

## Appendix F

## Excavation of 1954

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Early in 1954, the old factory building covering the western section of the West Berkeley mound was torn down. This afforded an opportunity for further digging in the deeper levels of the midden so on Saturday and Sunday, March 27-28, the Fall semester class in archaeological field methods worked at the site.

Obviously the shellmound had been cut down considerably when the factory was constructed many years ago. The surface underneath the building was essentially level, with a drop of only two to five inches in one direction and four in the other. A datum point established at the northeast corner of the area to be excavated lay two feet higher than the ground surface mark scratched on the nearby brick building during the 1950 investigation. As the midden extended three feet below the surface at this point, the 1954 excavation must have been in the 13-18 foot portion of the shellmound. The depth occurrence of certain artifact classes, particularly net sinkers, seems to confirm this correlation.

Fourteen 5 X 5 foot pits were excavated (Figure 1). Three were dug to a depth of 36 inches; the remainder were taken almost to subsoil. The depth of the deposit ranged from 41 to 48 inches, or perhaps slightly more, for in no place was absolutely sterile earth reached. The method of excavation was by straight shoveling in six-inch levels. Depth was recorded from ground surface.

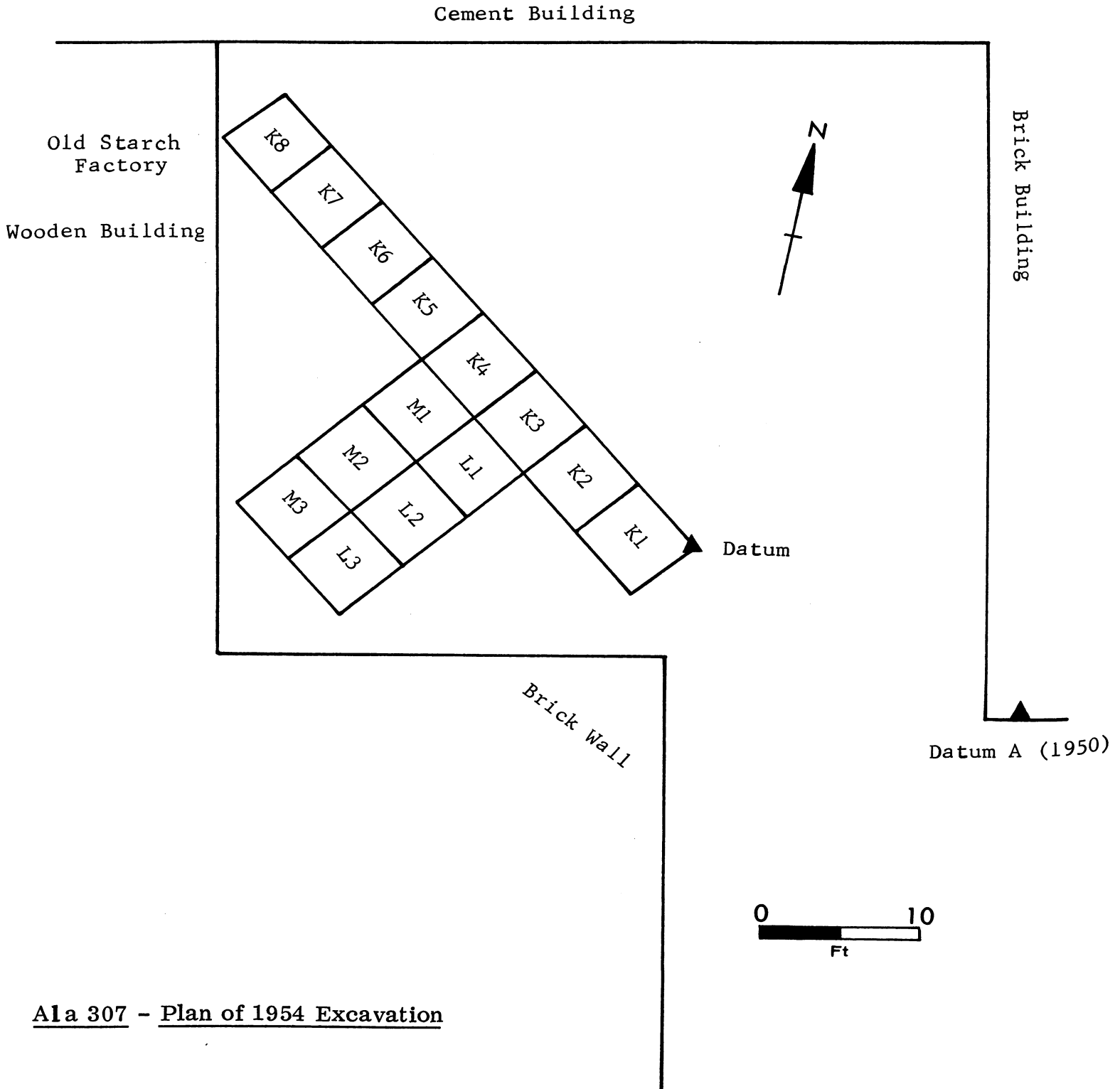
#### Description of Artifacts

Approximately 173 artifacts were recovered. A surprisingly large number of different classes are represented, though most by a single specimen. Only three represent types not found earlier.

#### Chipped Stone Objects

Projectile point - stemmed, leaf-shaped, expanding stem, rounded base with broad U-shaped side notches. This was found at a depth of 20 inches. It is made from obsidian and is rather coarsely flaked. Dimensions are: length 5.06 cm.; width 1.97 cm.; thickness .65 cm. The specimen weighs 6.8 grams.

Projectile point - stemmed, leaf-shaped contracting stem with square or slightly rounded base. The specimen has rather ill-defined shoulders



Ala 307 - Plan of 1954 Excavation

formed by lateral notching. Also of obsidian, it is coarsely flaked with some of the original stone surface remaining on one side. It is 7.64 cm. long; 3.33 cm. wide, and 2.8 cm. thick and weighs 20.1 grams. This point was recovered 14 inches beneath the surface.

Projectile point - stemless with concave base. Like the above it is made from obsidian and is coarsely flaked. Dimensions are: 4.34 cm. long; 2.50 cm. wide; .90 cm. thick. It weighs 9.3 grams. This example came from a depth of 17 inches.

Scraper - A large, rather crude chert flake scraper was recovered in the 0-6 inch layer. Irregular in outline, it is retouched along part of one of the longer sides. It measures 3.7 X 10.5 cm.

Chopper - A small chopper of blue-green chert is made from an untrimmed core. A sharp edge was formed by striking flakes off from one surface only. It is 3.99 cm. long, 3.81 cm. wide, and 2.80 cm. thick. This specimen was found in the 24-36 inch level.

Chopper - An almost identical example, also of blue-green chert, was found at a depth between 36 and 48 inches. It is somewhat larger than the above, measuring 4.24 X 4.30 cm., and 2.70 cm. thick.

#### Pecked and ground stone objects

Notched net sinkers - Twenty-seven examples of this class of artifact were obtained. Their depth occurrence follows:

0-12 inches - 14  
12-24 inches - 11  
24-36 inches - 2  
36-48 inches - 0

Grooved net sinkers - Grooved sinkers were less numerous with only 10 specimens collected. Their depth range is listed below:

0-12 inches - 6  
12-24 inches - 3  
24-36 inches - 0  
36-48 inches - 1

One example was fashioned from a fragment of a small mortar.

Pestle - A cylindrical pestle, its ends rounded by use was obtained 5 inches below the surface. It is 12.4 cm. long and 6.35 cm. in diameter. Three cavities are pecked into the sides of the specimen.

Pestle fragments - Four unclassifiable sections of pestles were collected. Three came from a 12 inch depth, the other was found 23 inches down.

Mortar fragments - Two unclassifiable mortar fragments were found. One was recovered 6 inches below the surface, the second in the 24-36 inch layer.

Charmstone - A perforated charmstone was unearthed at a depth of 24 inches. Of bluish glaucophane schist it is ovoid and has well-finished surfaces. The specimen is 7.55 cm. long, 4.45 cm. wide and 2.33 cm. thick.

Charmstone - An ovoid sandstone pebble is grooved along its long axis and is carefully shaped though with a fairly rough surface. One end is broken away but it originally measured about 6 cm. long. It is 4.10 cm. across and 3.35 cm. thick. This artifact is not duplicated in the earlier collections. An analogous specimen was unearthed in the smaller of the Stege mounds (Loud 1924:Plate 19, Fig. 15).

#### Unworked or slightly modified stone objects

Pebble hammerstone - An elongate pestle-like sandstone hammer, pecked or battered along one edge, was found 14 inches down. Its dimensions are: length 10.58 cm.; width 4.16 cm.; thickness 2.73 cm.

Pebble hammerstone - A small quartzite pebble hammer, modified by use only, is 4.64 cm. long, 3.85 wide and 3.30 cm. thick. It was pecked upon the surface.

#### Bone objects

Awl, deer or elk cannon bone, split head - The handle of this specimen consists of the quartered proximal end of the bone. The specimen is 11.70 cm. long. It was found at a depth of 12 inches.

Awl, deer or elk cannon bone, head intact - On this specimen the distal end of the bone of an immature animal forms the handle. The object is 10.89 cm. long and was recovered 21 inches down. No example of this form of awl was obtained in previous digging. However, flakers which may represent blunted awls of this type were found. This bone implement is of rare occurrence in California sites, being reported only for one Bay site (Emeryville) and one Santa Barbara County locality (Gifford 1940:168).

Awl, unclassifiable tip - A long sharp tip of a well-polished mammal bone awl was obtained at a depth of 36 inches.

Spatula - A highly polished bone object has a rounded tip and squared base. One edge is ground to a sharp cutting blade. It is 11.53 cm. long and came from a depth of 40 inches.

Spatula - A second spatulate object made from a section of split mammal bone is similar in form to the above but is sharpened on both edges. The butt is broken away but it appears to have originally measured about 9.35 cm.

Split mammal bone tools - Three splinters of bone are flaked along

the edges. Their depth provenience follows:

- 12-24 inches - 1
- 24 inches - 1
- 36-48 inches - 1

#### Antler objects

Wedge - A fragmentary wedge made from the base of an antler is beveled by grinding on one side. It is 8.78 cm. long. The specimen was found at a depth of 28 inches.

Wedge - A portion of the blade of a second wedge came from the 24-36 inch level.

Flaker (?) - A cut antler tine, 4.14 cm. long, may have served as a flaker though its tip is not noticeably scarred. This object was found at a depth of 17 inches.

Flaker (?) - A fragmentary tool made from a branched tine has a blunted working end which may indicate use as a flaker. It came from 18 inches down.

Curved blade - A well-polished section of a large curved blade was collected at a depth of 16 inches. Its width at the squared base is 4.15 cm.

#### Shell objects

The only shell items recovered during the 1954 excavations were abalone beads and ornaments found with a child burial (X-2) at a depth of 28 inches. The species of *Haliotis* is not identifiable in most cases but where it can be recognized it is that of the Black Abalone (*Haliotis cracherodii*).

Rectangular Haliotis beads - The fragmentary condition of many of the specimens made an exact count impractical, but approximately 100 were collected. Each has a central perforation. A selected sample yielded the following measurements:

- length range: 1.-1.16 cm.
- width range: .80-1.05 cm.
- perforation range: .19-.28 cm.

Rectangular Haliotis beads - Two rectangular *Haliotis* beads each with two central perforations were found. In the first example the holes are side by side; on the second one is above the other. Their edges are plain. The dimensions are:

- 1.25 X 1.54 cm., perforations 25, 26 mm.
- .96 X 1.23 cm., perforations 24, 28 mm.

No specimens analogous to these were collected previously. Four beads of this form were collected at one Early horizon site (C 107) in

the lower Sacramento Valley region (Heizer 1949:17); a few specimens have also been unearthed in the Santa Barbara region (Gifford 1947:29).

Circular Haliotis pendants, two central perforations - Four examples of this class of ornament were collected. One has shallow incisions around the border of one surface; the remainder have plain edges. Their diameters are: 1.28, 1.60, 1.80 and 2.27 cm.

#### Feature

A single feature (designated X-1) was noted. This consisted of a possible house floor which covered three pits and parts of a fourth. It has been described as a layer of "reddish brown clay, ash mixed with midden." No postholes were noted.

#### Burials

Five burials -- two adults, two children and one infant -- were uncovered.

Burial X1 - Infant, depth 16 inches; position indeterminate but appeared to lie on back, with skull oriented south-southeast; no associated artifacts.

Burial X2 - Child; depth 28 inches; flexed on face with femora bent up under body and arms up under chest and oriented northeast; square Haliotis beads in single row around neck, shingled mass of beads under chin; red ocher.

Burial X3 - Adult female, depth 36 inches; tightly flexed on left side and oriented to west; red ocher but no grave goods.

Burial X4 - Child; depth 11 inches; flexed on left side and oriented southwest; red ocher but no associated artifacts.

Burial X5 - Adult female, depth 27 inches; tightly flexed on right side and oriented north; trace of red ocher under pelvis but no accompanying mortuary offerings.

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