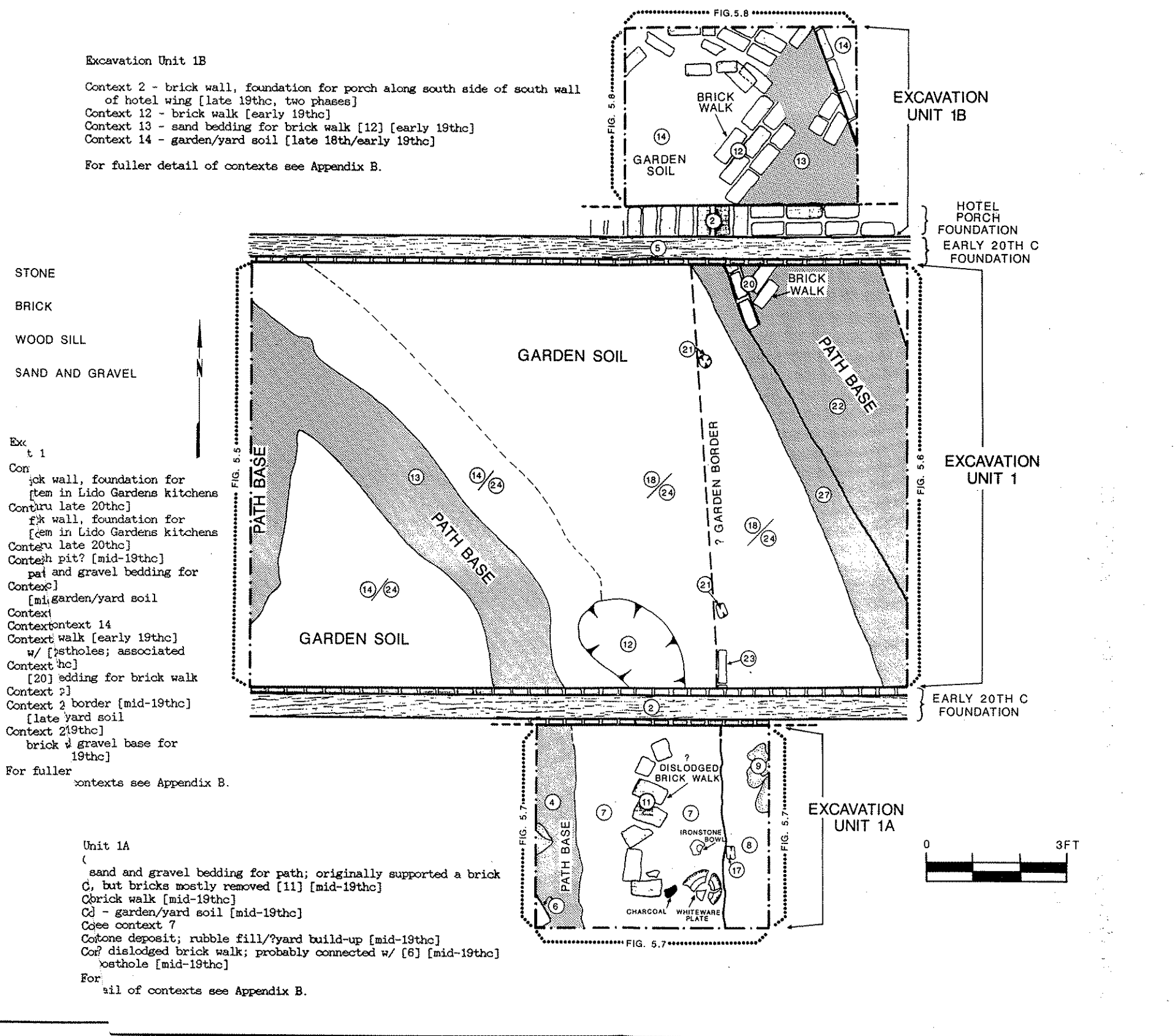
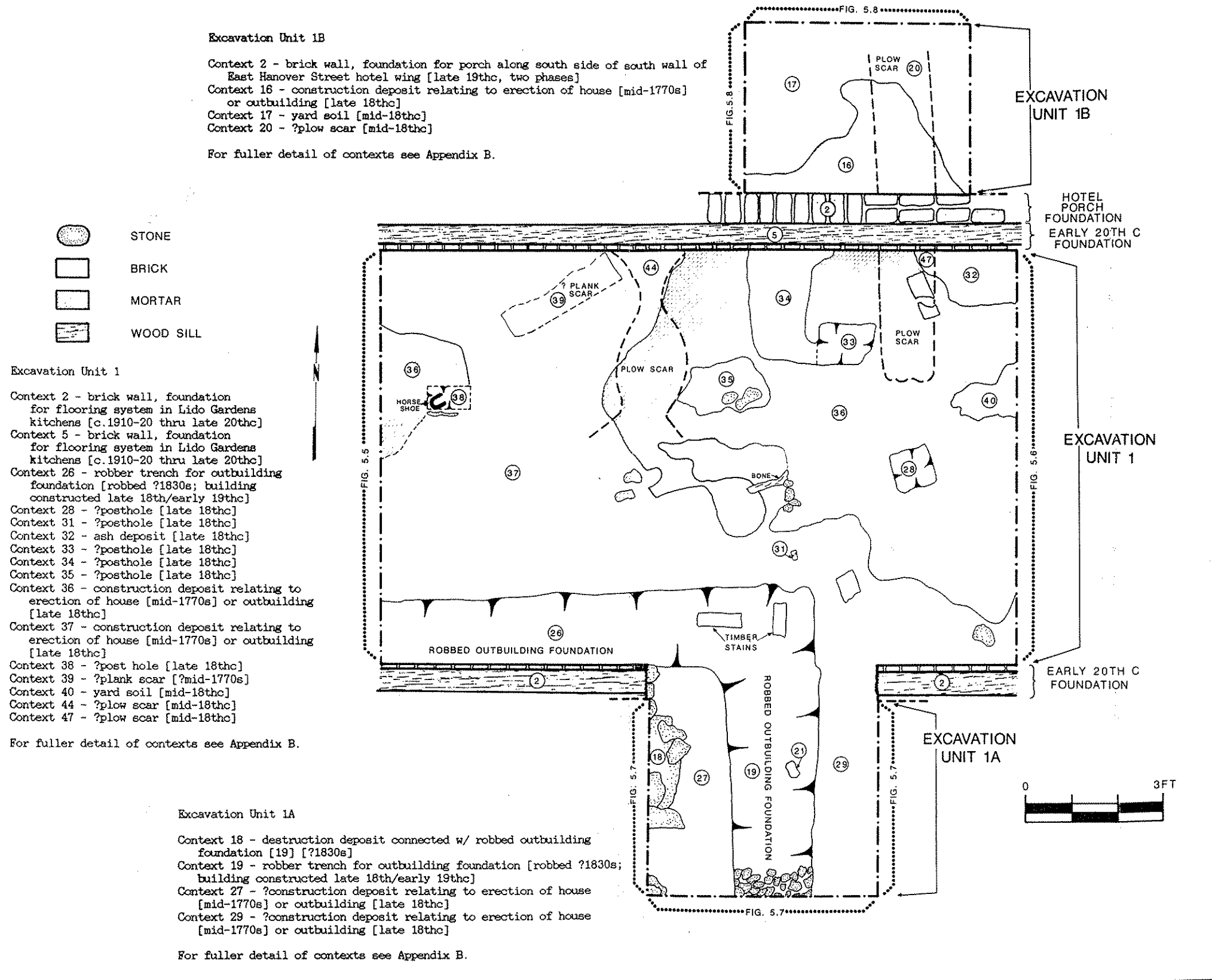
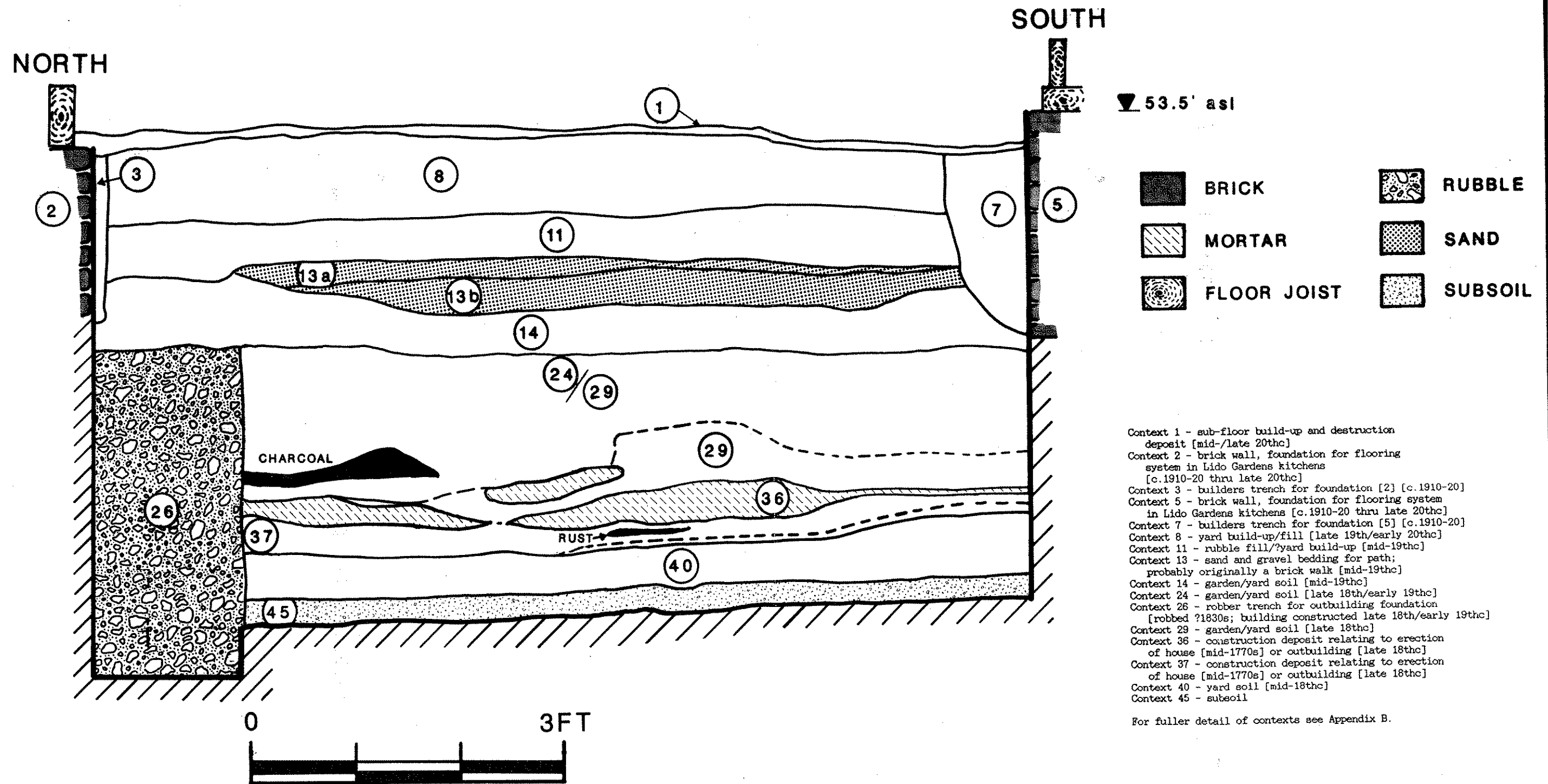


FIGURE 5.4. TRENTON HOUSE PLAN OF EXCAVATION UNITS 1, 1A AND 1B  
[LATE 18TH - CENTURY FEATURES]



# FIGURE 5.5. TRENTON HOUSE, EXCAVATION UNIT 1, WEST PROFILE



# FIGURE 5.6. TRENTON HOUSE, EXCAVATION UNIT 1, EAST PROFILE

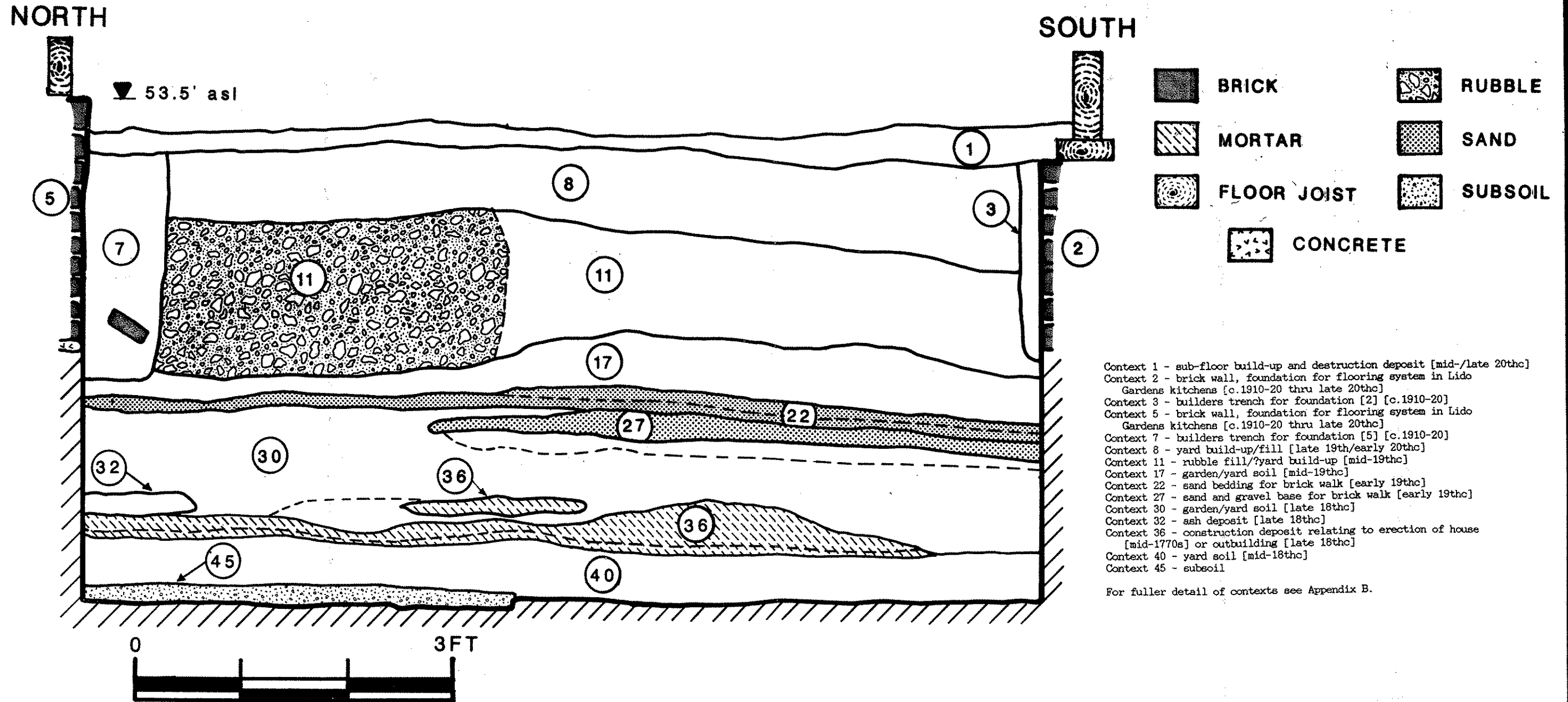
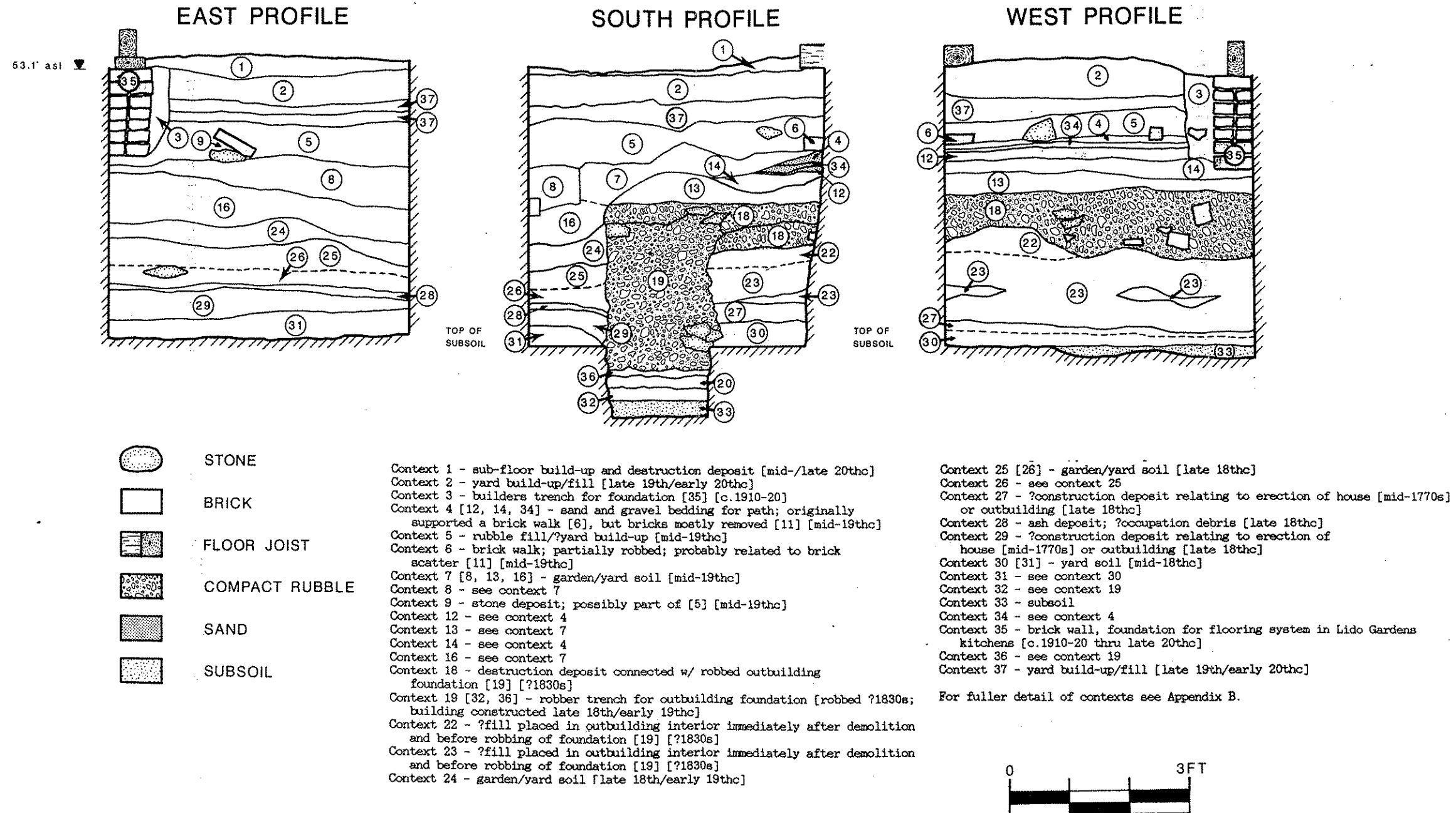
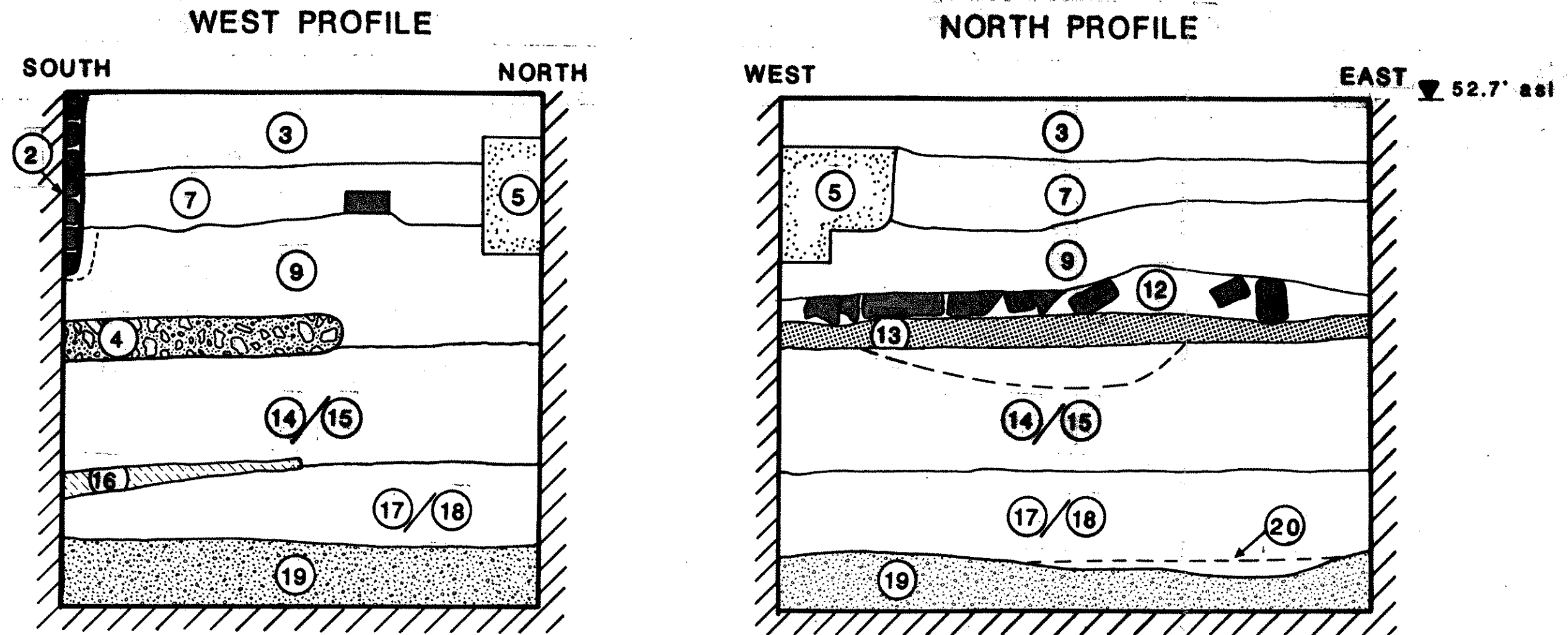



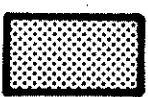




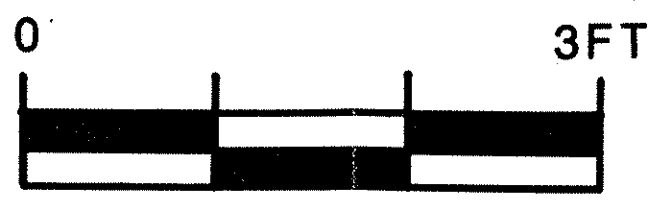
FIGURE 5.7. TRENTON HOUSE, EXCAVATION UNIT 1A: EAST, SOUTH AND WEST PROFILES



# FIGURE 5.8. TRENTON HOUSE EXCAVATION UNIT 1B, WEST AND NORTH PROFILES



-  STONE
-  RUBBLE
-  BRICK
-  SAND
-  MORTAR
-  SUBSOIL



- Context 2 - brick wall, foundation for porch along south side of south wall of hotel wing [late 19thc, two phases]
- Context 3 - sub-floor build-up and destruction deposit [mid-/late 20thc]
- Context 5 - buried top step of stair leading down into basement of hotel wing [late 19thc, first and second phase porch feature]
- Context 7 - yard build-up/fill [late 19th/early 20thc]
- Context 9 - rubble fill/?yard build-up [mid-19thc]
- Context 12 - brick walk, partially robbed [early 19thc]
- Context 13 - sand bedding for brick walk [12] [early 19thc]
- Context 14 - garden/yard soil [late 18th/early 19thc]
- Context 15 - garden/yard soil [late 18thc]
- Context 16 - construction deposit relating to erection of house [mid-1770s] or outbuilding [late 18thc]
- Context 17 - yard soil [mid-18thc]
- Context 18 - see context 17
- Context 19 - subsoil
- Context 20 - ?plow scar [mid-18thc]

For fuller detail of contexts see Appendix B.

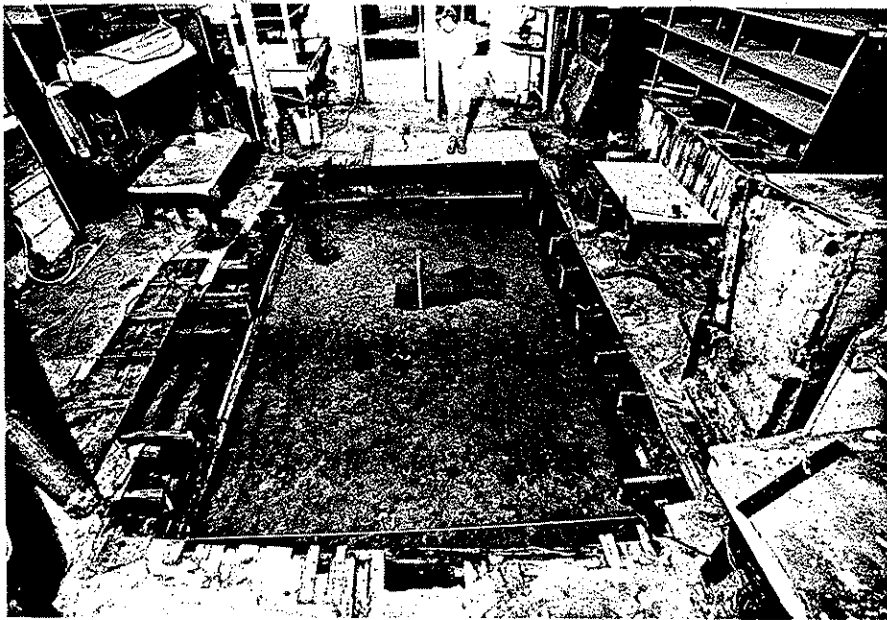


Plate 5.2. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1: general view looking east following removal of floor and initial clean-up; original Phase 1 test trench visible in center of unit; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, April 1987).





Plate 5.3. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1: general view of mid-19th century yard deposits looking north; sand base for garden paths visible in left half of unit; dark stain at center bottom is base of c.1860s trash pit; original Phase 1 test trench visible in center of unit (Photographer: Richard Hunter, April 1987).

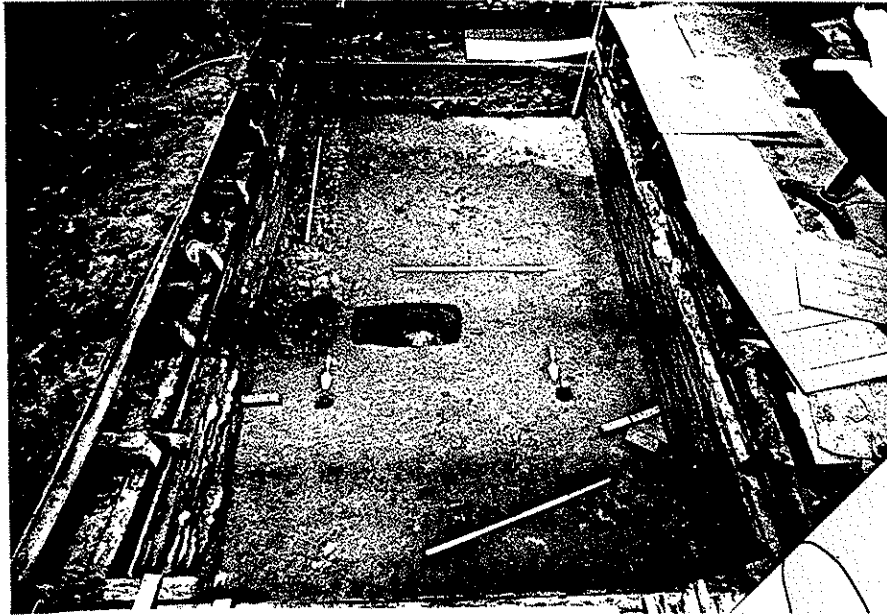


Plate 5.4. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1: general view of early 19th century yard deposits looking west; fill of robber trench for north wall of late 18th century outbuilding visible in upper left corner of unit; remains of brick path and sand base at bottom right; trowels point to postholes from possible fence or trellis; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, May 1987).

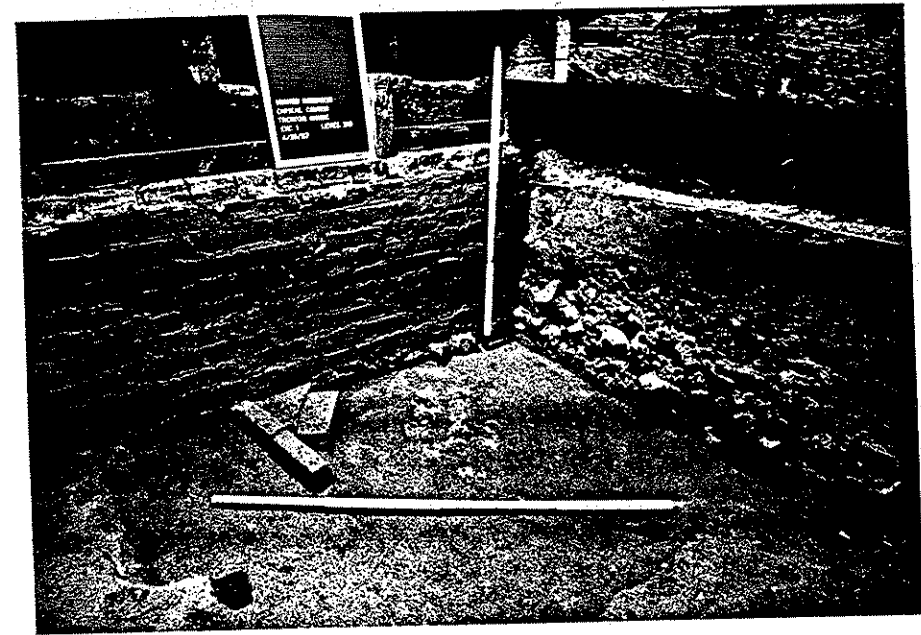


Plate 5.5. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1: view looking northeast showing detail of early 19th century brick path and sand base in northeast corner of unit; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, May 1987).

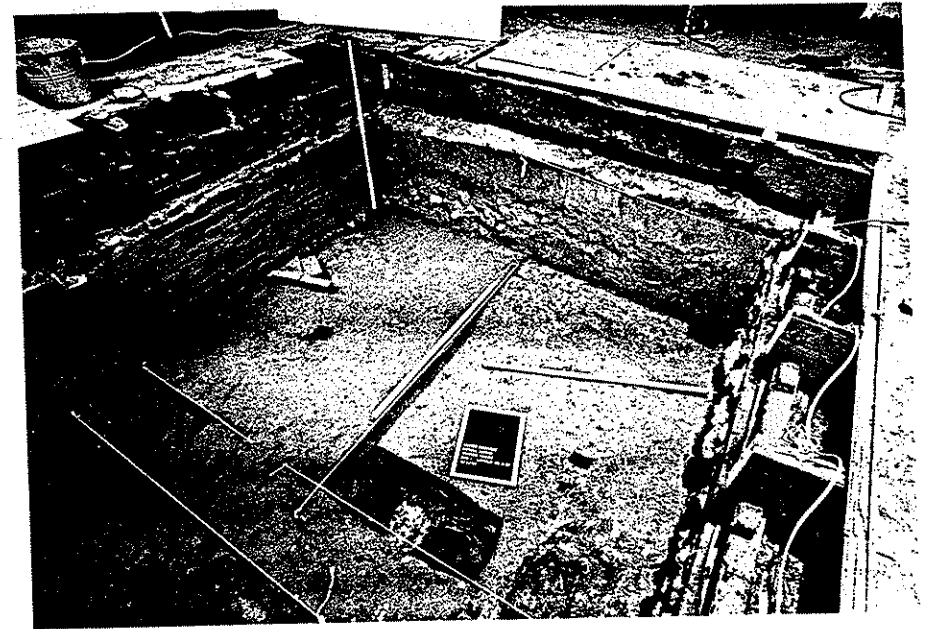


Plate 5.6. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1: view looking northeast showing early 19th century brick path and sand base in northeast corner of unit; fill of robber trench for northeast corner of late 18th century out-building visible at bottom center right; original Phase 1 test trench at bottom center with mortar-filled construction deposit visible at base; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, May 1987).

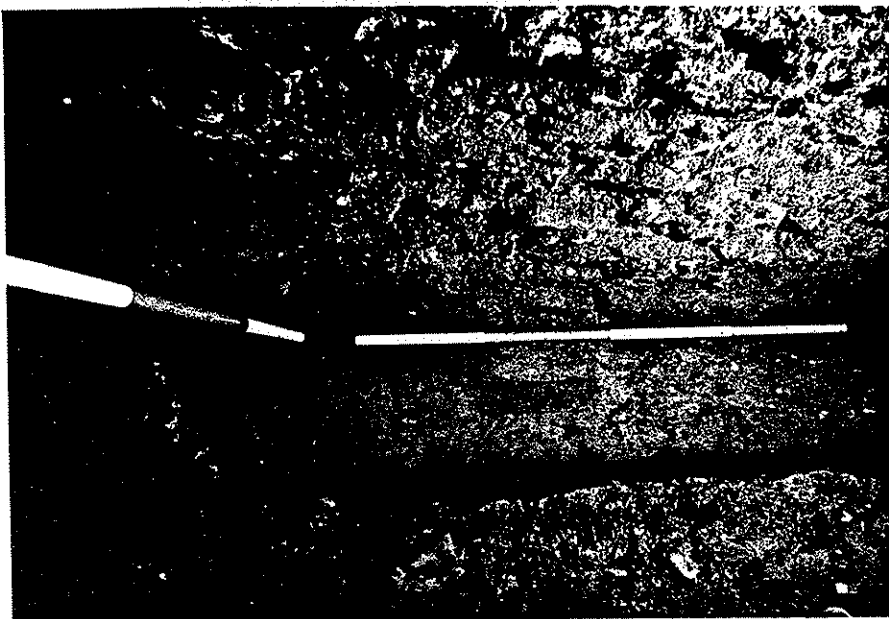


Plate 5.7. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1: view looking down into northeast corner of robber trench for late 18th century outbuilding; stains from possible timber structural remains outlined; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, May 1987).

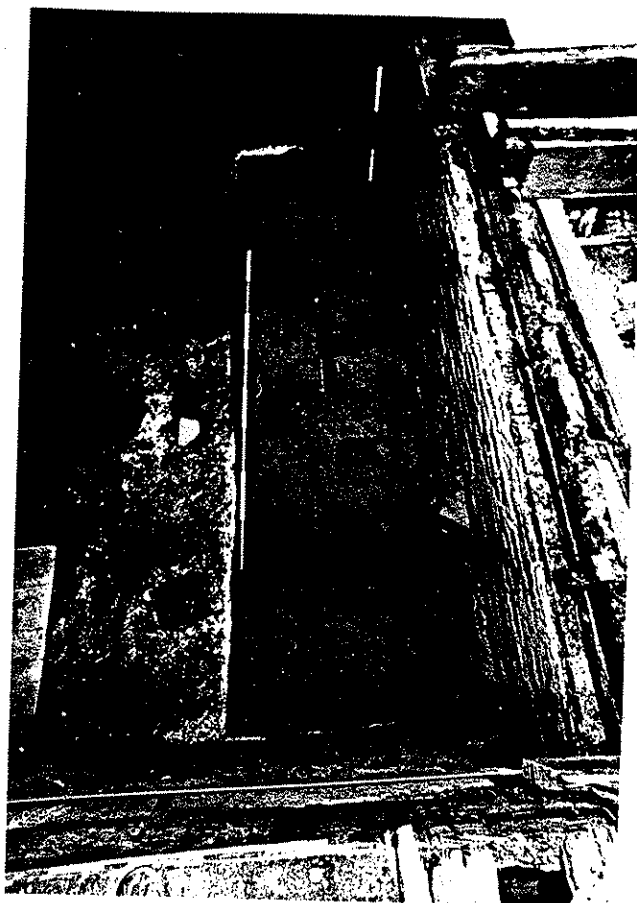


Plate 5.8. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1: view looking west showing 18th century deposits; 1770s mortar-filled construction deposit has been partially removed exposing pre-urban cultural and natural soils; note postholes, possibly from scaffolding, cut into these layers; robber trench for north wall of late 18th century outbuilding visible at upper left; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, May 1987).



Plate 5.9. Trenton House, Excavation  
Unit 1: view looking east showing  
northern half of unit with 1770s  
mortar-filled construction deposit  
removed; almost four feet of 18th  
and 19th century cultural stratigraphy  
visible in east profile at far end of  
unit; scale in feet (Photographer:  
Richard Hunter, May 1987).

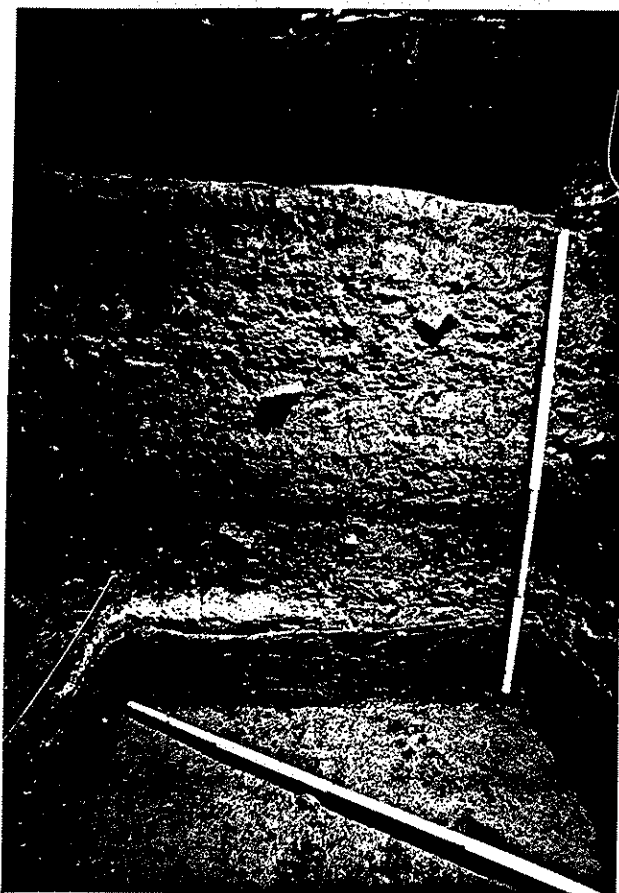


Plate 5.10. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1: view of northern end of west profile of unit upon completion of excavation; scale pole in foreground rests on subsoil; stratigraphy from base upwards includes mid-18th century yard soil, 1770s mortar-filled construction deposit, late 18th/early 19th century yard build-up and garden soils, mid-19th century path base [three feet from bottom of unit] and later 19th/early 20th century yard build-up; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, May 1987).



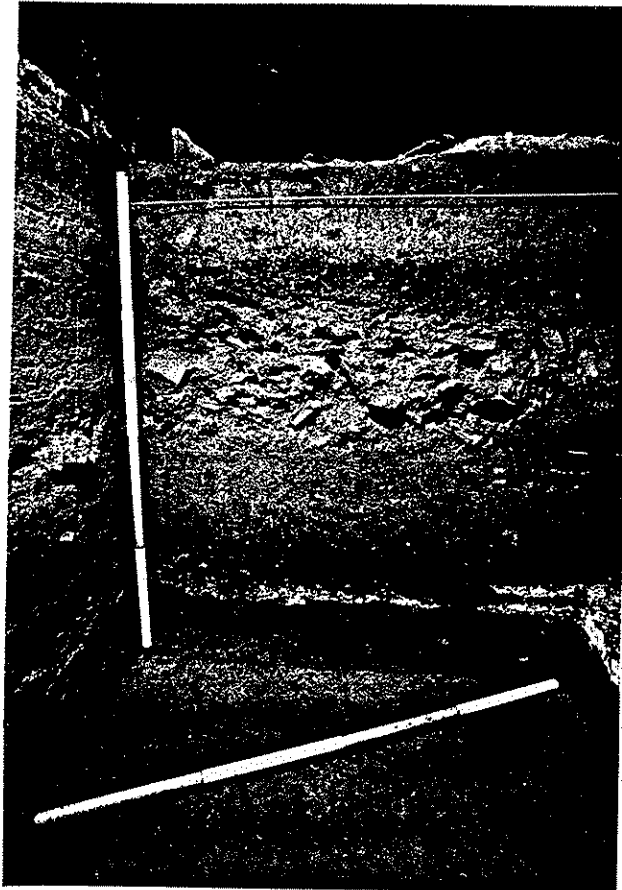


Plate 5.11. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1: view of northern end of east profile of unit at completion of excavation; scale pole in foreground rests on subsoil; stratigraphy from base upwards includes mid-18th century yard soil, 1770s mortar-filled construction deposit, late 18th/early 19th century yard build-up and garden soils, early 19th century path base [barely visible 1.5 feet from bottom of unit], early to mid-19th century yard build-up and garden soil overlaid by fill of cut for mid-19th century hotel porch, and later 19th/early 20th century yard build-up; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, May 1987).



Plate 5.12. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1: view of east profile of unit at completion of excavation; horizontal scale pole rests on subsoil; stratigraphy from base upwards includes mid-18th century yard soil, 1770s mortar-filled construction deposit, late 18th/early 19th century yard build-up and garden soils, early 19th century path base [1.5 feet from bottom of unit], early to mid-19th century yard build-up and garden soil cut at left by construction trench for mid-19th century hotel porch, and later 19th/early 20th century yard build-up; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, May 1987).

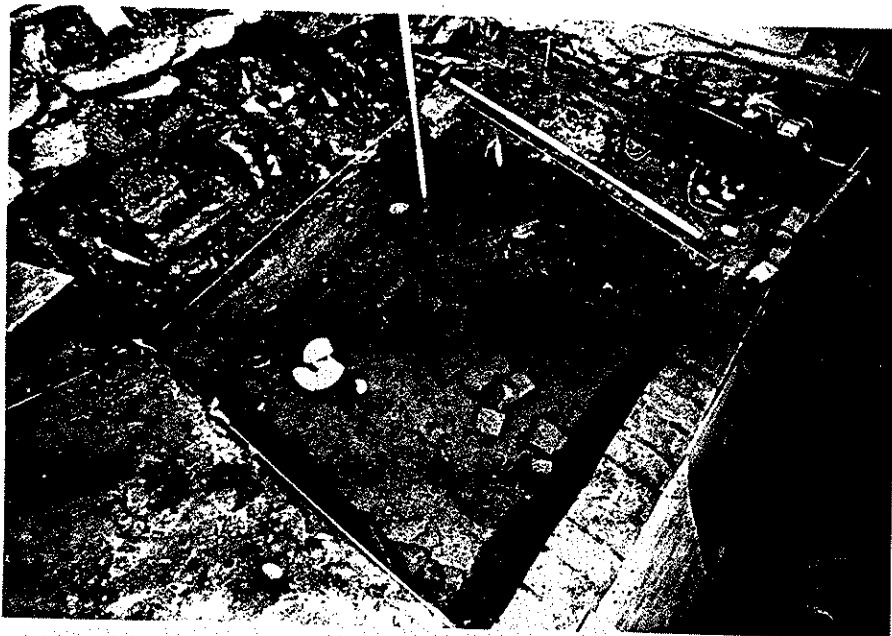


Plate 5.13. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1A: general view looking southwest showing early to mid-19th century yard deposits; brick scatter and pearlware plate and iron-stone cup represent disturbance of early 19th century brick path and garden features; sand at base of profile below horizontal scale pole is bedding for same mid-19th century brick path observed in excavation unit 1; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).



Plate 5.14. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1A: general view looking south showing unit during excavation of early 19th century deposits; robber trench for north-eastern corner of late 18th century outbuilding visible in center; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).



Plate 5.15. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1A: general view looking east upon completion of excavation; horizontal scale pole rests on subsoil in base of robber trench for east wall of late 18th century outbuilding; profile in center of view to left of vertical scale pole shows accumulation of mid-18th through mid-20th century cultural stratigraphy consisting mostly of yard build-up and garden soils; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).

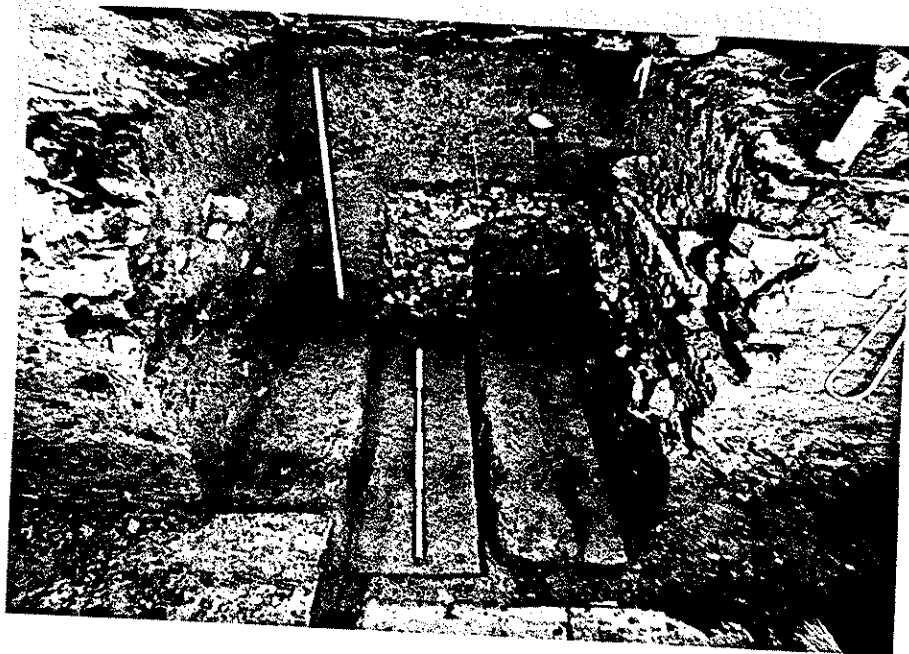


Plate 5.16. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1A: general view looking south upon completion of excavation; horizontal scale pole rests on subsoil in base of robber trench for east wall of late 18th century outbuilding; profile in center of view to right of vertical scale pole shows robber trench and destruction deposit associated with late 18th century outbuilding and accumulation of mid-18th through mid-20th century cultural stratigraphy consisting mostly of yard build-up and garden soils; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).



Plate 5.17. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1A: general view looking west upon completion of excavation; horizontal scale pole rests on subsoil in base of robber trench for east wall of late 18th century outbuilding; profile in center of view to right of vertical scale pole shows destruction deposit associated with late 18th century outbuilding and accumulation of mid-18th through mid-20th century cultural stratigraphy consisting mostly of yard build-up and garden soils; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).

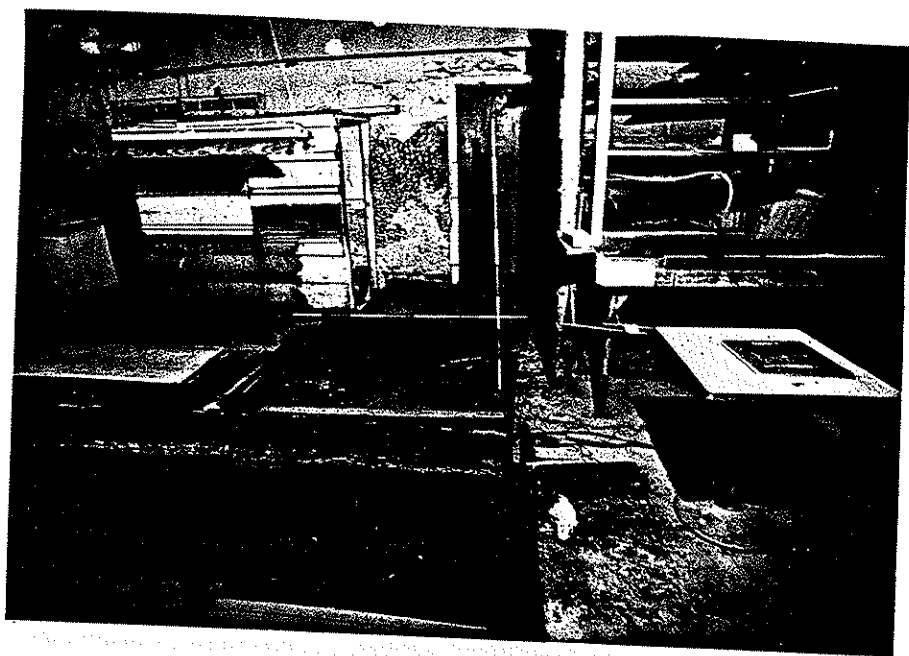


Plate 5.18. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1B: general view looking north showing unit after removal of floor; top of basement stairway at left end of horizontal scale pole; rear wall of mid-19th century East Hanover Street hotel wing beyond; late 19th century cast iron porch column to right of vertical scale pole; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).



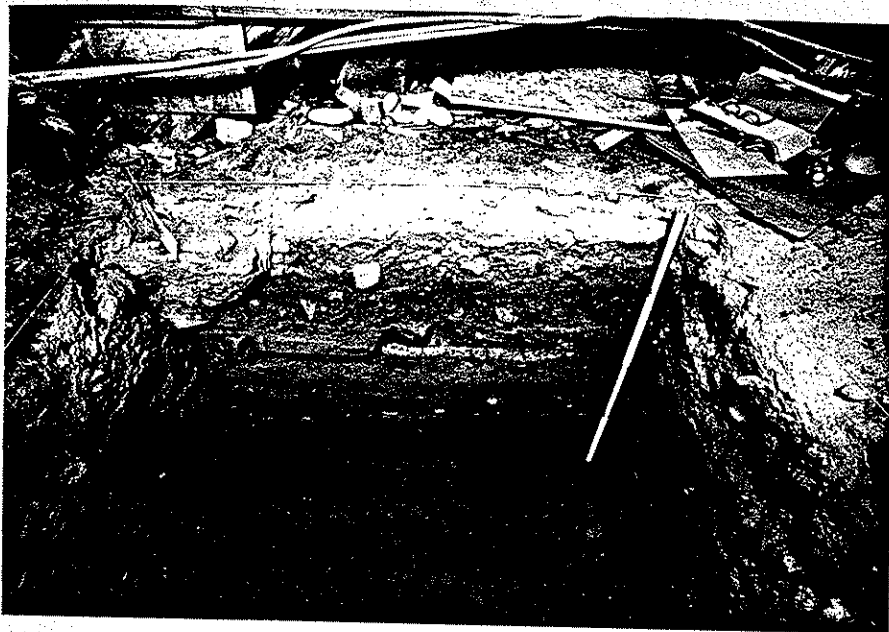


Plate 5.19. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1B: view looking north upon completion of excavation; vertical scale pole rests on subsoil; thin light line one foot above base of unit represents late 18th century construction deposit; early 19th century brick path with sand bedding visible two feet above base of unit; large stone at top left corner of profile is part of late 19th century basement stair leading down to left of view into basement of East Hanover Street hotel wing; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).

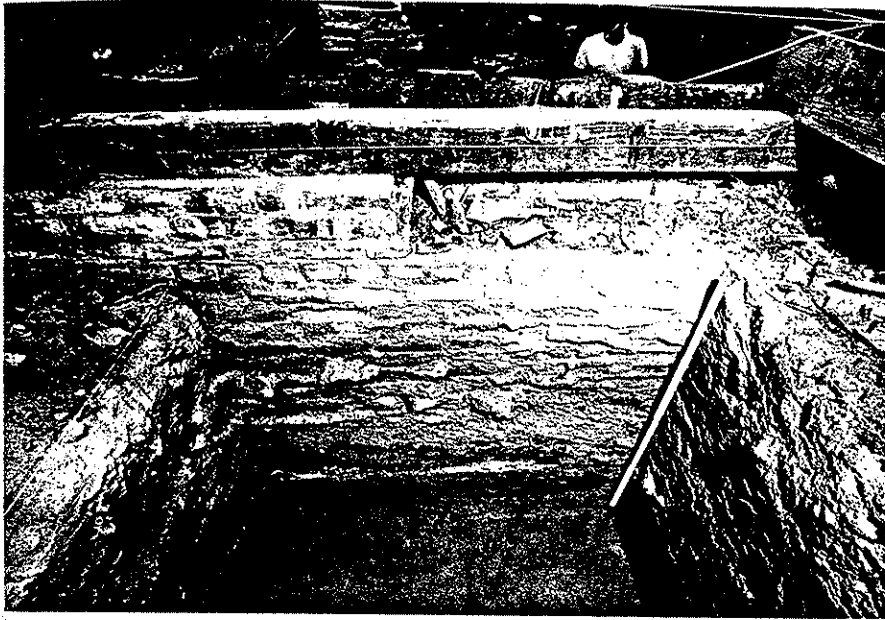


Plate 5.20. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 1B: view looking south upon completion of excavation; scale pole rests on subsoil; thin light line one foot above base of unit represents late 18th century construction deposit; sand bedding for early 19th century brick path visible two feet above base of unit at left end of profile; brick wall supporting mid- to late 19th century hotel porch extends from 2.5 to four feet above base of unit; upper three courses of wall represent turn-of-the-century remodeling and raising of porch; timber joists supported 20th century Chinese restaurant flooring; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).

been earlier garden soils redeposited in reverse order into the space left by the outbuilding after its demolition, but before the removal of its foundations. At the base of the robber trench faint stains were noted which may have been related in some way to the construction of this building. However, it is not believed that the below-ground portion of the structure was constructed out of timber; the outbuilding foundations were presumably of masonry.

The precise dimensions and function of this structure remain uncertain. It cannot have measured more than 12 or 13 feet from north to south because of the proximity of the neighboring 16 North Warren Street property, and no clear evidence of its existence was observed in Excavation Unit 3 (see below). It may therefore have been a small outbuilding, perhaps 12 to 13 feet square and presumably domestic-related because of its proximity to the rear of the kitchen that adjoined the original mid-1770s house fronting on to North Warren Street. It seems likely that the building could have an outkitchen, smokehouse or wash house.

The robbing of the outbuilding foundation cut through a garden soil deposit [1/24, 1A/24, 1B/14] similar to, but beneath, the late 1830s through mid-1850s garden soil described above. The interface of these two garden deposits was not very clear (the lower deposit being slightly darker in color [Plate 5.10]) and there was probably some mixing between the two layers as a result of cultivation. However, as excavation proceeded downwards, it was found that the upper garden soil sealed another earlier and better preserved brick walk in the eastern half of Excavation Unit 1 and throughout most of Excavation Unit 1B (Figures 5.3, 5.6 and 5.8; Plates 5.4-5.6, 5.12, 5.19 and 5.20). This brick walk [1/20, 1B/12], roughly four feet in width, appeared to follow a straight path from northwest to southeast and was made up of blocks of diagonal zigzagging bricks bordered on each side by a line of bricks set on edge lengthways. The brick surface was laid over a sand and gravel base [1/22, 1/27, 1B/13] similar to that observed for the mid-19th century walk.

This earlier brick walk was contemporary with the outbuilding that stood to the northwest and is presumed to date to certainly the early 19th century and perhaps the late 18th-century. The lower of the two garden soils [1/24, 1A/24, 1B/14] adjacent to this walk, and the very similar soil beneath the walk [1/29, 1/30, 1A/25, 1A/26, 1B/15] contained predominantly late 18th- and early 19th-century artifacts with the proportion of earlier material increasing with depth. Some ill-defined postholes [1/28, 1/31] were observed cutting into these soils, although it was difficult to detect how high in the stratigraphic sequence these features originated.

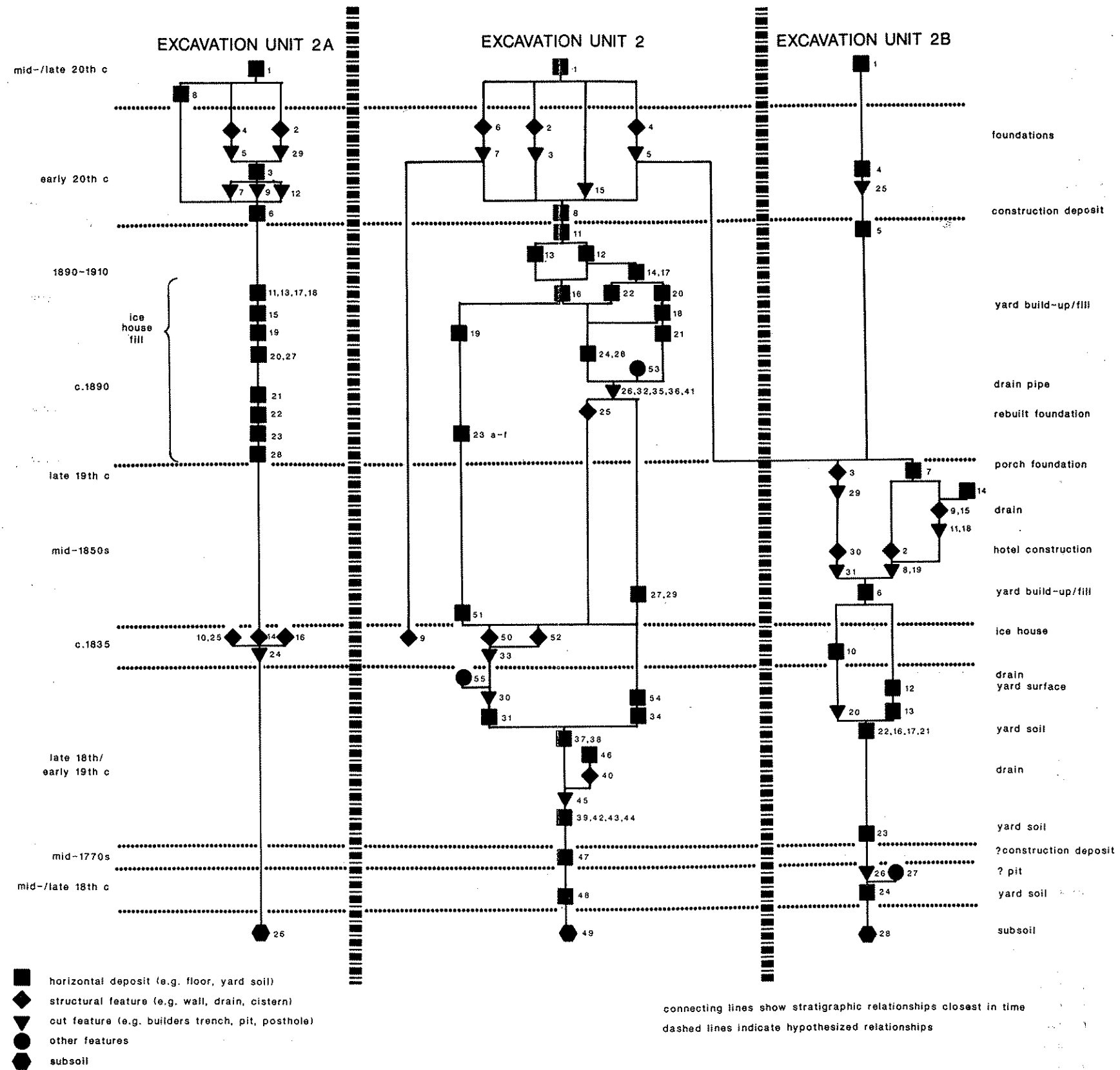
At the base of the garden soils was a very distinctive mortar-filled stratum [1/36, 1B/16] which is interpreted as a deposit related to the construction of the first house on the property in the mid-1770s (Figures 5.4-5.6 and 5.8; Plates 5.8-5.12, 5.19 and 5.20). The artifacts recovered from above and below this level, notably the ceramics, strongly support this identification (Appendix C.i). The soils immediately below this stratum [1/37, 1A/27, 1A/29] also contained some mortar, evidently trodden into the ground surface during construction, while a number of postholes (probably from temporary structures erected during the construction phase) were observed cutting through this level [1/33, 1/34, 1/35, 1/38] (Plates 5.8 and 5.9).

The soils below those deposits containing mortar were not unlike the garden soils above (Figures 5.5-5.8; Plates 5.8-5.12, 5.15-5.17, 5.19 and 5.20). These soils [1/40, 1A/30, 1A/31, 1B/17, 1B/18], perhaps more appropriately termed yard soils, appear to have been cultivated, and it is interesting to note that possible plow scars [1/44, 1/47, 1B/20] were observed at the interface of this material and the subsoil. As these scars ran north-south across the short axis of the property they are very likely to have dated from early in the 18th century before the Dunhams Block had been extensively subdivided. As one would expect, the pre-1770s yard soil contained artifacts dating exclusively to the third quarter of the 18th century or earlier. These materials include examples of some relatively rare ceramic types such as tin-glazed earthenware, Whieldon ware, North Devon gravel-tempered ware, white salt-glazed stoneware with "scratch blue" design and Rhenish stoneware. A small quantity of prehistoric material was also mixed into this earliest historic deposit, testimony to the extensive aboriginal activity in the Trenton area (Appendix C.i).

Excavation Units 2, 2A and 2B (Matrix 5.2; Figures 5.9-5.13; Plates 5.21-5.33; Appendices B.i and C.i) enabled a full north-south profile across the yard to be obtained. The southern half of the yard was dominated by a mid-19th century ice house (see below), the construction of which removed all trace of any earlier stratigraphy. The northern half of the yard, however, was more intact and Excavation Units 2 and 2B sampled a full sequence of historic deposits between the ice house and the East Hanover Street wing of the hotel. Excavation Unit 2A was dug to examine the ice house entry, the construction of which had, again, destroyed all earlier archaeological deposits.

A broadly similar sequence of 20th-century deposits was observed in Excavation Units 2, 2A and 2B as have already been described in Excavation Units 1, 1A and 1B (see above). A mid- to late 20th century sub-floor build-up and destruction deposit [2/1, 2A/1, 2B/1] was removed, exposing

MATRIX 5.2. TRENTON HOUSE, EXCAVATION UNITS 2, 2A AND 2B  
 (See Appendix B.i for details of contexts)



an early 20th-century construction deposit [2/8, 2A/6], although the presence of the ice house beneath had caused widespread subsidence of this latter layer (Plates 5.21 and 5.27). One small trash pit, filled with early 20th-century bottles, was also noted cutting into this construction level (Figure 5.11).

Two east-west brick walls [2/2, 2/4, 2A/2, 2A/4] were immediately visible within Excavation Unit 2 once the floor was removed (Plate 5.21). These were continuations of the same two foundations observed in Excavation Units 1, 1A and 1B and represent the foundations for the single-story structure erected over the former hotel yard sometime between 1908 and 1927. As part of this same building operation a concrete-capped brick wall [2/6] was also applied against the south wall of the yard (also the south wall of the ice house) (Figure 5.9).

The northernmost of these brick foundations, echoing the situation observed in Excavation Units 1 and 1B, was applied against the earlier porch foundation [2B/3], the north side of which exhibited the same two phases of construction plus evidence of an even earlier porch arrangement (Figure 5.12; Plates 5.31 and 5.33). As in Excavation Unit 1B the upper three courses of the porch foundation appear to represent a turn-of-the-century raising of the porch level. Again, a cast iron column could be seen resting on the top of this section of foundation immediately adjacent to the unit (Figures 5.9 and 5.10; Plate 5.28). The lower nine courses were of a separate build, reflecting a lower and earlier porch level.

Contained within and rising just above the top of the lower nine courses of brick masonry was a sandstone block [30], evidently a pillar for an earlier porch column. The upper half of this pillar had been dressed, suggesting that it was originally meant to be viewed, while the lower half was rough hewn and clearly intended to be below ground and out of sight. A similar sandstone block was uncovered roughly 12.5 feet to the east in the one remaining section of open space within the Trenton House property. These sandstone pillars are believed to represent the remains of the first porch alongside the East Hanover Street wing of the hotel, probably constructed in 1854. The porch level was therefore raised twice in the half century following this initial construction, its floor eventually being established at least two feet higher than the original.

By far the most dominant cultural feature in Excavation Units 2 and 2A was the stone foundations of a massive and exceedingly deep ice house. Even though this structure was not immediately visible at the beginning of the excavation, its presence was hinted at from the very outset because of considerable subsidence in the overlying deposits (Plate 5.21). Once the 20th-century deposits had been removed the outlines of this structure became apparent (Figure 5.9;

FIGURE 5.9. TRENTON HOUSE, PLAN OF EXCAVATION UNITS 2, 2A AND 2B

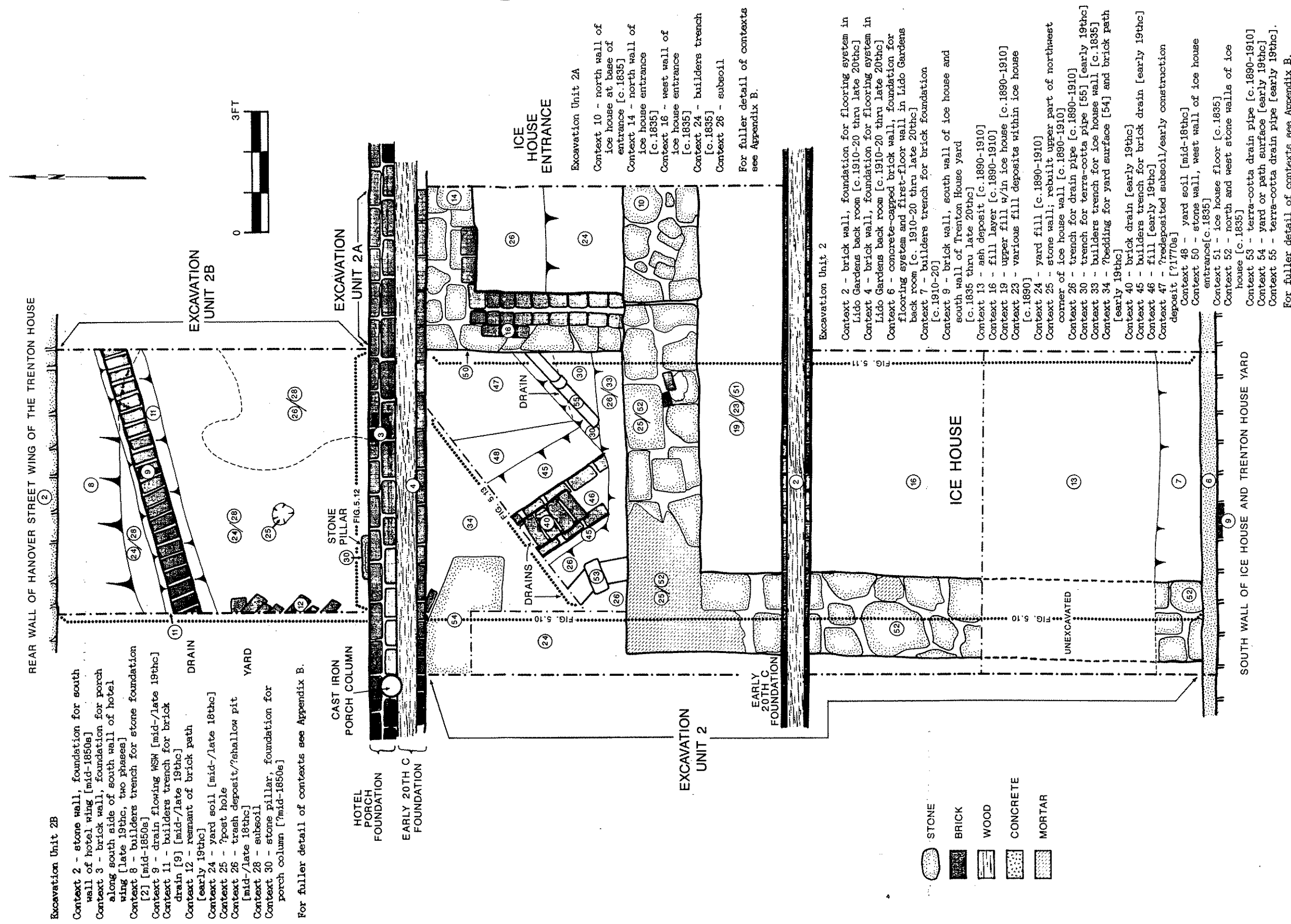
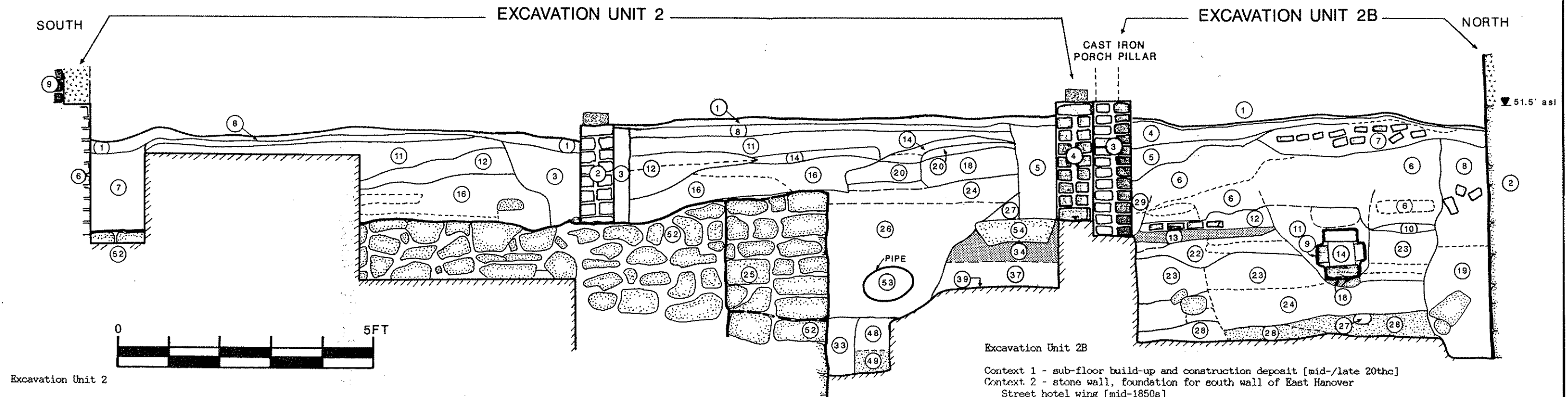








FIGURE 5.10. TRENTON HOUSE, EXCAVATION UNITS 2 AND 2B, WEST PROFILES



Excavation Unit 2

- Context 1 - sub-floor build-up and destruction deposit [mid-/late 20thc]
  - Context 2 - brick wall, foundation for flooring system in Lido Gardens back room [c.1910-20 thru late 20thc]
  - Context 3 - builders trench for foundation [2] [c.1910-20]
  - Context 4 - brick wall, foundation for flooring system in Lido Gardens back room [c.1910-20 thru late 20thc]
  - Context 5 - builders trench for foundation [4] [c.1910-20]
  - Context 6 - concrete-capped brick wall, foundation for flooring system and first-floor wall in Lido Gardens back room [c.1910-20 thru late 20thc]
  - Context 7 - builders trench for brick foundation [6] [c.1910-20]
  - Context 8 - construction deposit [c.1910-20]
  - Context 9 - brick wall, south wall of ice house and south wall of Trenton House yard [c.1835 thru late 20thc]
  - Context 11 - fill/yard build-up [c.1890-1910]
  - Context 12 - fill/yard build-up [c.1890-1910]
  - Context 14 - ash deposit/fill [c.1890-1910]
  - Context 16 - fill layer in top of and immediately above ice house [c.1890-1910]
  - Context 18 - yard build-up/fill [c.1890-1910]
  - Context 20 - yard build-up/fill adjacent to ice house [c.1890-1910]
  - Context 24 - yard fill and upper fill of trench for drain pipe [c.1890-1910]
  - Context 25 - stone wall; rebuilt upper part of northwest corner of ice house wall [c.1890-1910]
  - Context 26 - trench for drain pipe inserted into ice house foundation [c.1890-1910]
  - Context 27 - yard build-up/garden soil [mid-19thc]
  - Context 33 - builders trench for ice house wall [c.1835]
  - Context 34 - ?bedding for yard surface [54] and brick path [early 19thc]
  - Context 37 - yard build-up/garden soil [early 19thc]
  - Context 39 - yard build-up/garden soil [late 18th/early 19thc]
  - Context 48 - yard soil [mid-18thc]
  - Context 49 - subsoil
  - Context 52 - north and west stone walls of ice house [c.1835]
  - Context 53 - terra-cotta drain pipe [c.1890-1910]
  - Context 54 - yard or path surface [early 19thc]
- For fuller detail of contexts see Appendix B.

-  STONE
-  BRICK
-  FLOOR JOIST
-  CONCRETE/CINDER BLOCK
-  SAND AND PEBBLES
-  SUBSOIL

Excavation Unit 2B

- Context 1 - sub-floor build-up and construction deposit [mid-/late 20thc]
  - Context 2 - stone wall, foundation for south wall of East Hanover Street hotel wing [mid-1850s]
  - Context 3 - brick wall, foundation for porch along south side of south wall of East Hanover Street hotel wing [late 19thc, two phases]
  - Context 4 - fill [early 20thc]
  - Context 5 - fill [early 20thc]
  - Context 6 - yard build-up/fill [mid-19thc]
  - Context 7 - brick surface, ?disturbed remnant of final phase porch floor [late 19thc]
  - Context 8 [19] - builders trench for stone foundation [2] for south wall of East Hanover Street hotel wing [mid-1850s]
  - Context 9 - drain flowing WSW [mid-/late 19thc]
  - Context 10 - ash deposit [mid-19thc]
  - Context 11 [18] - builders trench for brick drain [9] [mid-/late 19thc]
  - Context 12 - remnant of brick path [early 19thc]
  - Context 13 - base for brick path [12] [early 19thc]
  - Context 14 - drain fill [mid-/late 19thc]
  - Context 18 - see context 11
  - Context 19 - see context 8
  - Context 22 - yard build-up/fill and ?construction deposit [early 19thc]
  - Context 23 - yard soil [late 18thc]
  - Context 24 - yard soil [mid-/late 18thc]
  - Context 27 - rodent burrow/root disturbance [date unclear]
  - Context 28 - subsoil
  - Context 29 - builders trench for brick foundation [3] [late 19thc]
- For fuller detail of contexts see Appendix B.



FIGURE 5.11. TRENTON HOUSE, EXCAVATION UNIT 2, EAST PROFILE

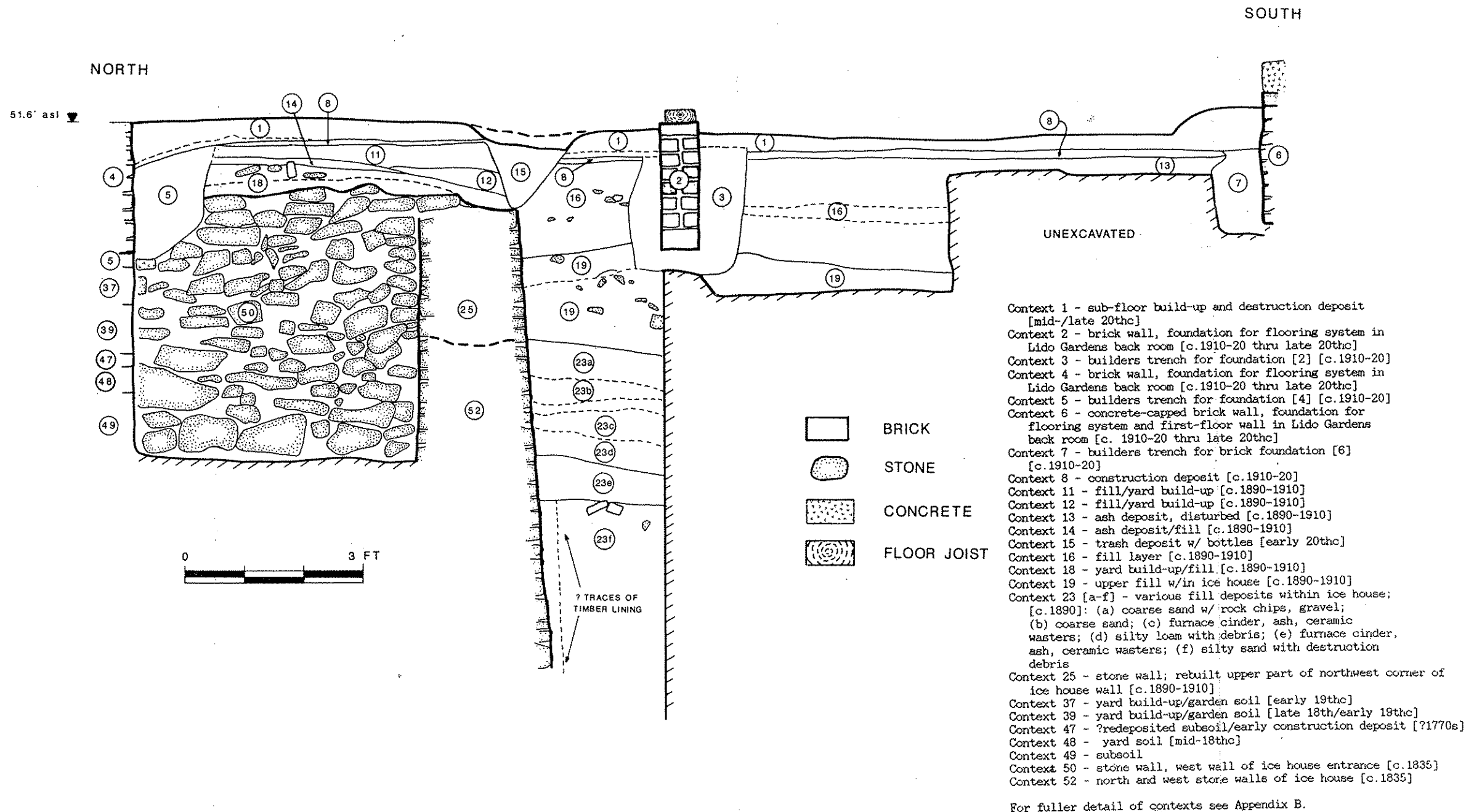
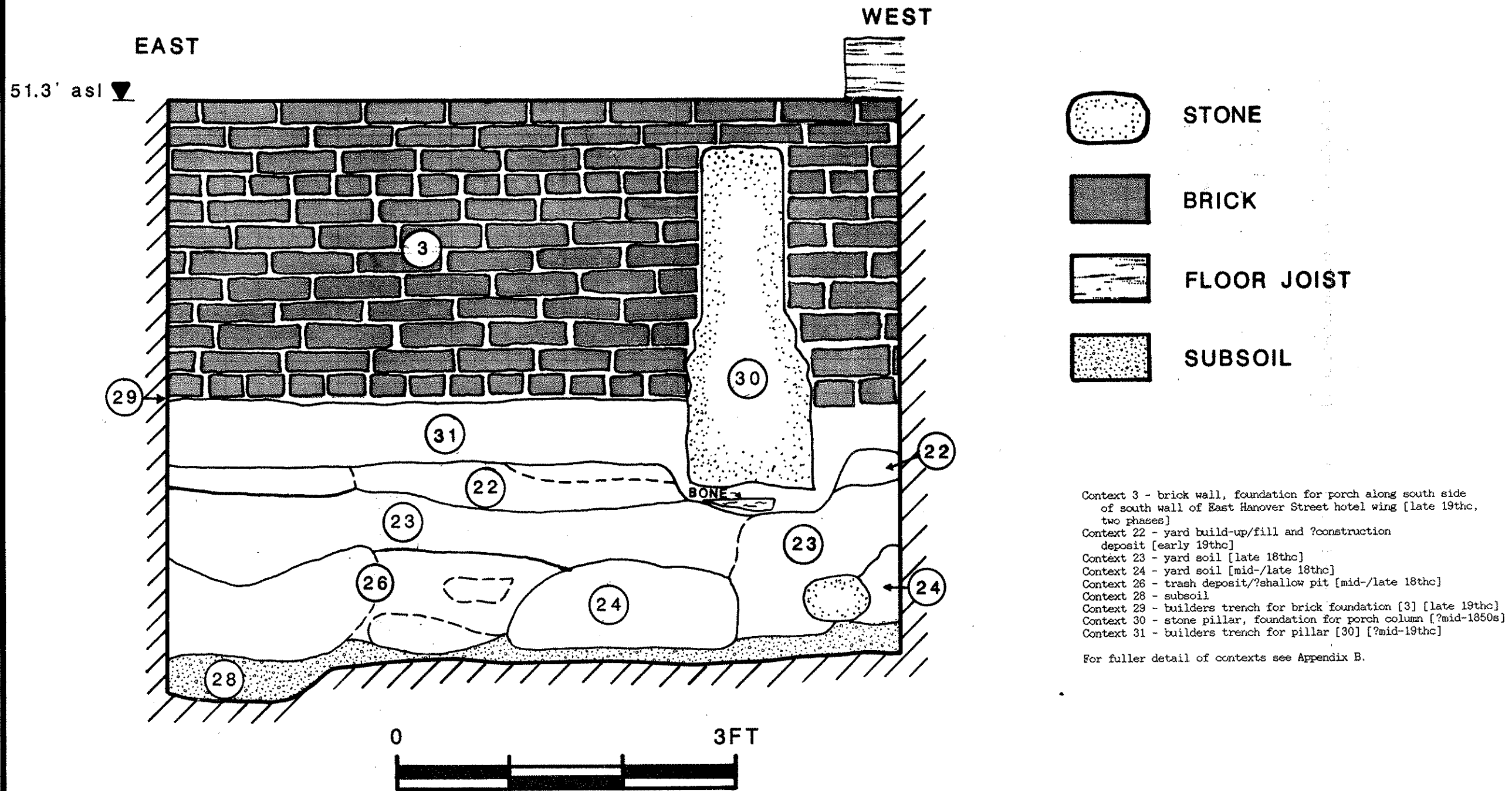


FIGURE 5.12. TRENTON HOUSE, EXCAVATION UNIT 2B, SOUTH PROFILE



**FIGURE 5.13. TRENTON HOUSE  
EXCAVATION UNIT 2  
PROFILE THROUGH DRAIN**

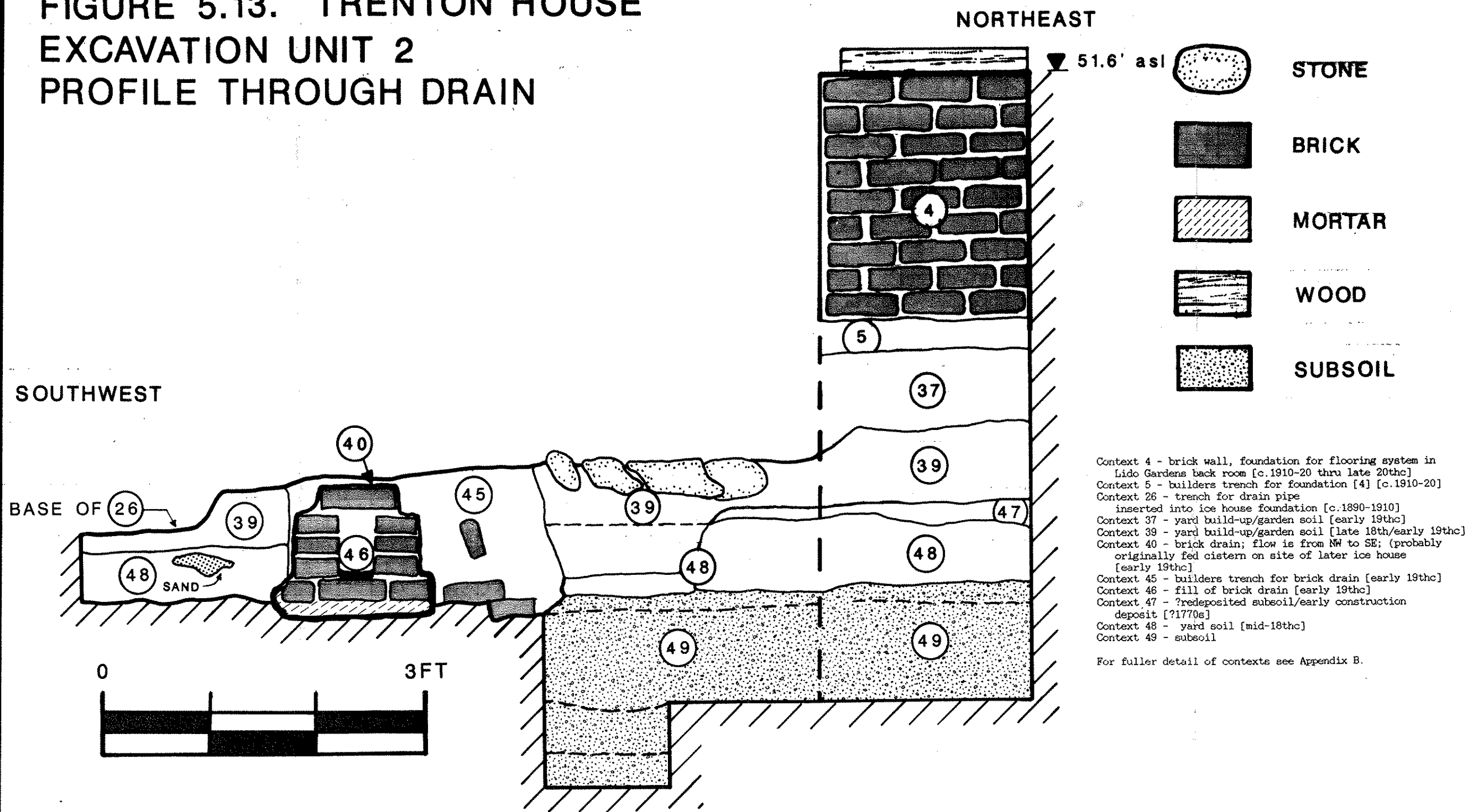




Plate 5.21. Trenton House,  
Excavation Unit 2: general view  
looking north during early stages  
of excavation; brick walls supported  
20th century Chinese restaurant  
flooring; subsidence in foreground  
to right of scale pole is due to  
underlying ice house; late 19th  
century cast iron porch column  
visible at top left; rear wall of  
East Hanover Street hotel wing  
beyond; scale in feet (Photographer:  
Richard Hunter, April 1987).

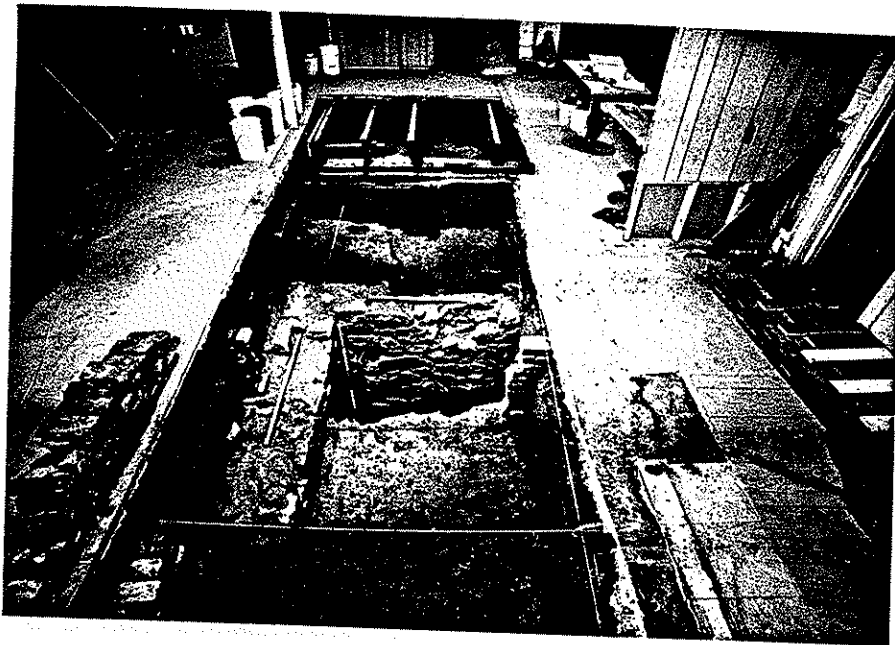


Plate 5.22. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 2: general view looking north showing late 19th century deposits; large foundation in center of view is northwest corner of mid- to late 19th century ice house; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, April 1987).

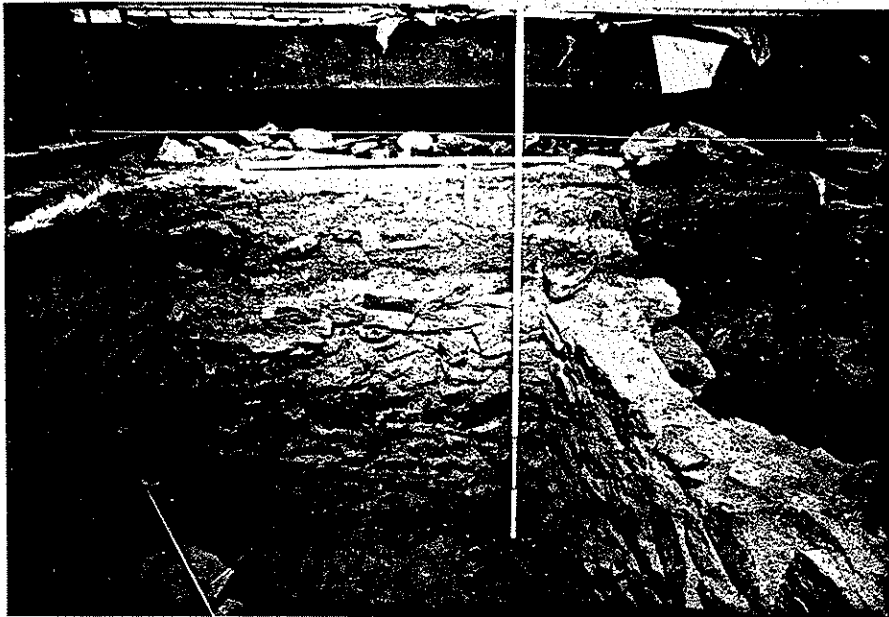


Plate 5.23. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 2: view looking west showing northwest corner of mid- to late 19th century ice house; early 20th century brick wall at left supported Chinese restaurant flooring system; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, April 1987).



Plate 5.24. Trenton House: view looking northwest showing base of northwest corner of mid- to late 19th century ice house following demolition of all buildings within the Dunhams Block; scale poles rest on natural sands and gravels; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Regensburg, December 1987).

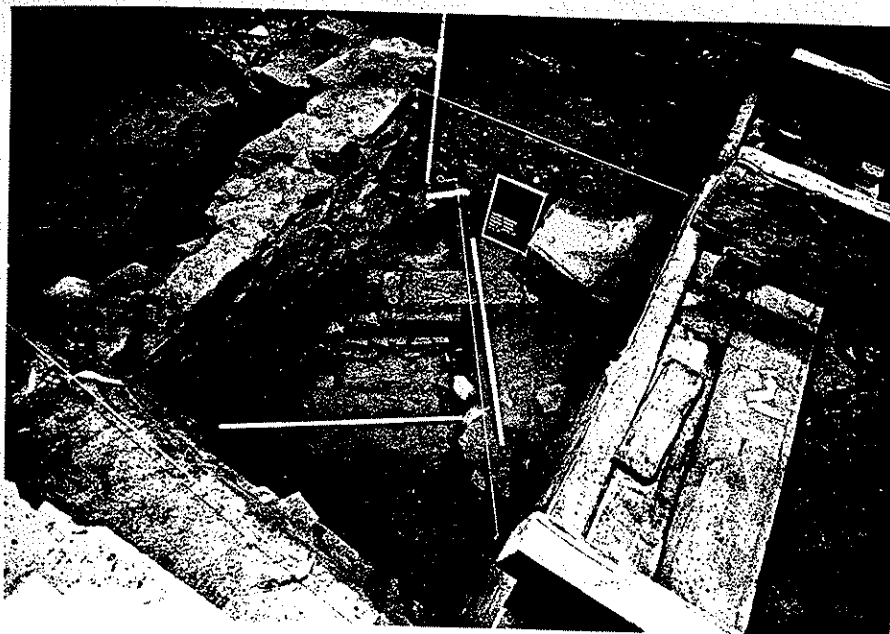


Plate 5.25. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 2: view looking southwest showing northern end of unit; mid-to late 19th century ice house foundation at upper left; ceramic drain at top of view drains into ice house and probably reflects turn-of-the-century use of the ice house as a septic; brick drain immediately below dates from at least the early 19th century and has been cut by the ice house builders' trench; wall at right displays at least three phases of construction from mid-19th through early 20th centuries relating to the hotel porch and the Chinese restaurant flooring system; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, May 1987).



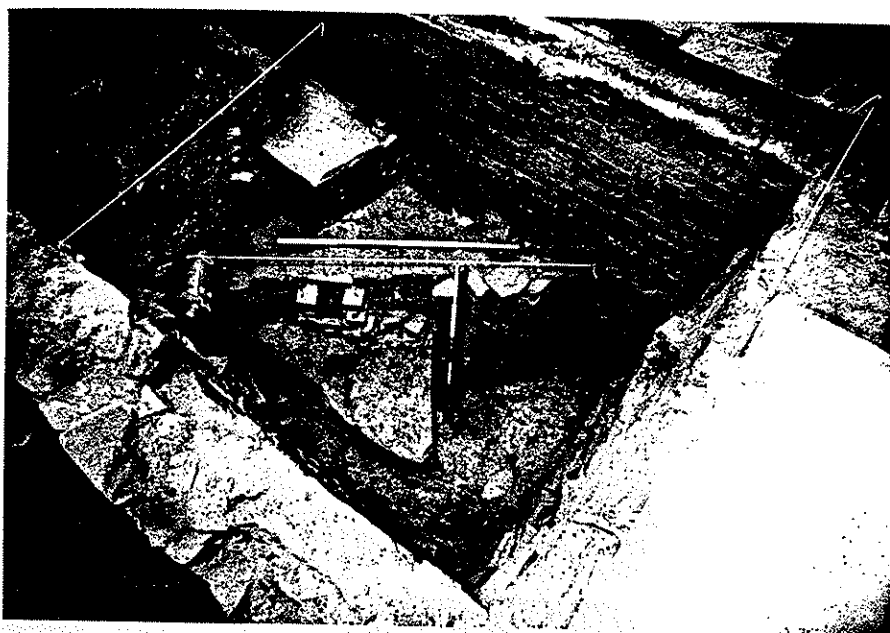


Plate 5.26. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 2: view looking northwest showing northern end of unit and cross-section through early 19th century brick drain; mid- to late 19th century ice house foundation at bottom left; ceramic drain at left drains into ice house and probably reflects turn-of-the-century use of the ice house as a septic; wall at top of view displays at least three phases of construction from mid-19th through early 20th centuries relating to the hotel porch and the Chinese restaurant flooring system; large stone slab at base of this wall at top of view is part of the 19th century hotel yard surface; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, May 1987).

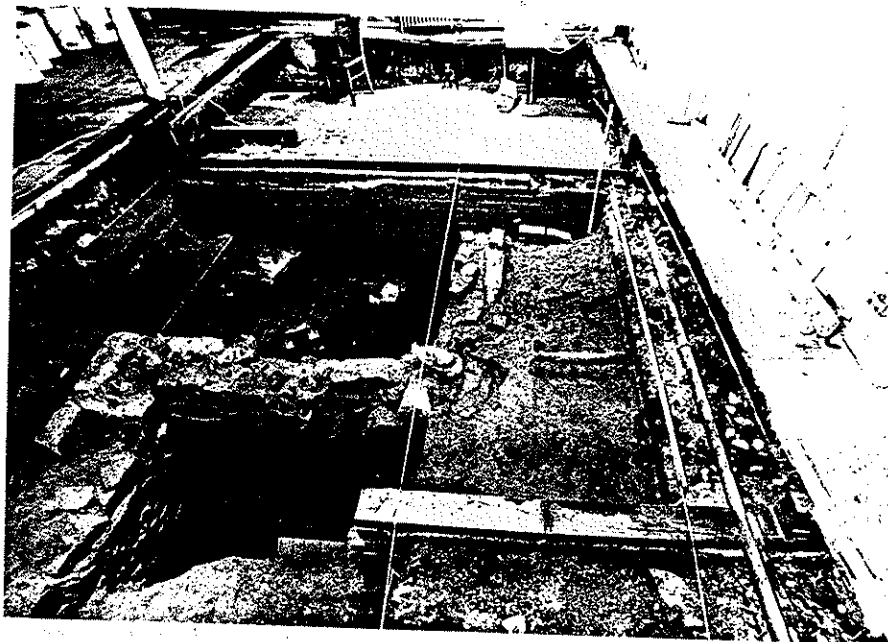


Plate 5.27. Trenton House, Excavation Units 2, 2A and 2B: general view looking north following removal of floor in units 2A in right foreground and 2B at center top; foundation of mid- to late 19th century ice house at bottom left; top of west side of ice house entry wall visible in unit 2A at center right; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).

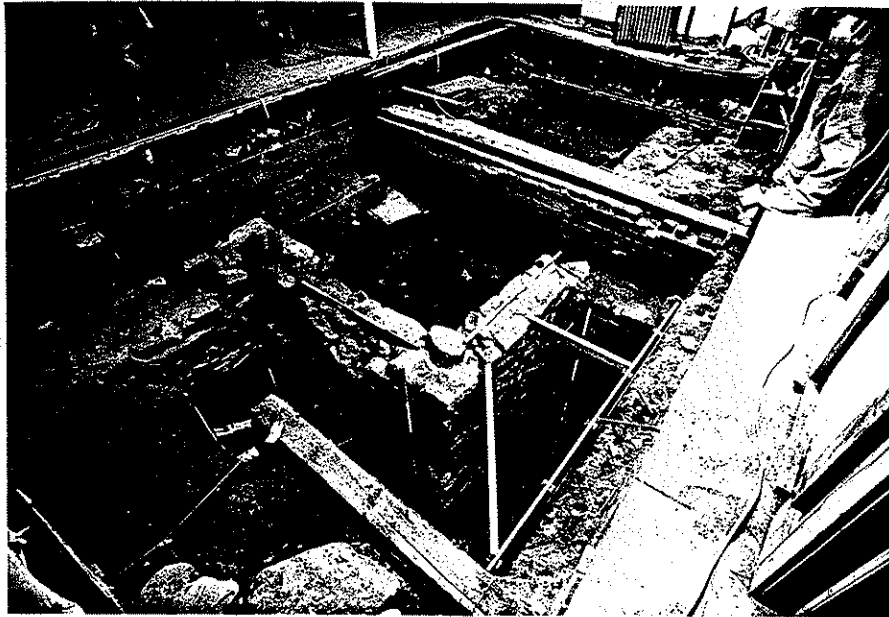


Plate 5.28. Trenton House, Excavation Units 2, 2A and 2B: general view looking northwest showing western half of entry into mid- to late 19th century ice house fully excavated at center right; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).

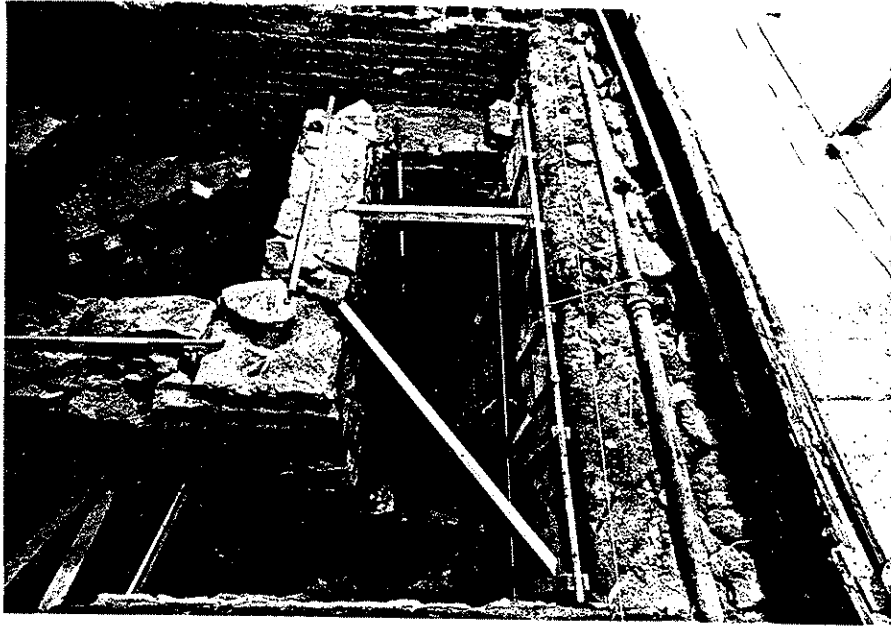


Plate 5.29. Trenton House, Excavation Units 2 and 2A: general view looking north showing western half of entry into mid- to late 19th century ice house fully excavated at center; early 19th century brick drain visible at top left; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).

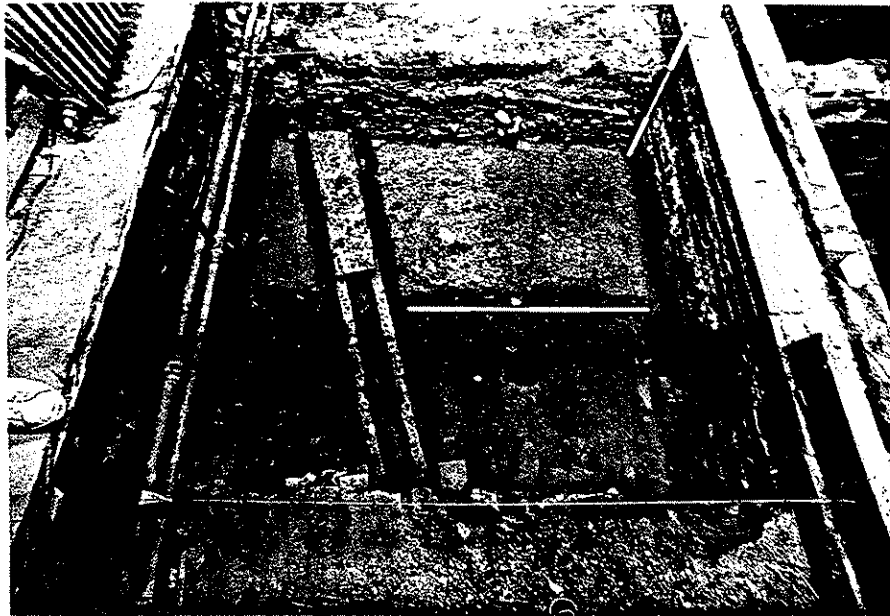


Plate 5.30. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 2B: general view looking east showing late 18th through mid-19th century deposits; foundation at left behind pipes is rear wall of East Hanover Street hotel wing; wall at right displays at least three phases of construction from mid-19th through early 20th centuries relating to the hotel porch and the Chinese restaurant flooring system; note sandstone pillar base for earlier porch at bottom right within this wall; mid-19th century brick drain in floor of unit is laid in trench cut into earlier yard soils; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).

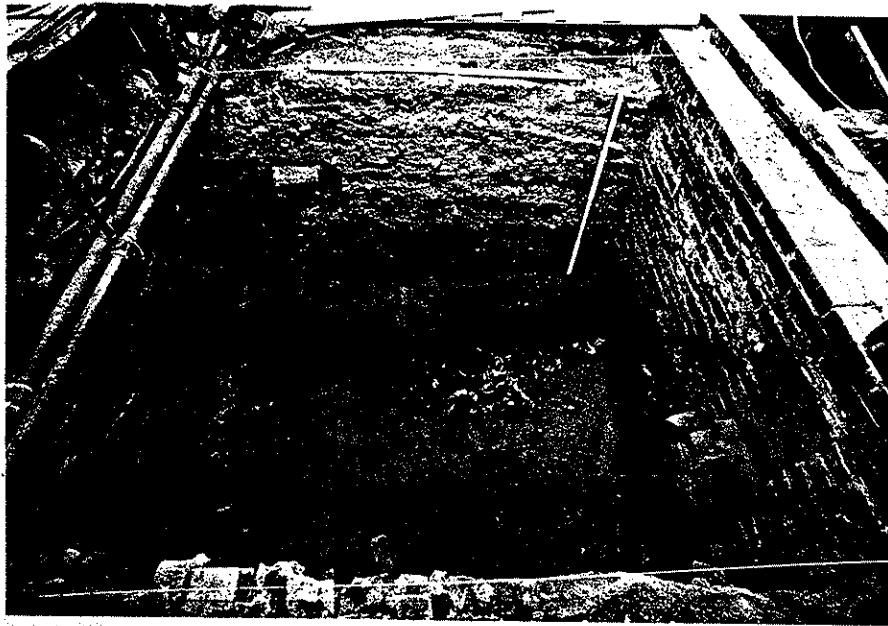


Plate 5.31. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 2B: general view looking east showing late 18th century yard deposit and shell concentration partially excavated in base of unit; builders' trench for rear wall foundation of East Hanover Street hotel wing visible in base of unit at left; rear wall of hotel wing at left; wall at right displays at least three phases of construction from mid-19th through early 20th centuries relating to the hotel porch and the Chinese restaurant flooring system; note sandstone pillar base for earlier porch at bottom right within this wall; mid-19th century brick drain and accumulation of 18th and 19th century yard deposits and garden soils visible in profile at top of view; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).



Plate 5.32. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 2B: view looking west showing west profile; horizontal scale pole rests on subsoil; at right the builders' trench for mid-19th century East Hanover Street hotel wing is visible cutting into the subsoil and earlier yard deposits; stratigraphic sequence from base of profile upwards includes late 18th and early 19th century yard build-up and garden soils, early 19th century brick path and sand bedding at center left [two feet above base of unit], mid-19th century brick drain cut into earlier deposits, and mid-19th through early 20th century yard build-up; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).

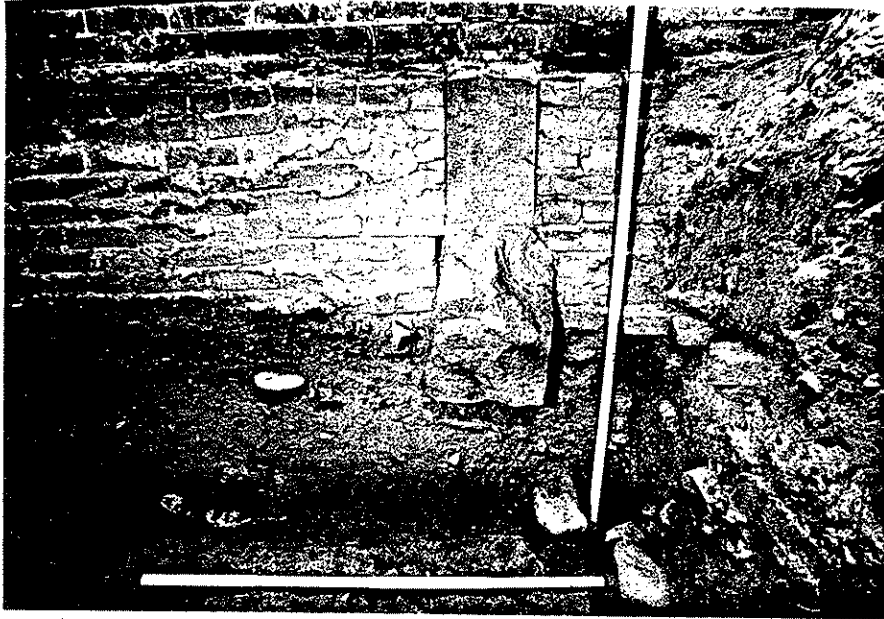


Plate 5.33. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 2B: view looking south showing south profile; horizontal scale rests on subsoil; late 18th century yard build-up and garden soil is directly overlaid by cut for mid-19th century sandstone porch pillar and trench for brick wall; wall post-dates pillar and displays two phases, both probably dating from second half of 19th century; in west profile of unit at right early 19th century brick path is visible [two feet above base of unit]; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, August 1987).



plate 5.22). The foundations of the western end of this building were contained within Excavation Unit 2 [2/25, 2/50, 2/52], while the western half of the ice house entry, located on the north side of the structure, was uncovered in Excavation Unit 2A [2A/10, 2A/14, 2A/16]. The masonry of the ice house consisted of random-laid mortared stone, although the exterior of the west side wall of the entry appeared to be mostly dry-laid (Figures 5.9-5.11; Plates 5.22, 5.23 and 5.27-5.29).

Concurrent with the excavation of the ice house, a careful examination was made of the extant south wall of the Trenton House yard in this general vicinity. On the south (or 16 North Warren Street) side of this wall a portion of the gable end of the ice house was visible. A vertical joint in the brick masonry marked the southwest corner of the structure, while a sloping line of slate indicated the roof pitch and the peak of the gable. This combination of architectural and archaeological evidence demonstrated that the ice house was originally one story high (probably constructed in brick above ground) and measured roughly 15 by 24 feet in plan (exterior dimensions) (10 by 20 feet interior dimensions).

Removal of the fill from the inside of the ice house proved to be an extremely hazardous task as the material was loose and deep, so deep in fact that the full depth of the structure was not established until after the Dunhams Block was demolished. In December, 1987, with the assistance of a backhoe, it was determined that the ice house extended to a depth of approximately 15 feet below the top of the stone foundation (Plate 5.24). The below-ground capacity of this structure was therefore around 3,000 cubic feet.

Little information was recovered concerning the interior of the ice house. There were some indications towards the base of the north wall that some form of timber lining may have been used (a narrow gap was evident between the fill and the wall, but this may also have resulted from settling of loose debris). The entry on the north side of the ice house extended almost the full depth of the structure, yet there was no clear evidence for a stair. It is conceivable that some form of hoist or movable platform may have been used, as any stair would have been very steep. It is possible, however, as the east side of the entry was not examined, that entry may have been via a stair that proceeded down from east to west, then turning south to enter into the building.

The ice house is believed to date from the 1830s and was probably built during the period when the Camden and Amboy Railroad and Transportation Company was involved with the Trenton House property. An ice house is known to have been in existence on the lot in 1851, prior to the major

expansions of the hotel undertaken by Peter Katzenbach. The archaeological stratigraphy and the very few artifacts found in construction-related associations concur with this interpretation of the documentary evidence.

Based on the historic map evidence and the artifacts contained in the fill the ice house appears to have gone out of use circa 1890, around the time that refrigeration and ice companies were beginning to establish a presence in East Coast cities. The ice house seems to have been filled rapidly within a matter of a few hours or days, one of the principal fill materials being waste from local area potteries (a common practice in late 19th- and early 20th-century Trenton, the so-called Staffordshire of America). Wasters from both the Trenton China Company and the Anchor Pottery were recovered, in addition to vast quantities of unmarked bisque-fired earthenwares and assorted kiln furniture (Appendix C.i). A considerable volume of brick rubble was evident in the lower fill layers. This material may represent destruction debris from the above-ground portion of the building.

After its abandonment and filling, it appears that the ice house was put to use as a septic. A ceramic drain [2/53] was exposed which had been inserted through the upper part of the ice house wall near its northwest corner. Indeed, the insertion of this drain appeared to have entailed the dismantling and rebuilding of the upper few courses of the north wall of the ice house [2/25] between the northwest corner and the entry (Figures 5.9 and 5.10; Plates 5.25-5.28).

In the small area available for excavation between the ice house and the rear (south) wall of the East Hanover Street wing of the hotel a complex series of features and deposits was encountered. The rear wall of the hotel [2B/2] was set in a large builders trench [2B/8, 2B/19] that cut through a layer of fill [2B/6] similar to the mid-1850s make-up level encountered in Excavation Units 1, 1A and 1B. This latter deposit also appeared to extend into Excavation Unit 2 [2/27, 2/29]. Both the hotel wall builders trench, and the fill layer into which it was cut, produced early to mid-19th century artifacts, thus supporting the mid-1850s construction date for this section of the Trenton House.

Also contemporary with this building phase were the original porch foundation features discussed above and a brick drain [2B/9] that ran west southwest into the yard area and away from the hotel building (Figures 5.9 and 5.10; Plates 5.30-5.32). This drain remains something of a mystery as no trace of it was observed in Excavation Unit 1 and it clearly did not relate to any of the other drains found in Excavation Unit 2. It presumably fed into an undiscovered septic somewhere between these two excavation units.

Sealed beneath deposits contemporary with the hotel's mid-1850s construction, and cut by the ice house construction levels of circa 1835, were fragments of a yard surface and yard-related features dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries (Figures 5.9, 5.10, 5.12 and 5.13; Plates 5.25, 5.26, 5.32 and 5.33). A small area of brick paving [2B/12] and an associated stone slab [2/54] appeared to correspond, both stratigraphically and in terms of general elevation, with the lower of the two brick walks observed in Excavation Units 1 and 1B. This surface and its sand and gravel base [2/34, 2B,13] lay above and adjacent to a garden or yard soil [2/37, 2/38, 2B/22] that produced late 18th- and early 19th-century cultural materials.

Embedded within this yard or garden soil at the north end of Excavation Unit 2 were the remains of two drains (Figures 5.9 and 5.13; Plates 5.25 and 5.26). The larger of the two was a finely-constructed brick drain [2/40] running from northwest to southeast. This drain was cut at its southeastern end by the ice house construction, while its northwestern end passed directly beneath the large stone slab noted above [2/54]. Running perpendicular to the brick drain, at a slightly higher level, was a ceramic drain pipe [2/55] which is believed to have fed directly into the top of the brick drain, although this relationship had been removed by the builders trench for the ice house's north wall. These two drains were apparently arranged in a primary/secondary configuration and together fed into a septic zone on the site of the ice house. Both drains probably also originated in outbuildings along the East Hanover Street frontage at the rear of the property.

The lower portion of the yard soil within which these drains had been laid was excavated as a separate context [2/39, 2B/23] and yielded a much higher proportion of late 18th-century artifacts than the soil above (Appendix C.i). Sealed at the base of this soil was a thin layer of redeposited subsoil [2/47] that may have been associated with the mid-1770s construction episode (Figure 5.13). This level was not identified in Excavation Unit 2B. In its place was the base of a shallow trash pit [2B/26] containing mid-18th century artifacts and a concentration of shell (Figure 5.9; Plate 5.31). This pit cut into a basal yard soil deposit [2/48, 2B/24], directly above the subsoil and similar to that found in Excavation Units 1, 1A and 1B (Figures 5.10, 5.12 and 5.13; Plates 5.26 and 5.31-5.33). This layer also produced mid-18th century materials, although no evidence of plow scars was seen as in the other units.

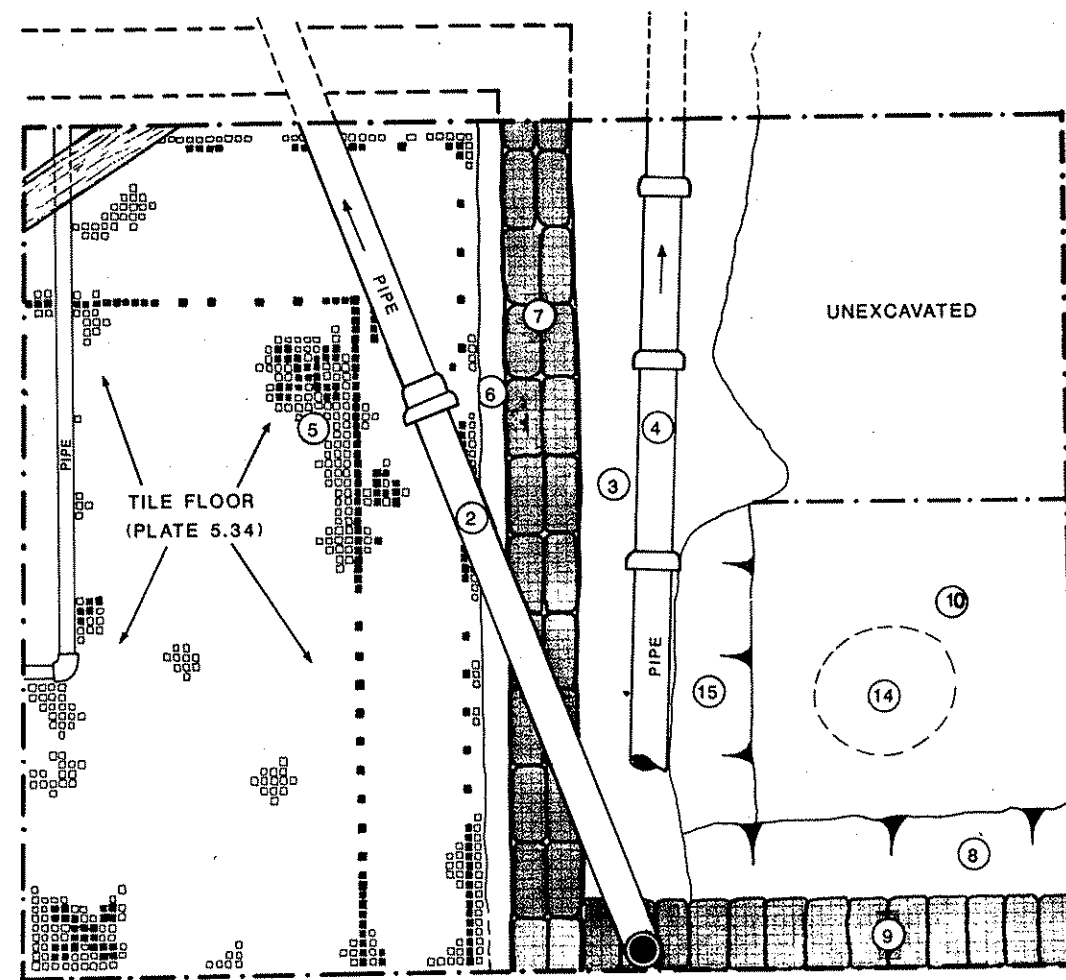
Excavation Unit 3 (Figure 5.14; Plate 5.34; Appendices B.i and C.i) was located towards the western end of the former hotel yard within what was the 20th-century hotel office. This unit was mostly excavated during the Phase 2 investigations with minor additional work being undertaken in its southeastern corner during Phase 3. No Phase 1 tests were conducted in this area, so there was no hint as to what might be found prior to the Phase 2 work. As it turned out, extensive early 20th-century modifications had taken place below ground in this area and only a small three-foot-wide strip of ground along the east side of the unit offered any hope of earlier archaeological deposits.

Upon removal of the floor it was found that the western half of the unit was taken up by the northeastern corner of an addition attached to the rear of the southernmost hotel wing along the North Warren Street frontage. Based on the historic map sequence, this addition was very short lived, being erected between 1905 and 1908 and torn down between 1908 and 1927 when the hotel yard was enclosed within a one-story structure. Archaeological evidence of this addition consisted of a brick foundation [7] enclosing an area where a destruction deposit [1] overlay a patterned tile floor (Figure 5.14; Plate 5.34). This floor [5] was set on a cement base which in turn was laid over a layer of planking. These floor deposits had partially collapsed into the crawl space beneath exposing traces of a builders trench [6] immediately adjacent to the foundation.



Two drain pipes were encountered within the unit. One, a cast iron pipe [2], post-dated the addition of 1905-08 and drained the roof of a later addition [9] adjacent to the south wall of the property (still extant as part of Dixie's restaurant in 1987). The other drain, a ceramic pipe [4], either immediately pre-dated or was contemporary with the 1905-08 addition. This drain flowed north to East Hanover Street (presumably into the city-wide storm sewer system) outside the east wall of the 1905-08 addition.

Excavation in the eastern side of the unit revealed the rubble fill/make-up level associated with the hotel expansion of the mid-1850s [10], but considerable difficulty was experienced in excavating in this area because of leaking roofs and poor drainage. Eventually, it was decided to concentrate excavation in the southeast corner of the unit in an effort to establish whether the robber trench found in the southwest corner of Excavation Unit 1 extended as far as Excavation Unit 3. However, no trace of this trench was observed in or below the yard soil levels beneath the mid-1850s fill and excavations were halted at a depth of approximately two feet. The principal value of Excavation Unit 3 thus lay in helping to define the limits of the outbuilding foundation discovered in Excavation Units 1 and 1A.

FIGURE 5.14. TRENTON HOUSE, PLAN OF EXCAVATION UNIT 3



- Context 2 - drain pipe [mid-20thc]
- Context 3 [15] - pipe trench for terra-cotta pipe [4] [late 19thc]
- Context 4 - drain pipe [late 19thc]
- Context 5 - tile floor [c.1905-08]
- Context 6 - builders trench for brick [7] [c.1905-08]
- Context 7 - brick foundation atop stone foundation [c.1905-08]
- Context 8 - builders trench for brick foundation [9] [c.1905-08]
- Context 9 - brick foundation [c.1905-08]
- Context 10 - fill/?yard build-up [mid-1850s]
- Context 14 - see context 10
- Context 15 - see context 3

 BRICK  
 WOOD



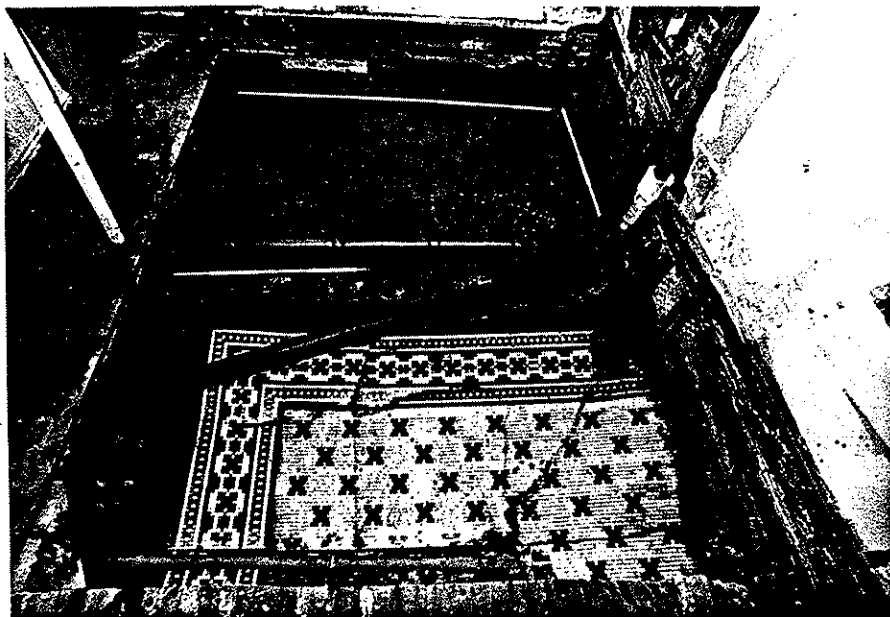


Plate 5.34. Trenton House, Excavation Unit 3: general view looking east; early 20th century tile floor in foreground subsiding into crawlspace beneath; 20th century drains contemporary with and post-dating the floor are visible in center of view; 19th century yard build-up beyond; scale in feet (Photographer: Richard Hunter, April 1987).