



# INDEX OF TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGY

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Volume 1978


Article 23

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1978

## Initial Testing Report for 41LR58

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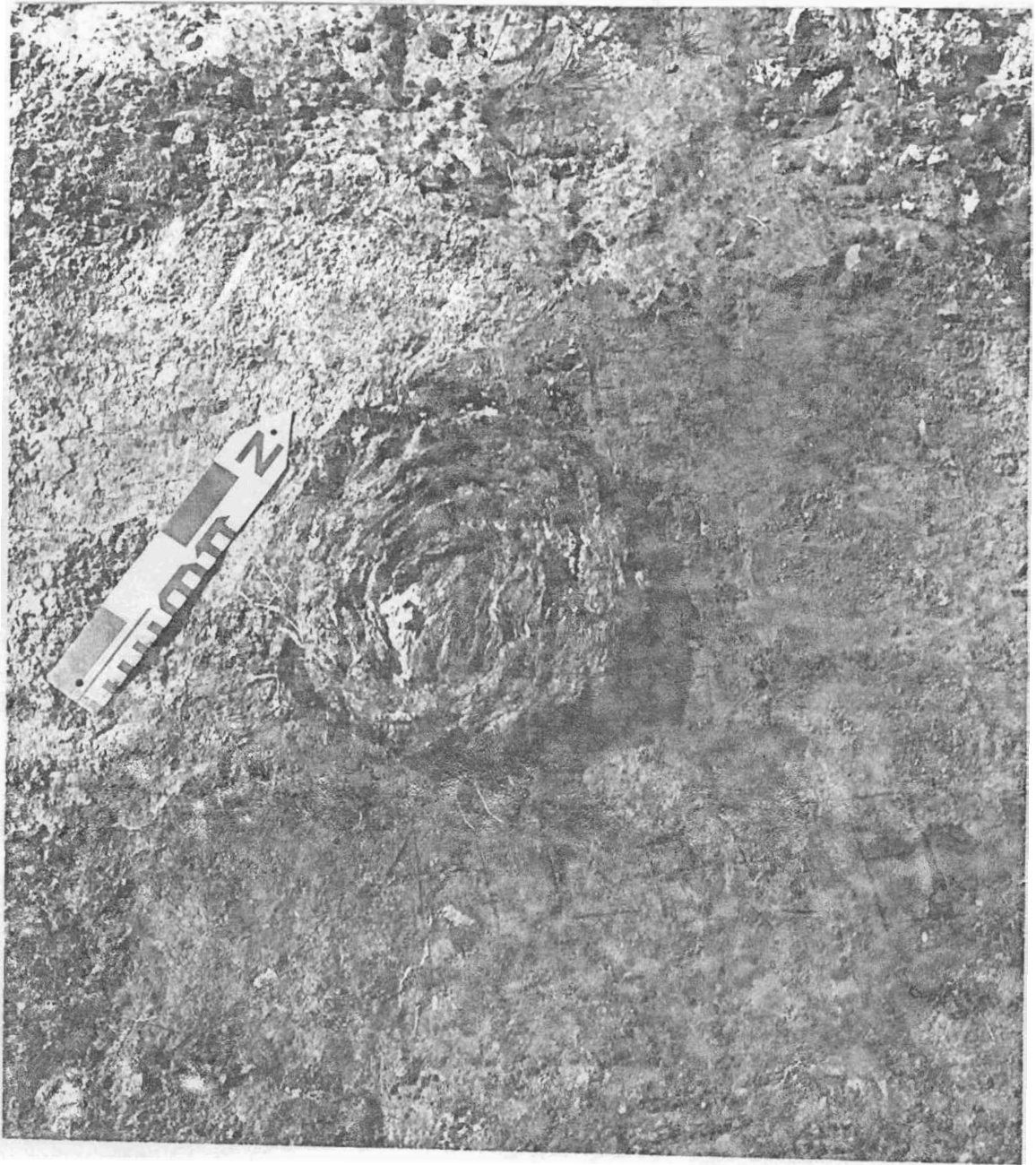
## Initial Testing Report for 41LR58

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**INITIAL TESTING REPORT FOR 41 LR 58**



## Initial Testing Report for 41 LR 58

During a routine archaeological reconnaissance of the proposed right-of-way of F.M. 3298 a site was indicated between centerline stations 143 + 00 and 145 + 00 on the basis of the recovery of a dart point and a dart point fragment. Consequently, a preliminary test was conducted during the week beginning May 1, 1978, to determine the nature of the site and to formulate, if necessary, a program of excavation and mitigation. The discovery and preliminary test investigations were made in accordance with Title 36, C.F.R., Part 800 Procedures for the Protection Of Historic and Cultural Properties.

The site is located in Lamar County in northeast Texas (Figure 1) at (locational da removed) on the Slate Shoals Quadrangle, U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series, Topographic map. The site lies on a sand capped clay terrace on the west side of a small tributary of Pine Creek which flows into the Red River. Although the terrace has been cleared and is now used as pasture, the creek bottom is thickly overgrown with trees and vines among which are locust, bois d'arc, cedar, hackberry, oak, birch, pear, and willow trees with an occasional patch of blackberry vines.

Five backhoe trenches (Figure 2) were dug to determine the depth of the soil and the nature of the site. The dirt from the trenches was carefully examined for artifacts and a small volume was passed through a 1/4" hardware cloth. The sandy soil, always less than 0.75 meter thick, was considerably mixed and recent twentieth century glass and ceramics were commonly found in the contact zone between the sandy soil and the clay (Figure 3). Plowing and gopher activity probably account for most of the disturbance.

Backhoe trench 1 was the northernmost trench and was 26 meters long. The depth of the soil ranged from 0.2 meter to 0.5 meter. Thirty flint

flakes and three small sherds (Figure 4A) of possible aboriginal origin were collected. None of the recent historical material was collected but it occurred at every depth in the trench.

Backhoe trench 2 (Figure 5) was designed to probe beneath a collapsed wooden structure which was recent enough to have been constructed with wire nails. The trench was 10.7 meters long and was 0.6 meter at its maximum depth. Thirteen flint flakes and two sherds of possible aboriginal origin were recovered as well as a ceramic pipe of probable European origin (Figure 4). Recent materials were mixed throughout the depth of the trench.

Trench 3 (Figure 6) was near the south right-of-way and was 20 meters long. During the excavation of this trench part of the soil, in volume approximately equivalent to a one meter-square test unit, was screened. Within this trench was found the remains of a foundation made of brick, whose size and quality suggest that they were fabricated on the spot during construction (Figure 7). Local informants indicated that a tannery had once been at that location but that it had been out of business for at least twenty years. Within the confines of the foundation several poorly fired sherds of indeterminable origin were found as well as one Scallorn arrow-point (Figure 4F), one untyped, small, ovate biface, and several flint flakes. Recent historic material was also present.

Backhoe trench 4 was 12 meters long and oriented perpendicular to the first three, although placed closer to the creek. Only two small sherds were found.

Backhoe trench 5 was parallel to trench 4 but at a higher elevation. It was 14.2 meters long and five sherds were found. However, a pit was the most notable feature of this trench. The pit extended deep into the clay and had been refilled with a refined, sand tempered clay which seemed to have been the material used in the manufacture of the bricks of the tannery's foundation. Several pieces of coal were found near the pit.

The cultural remains revealed in the five backhoe trenches demonstrate that although the site had had aboriginal inhabitants at one time, nevertheless, subsequent historic utilization of the site had so disturbed the traces of aboriginal occupation that nothing more than a collection of a few artifacts could be gotten from further exploration. Consequently, no additional excavation may be justified or warranted.

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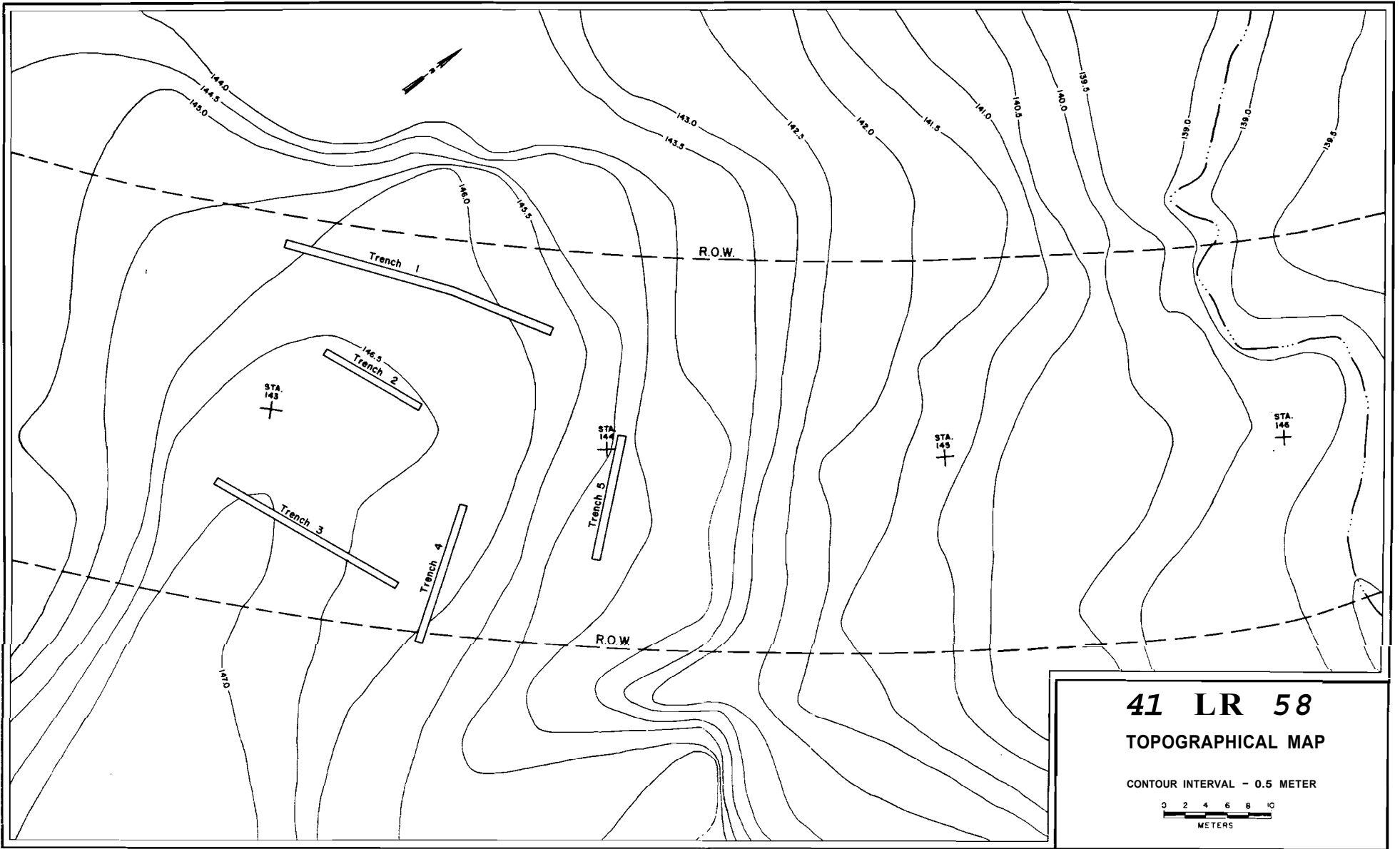


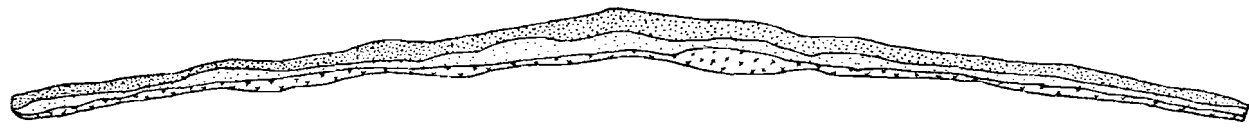
Figure 2



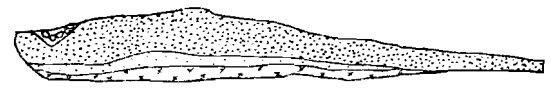
FIGURE 3

# 41 LR 58

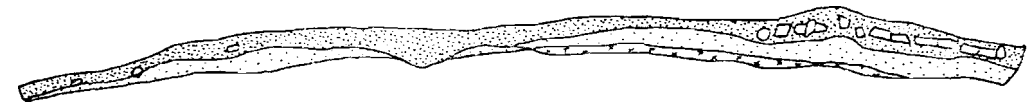
## TEST BACKHOE TRENCH PROFILES



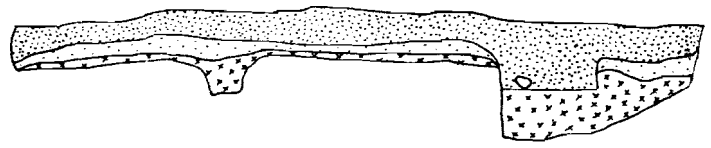
TRENCH 1



TRENCH 2



TRENCH 3

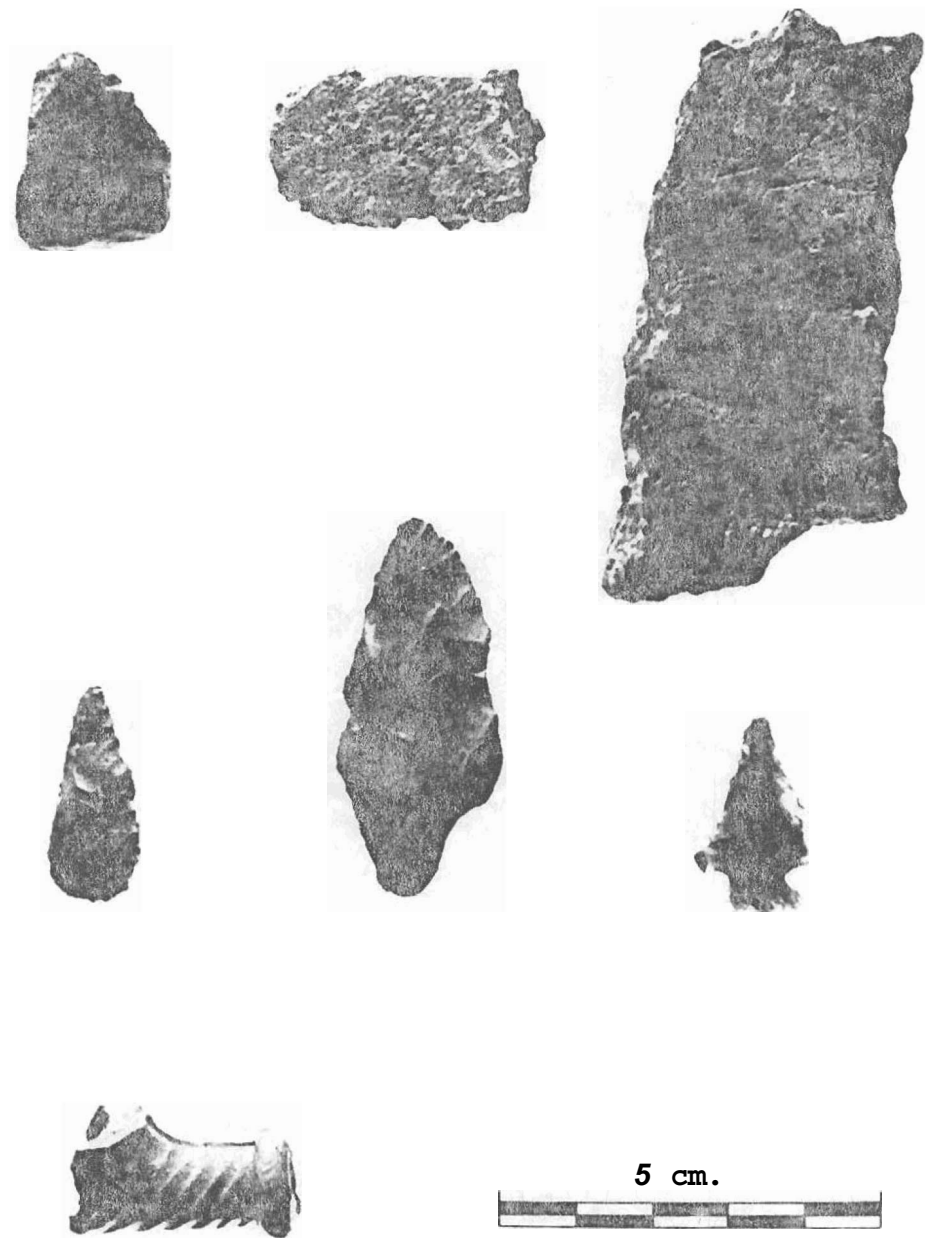


TRENCH 5

 DARK SAND     TAN SAND     RED CLAY

0 1 2 3 4 5M  
HORIZONTAL

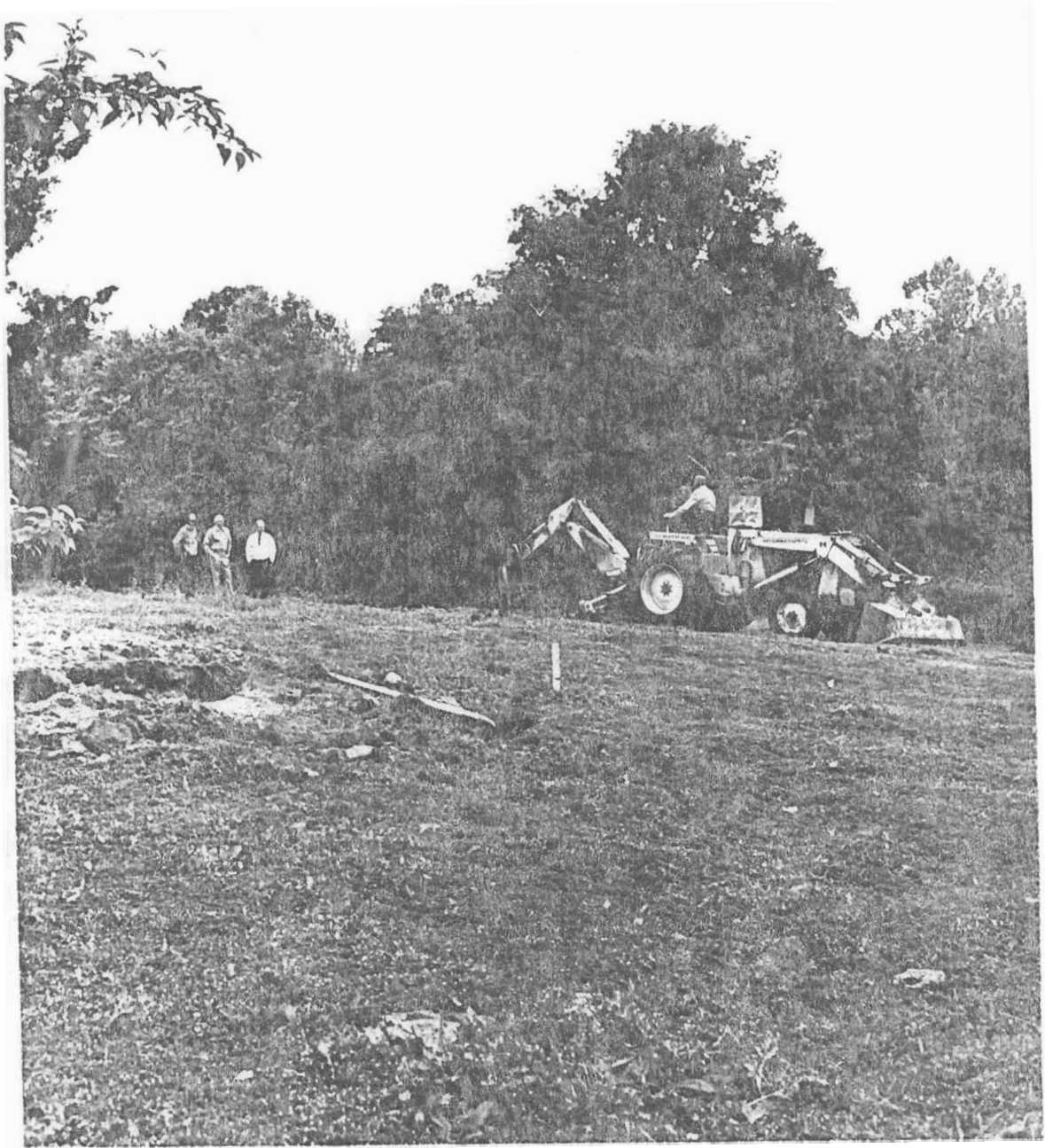
0 1 2 3M  
VERTICAL



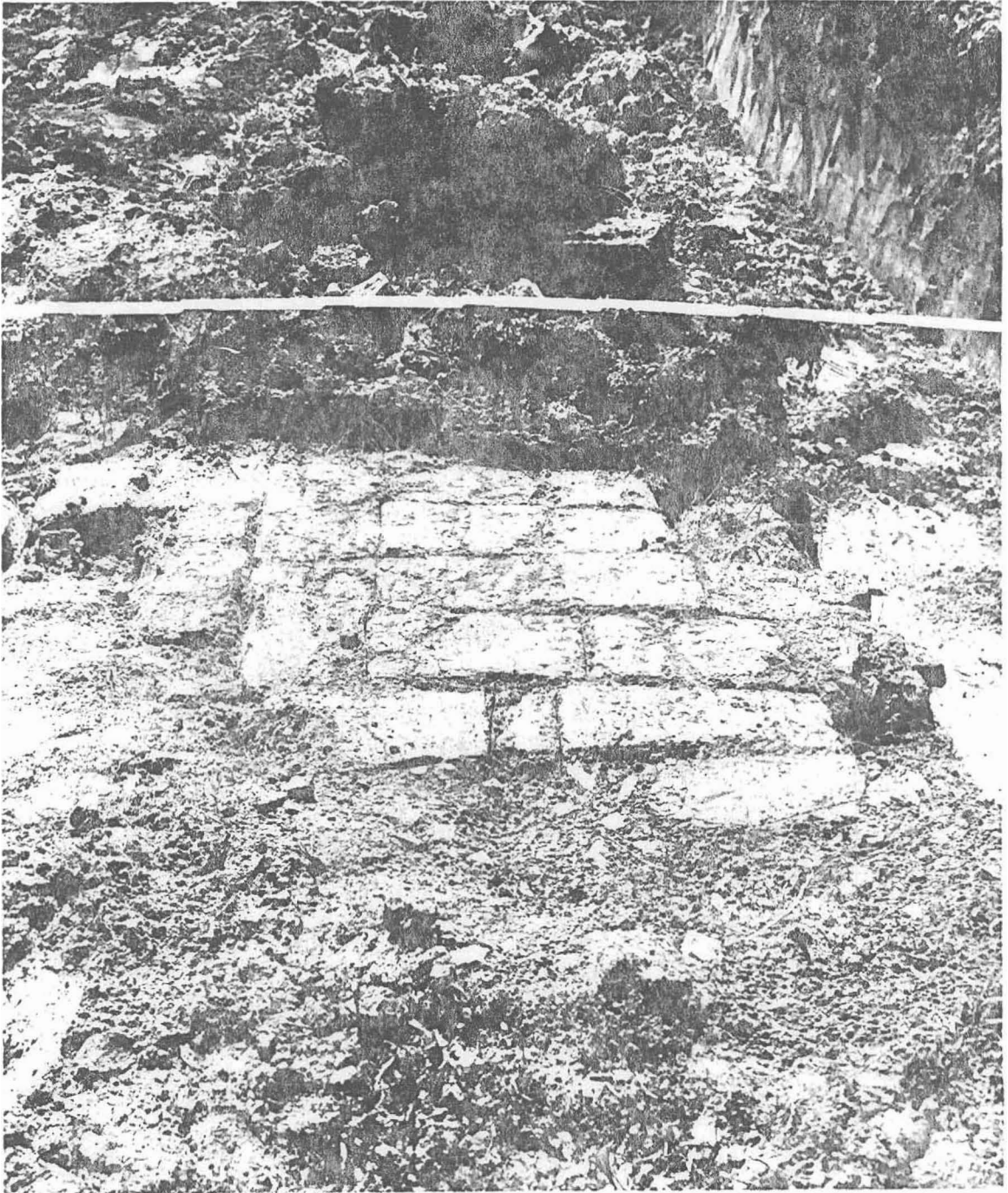
**Figure 4:** a-c) Sherds; d) Oval Biface; e) Misc. Biface; f) Scallorn Point; g) Ceramic Pipe



Figure 5: Collapsed Wooden Structure



**Figure 6:** Excavation of Trench 3



**Figure 7: Coursed Brick in Trench 3**