

ARCHEOLOGICAL FEATURE ASSESSMENT AT HONOULIULI NATIONAL HISTORIC
SITE: APPENDIX C – THE 2019 UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I WEST O‘AHU
ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

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Between the

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

And the

University of Hawai‘i

on behalf of

University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the research and field operations conducted at the Honouliuli National Monument (now Honouliuli National Historic Site) during the 2019 field season as part of the University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu (UH West O‘ahu) archeological field school, which ran from 24 May to 29 June 2019. Training for students was combined with research and goals as stipulated in the Scientific Research and Collecting Permit Study # HONO 2016-0001, Permit # HONO 2016-SCI-001 (dated 18 May 2016) and the Task Agreement #P16AC01702 through the Hawai‘i-Pacific Islands Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit (CESU) #P14AC00637 (dated 13 September 2016, Continuation 1). The 2019 UH West O‘ahu field school was conducted under Modification 2 of the current CESU.

The Honouliuli National Historic Site is a culturally and historically important site that tells the story of civilian internment, martial law, and the experience of prisoners of war (POWs) in Hawai‘i during World War II. It is located on the island of O‘ahu about 15 miles northwest of Honolulu, north of Highway H1, and west of the Kunia Road. The site encompasses approximately 160 acres and is located within Honouliuli Gulch, roughly 6 miles mauka (inland) from the coast. The gulch varies from about 500 to 700 feet wide at the camp location, with steep slopes bounding the relatively flat floodplain. Elevation ranges from 280 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) along the Honouliuli Stream at the southern end of the site to up to 520 feet AMSL on the slopes at the north end of the site. This area is within the Kapolei town area, as well as the traditional Hawaiian land division of the Honouliuli *ahupua‘a*.

Support for the project was provided by Jadelyn Moniz-Nakamura, Ph.D., Integrated Resource Manager, Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Monument, who served as the Agency Technical Representative on the CESU Task Agreement. Field work was conducted by 12 students, working approximately 8 hours a day, on Saturdays between 25 May and 29 June 2019. Classroom instruction was done between 24 May and 28 June 2019 on Friday evenings.

The focus of the field school in 2019 was the excavation and continued exposure of Feature I-7. Feature I-7 is unique in that it represents a buried mess hall platform for the POW Compound I, so its size and configuration are currently unknown.

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the research and field operations conducted during 2019 field school conducted under the auspices of the University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu (UH West O‘ahu). The field school was conducted at Honouliuli National Historic Site, a culturally and historically important site that tells the story of internment, martial law, and the experience of prisoners of war (POWs) in Hawai‘i during World War II.

Location

The Honouliuli National Historic Site is located on the island of O‘ahu, Hawai‘i about 15 miles northwest of Honolulu, north of Highway H1, and west of the Kunia Road. This site encompasses approximately 160 acres and is located within Honouliuli Gulch, roughly 6 miles *mauka* (inland) from the coast. The gulch varies from about 500 to 700 feet wide at the camp location, with steep slopes bounding the relatively flat floodplain, and is mostly surrounded by commercial agricultural land (Figures 1 to 6). Elevation ranges from 280 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) along the Honouliuli Stream at the southern end of the site to up to 520 feet AMSL on the slopes at the north end of the site (see Figures 5 and 6).

Background History

Associated with the internment of U.S. citizens, long-term resident aliens, and POWs during World War II, Honouliuli National Historic Site serves as a tangible reminder of the fragility of constitutional rights, the effects of martial law, and as a POW camp, the management of both enemy troops and conscripted laborers (Ch’oe 2009). Since its rediscovery in 2002, Honouliuli has been the subject of scholarship and awareness campaigns spearheaded by community organizations and institutions such as the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i (JCCH), Hawaii Korean Culture Center, and UH West O‘ahu. It was through these local efforts that Congress was prompted to authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to prepare a Special Resource Study of the Honouliuli Gulch and Associated Sites (National Park Service 2015), which led to the determination of Honouliuli’s eligibility for inclusion in the National Park Service system in February 2015. In March 2018, the Honouliuli National Monument was re-designated as the Honouliuli National Historic Site.

In 2012, Jeffrey F. Burton and Mary M. Farrell submitted a National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Honouliuli Internment Camp. Based on the 2008 to 2010 surveys, the Honouliuli Internment Camp demonstrated a high degree of historical and archeological integrity, as defined by the *Japanese Americans in World War II National Historic Landmark Theme Study* and the Department of Defense’s *Historic Context: World War II Prisoner-of-War Camps*. In terms of an archeological landscape, Honouliuli exhibits integrity regarding its location, setting, design, workmanship of building foundations, wall and fence remnants, feeling, and association. While there was modern use of the land until the late 1990s, none of this really detracts from the site integrity. The hidden gulch environment surrounded by agricultural fields remains a huge part of the feeling of isolation of the camp. “To the former civilian internees who [...] visited the site during days of remembrance and pilgrimage, Honouliuli has integrity of feeling: the isolated setting, military design, prison-related artifacts, mosquitoes, and steep

valley walls that retain heat convey the discomfort experience when they named Honouliuli *Jugoku-Dani*, or Hell Valley” (Burton and Farrell 2012:36).

The Nomination recognized that Honouliuli Internment Camp was eligible for the National Register based on Criterion A (Property is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of our history) and Criterion D (Property has yielded or is likely to yield information important in prehistory of history). The primary period of significance is from 1943, when Honouliuli was constructed, to around 1946, when the camp was closed as both a civilian internee camp and a POW camp.

Areas of significance include: military and social history; politics, government, and law; Asian and European ethnic heritage; and historical archeology. As a POW camp, Honouliuli illustrates how the U.S. military managed and housed prisoners and balanced often conflicting goals of national security and compliance with the Geneva Convention.

Honouliuli Internment Camp was reviewed by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and listed on 21 February 2012. The site was designated Honouliuli National Monument by Presidential Proclamation on 24 February 2015 by President Barack Obama. On 12 March 2019, the property was re-designated as the Honouliuli National Historic Site.

FIELD SCHOOL GOALS

The key purpose of the 2019 UH West O‘ahu field school was to conduct research and provide training for students in line with several goals stipulated in the Scientific Research and Collecting Permit Study (# HONO 2016-0001, Permit # HONO 2016-SCI-001; dated 18 May 2016) and the Task Agreement (#P16AC01702) through the Hawai‘i-Pacific Islands Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit (CESU, #P14AC00637; dated 13 September 2016). This particularly field school was under Modification 2 of this CESU.

The primary goals of Task Agreement P16AC01702 (Modification 2; 2019 field season) were to conduct field work that focused on archeological assessment Feature I-7, in Compound I, through continued excavation. This feature is thought to be associated with the POW occupation of Compound I (Figures 7 and 8). Pedestrian survey was proposed for Compounds I and II during the 2019 field season; however, due to time constraints and weather delays, Dr. Belcher chose to focus on the excavations of Feature I-7.

The education goals of the UH West O‘ahu field school focused on introducing students to basic archeological methods, as well as expanding their knowledge of World War II incarcerations that included civilian internees and POWs as well as the social impacts in Hawai‘i of the civilian incarceration. The 2019 season included instruction on basic archeological techniques of survey/excavation and documentation through field notes, digital photography, GPS use, GIS data base use, historical artifacts, as well as drawing and mapping (Figures 9 to 13).

Geographically, the national historic site is divided into at least seven inhabited compounds, designated using roman numerals. These designations are based on a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE) blueprint plan (U.S. Army n.d.; see Figures 2 to 4) for the internment camp

sewage system, starting with Compound I in the north and finishing with Compound VII in the southern areas of the national historic site. Previous work in 2016 to 2018 are reported in Belcher (2018, 2019).

Excavation of areas in Compound I continued after the completion of the 2018 field school with volunteers from a variety of veteran's and other groups, including archeology students from UH West O'ahu and participants in the Volunteers in the Parks Program. The Volunteers in the Parks Program is managed by Ms. Johanna Fuller, Integrated Resource Specialist, Pacific Historic Parks. This program became an essential part of the excavation and documentation efforts, and took place approximately one day a month. No excavation occurred without Dr. Belcher's presence and all photographic, written, and section documentation recording was done by Dr. Belcher in his field notebook for the calendar years 2018-2019.

All 2019 field school work was supervised by William R. Belcher, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, UH West O'ahu. Oversight in 2019 was provided by Jadelyn Moniz-Nakamura, Ph.D., Integrated Resource Manager, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Monument, who served as the Agency Technical Representative (ATR) on the CESU Task Agreement. Field work was conducted by 12 students working approximately 8 hours a day, between 25 May and 29 June 2018.

All original paper documentation (student notebooks, plan maps, and section drawings) were turned over to UH West O'ahu James and Abigail Campus Library for archival purposes. All artifacts were turned over to NPS Representative Scott Pawlowski. All paper records were scanned, converted to digital media, and saved on a portable hard drive. Copies of all digital files were given as project deliverables to the project ATR (Dr. Moniz-Nakamura), including all digital records and imagery.

FIELD METHODS

Primary documentation was completed by individual students using field notebooks. This documentation described daily tasks, and included level sketches and excavation plan maps, weather descriptions, and other personal observations and reflections. All sketch maps were drawn on imperial (1/4-inch) grid paper in the student notebooks but using a metric scale (one square equals 10 cm). Separate metric graph paper (10 mm blocks) were also used for plan and section drawings. Dr. Belcher completed the final photography using a Nikon D-7200 digital SLR camera with a 15 to 100 mm lens; standard resolution was set at "fine" with an image size of "large," 3872 X 2592, 10 megapixels. Additionally, Dr. Belcher maintained a written photographic log.

For the current and previous excavations of the POW mess hall platform in Compound I (Feature I-7), excavation was conducted using a standard 1-x-1-meter test pits (designated sequentially by letters) using 10-cm arbitrary levels. Each unit had its own temporary datum located at the NW (or highest) corner of each test pit. Standard archeological techniques were used to excavate the test pits with the use of hand tools such as hand-picks, trowels, and shovels. All sediment was screened through 1/4-inch (6 mm) mesh hardware cloth. All artifacts were collected and bagged by provenience (Site, Compound, Test Pit, Level/Depth, etc.). During post-field school

processing in previous field seasons, many of the collected items were discarded as they were non-artifactual (basalt rock fragments, coral gravel, etc.).

EXCAVATION RESULTS

Compound I Description

Compound I is the northernmost compound of the Honouliuli National Historic Site and represents the large POW encampment. It is a relatively flat area covered with sparse *koa haole* trees and guinea grass (see Figures 8 and 14).

On the 1943 blueprint and in 1948 aerial photograph (Figures 2, 3 and 7), a much larger POW mess hall (Feature II-1), situated on the western side of Honouliuli Stream, is present. Based on the 1948 aerial photograph and USACOE sewage maps, Feature I-7 was accessed by one of the main roads extending along the eastern side of the property and was approximately 130 feet long and 75 feet wide.

History of Excavation in Compound I

Prior to 2016 this POW mess hall had not been located on the surface as were many of the other mess halls within the camp. The eastern Compound I POW mess hall and the mess hall incinerator were both indicated on the 1943 USACOE map. The 2016 field school students took a distance and bearing from the known location of the mess hall incinerator (Feature I-5) to the middle of what should be the eastern POW mess hall. The students then excavated a small 50-x-50-cm test pit (TP-1) and encountered a concrete platform at approximately 70 cm below surface (Figure 16). Between 2017 and 2019, additional 1-x-1-meter excavation pits were excavated by the UH West O‘ahu field school students using the methodology discussed above (Figure 15). Another test pit (TP-2) was also excavated approximately 5 meters north of TP-1. TP-2 was excavated to 80 cm but did not encounter the platform. At the time, it was suspected that the team had found the edge, but subsequent excavation revealed that the test pit was about 20 cm too shallow.

This mess hall platform was initially found in 2016 using two 50-cm-x-50-cm test pits; since that time, the UH West O‘ahu field school has excavated a total of five 1-x-1-meter excavation units (labeled TP-A to TP-I) in 2017; six 1-x-1-meter test pits in 2018; and, five 1-x-1-meter units in 2019. A total of 16 square meters has been excavated (Figure 15).

Stratigraphy and Sediment Description

Laminar sediments occur over the platform itself with at least four stratigraphic units of medium to coarse reddish brown clayey silts mixed with courser particles of clay peds, coral gravel, and fragmented basalt rock. Cultural materials are presented within these sediments, but primarily include asphalt shingle fragments, agricultural plastic, metal (including nails, etc.), and glass

fragments (Figures 17 to 22). Based on these cultural sediments and the present of laminar silts, these sediments are primarily alluvial in origin and probably originate from a nearby erosional channel, which trends upward and northeasterly from the feature to the surrounding agricultural fields above Honouliuli Gulch (Figures 23).

Feature Description

Feature I-7 is identified as a possible POW mess hall platform based on comparison with the U.S. Army blueprints and an aerial photograph dated 1948 (see Figures 7, 16 and 17). As stated above, based on these historical documents, the mess hall platform should be approximately 130 feet by 75 feet, oriented roughly northeast/southwest along a run that runs near Honouliuli Stream. One interesting observation was a “shadow” of a possible wall or other feature on the concrete platform when it was initially uncovered in TP-H (see Figure 24). The excavations did not uncover the entire shadow, but it is L-shaped with the long arm trending southeast/northwest and the short arm trending northeast/southwest. The long arm is approximately 3 inches wide and 24 inches long with the short base arm 8 inches in length and 3 inches wide. Overall, the concrete platform of Feature I-7 is level and is approximately 65 to 98 cm below the surface (see Figures 16 to 22).

Various cracks are present over much of the exposed concrete, including pitting and spalling (Figure 25). The most conspicuous aspect of the platform is a rough “track” system that is approximately 12 to 14 inches across with ¼-inch to ½-inch furrows on both sides (Figures 26 to 29); the intermediate portion of this “track” is approximately 1/8-inch below the level concrete platform. It is trending roughly northwest/southeast (based on the magnetic grid system). On the southwest side are three shallow rectangular post holes that appear to have created using 6-x-2-inch lumber and measures 1.5 by 5.5 inches and approximately 1 inch deep (Figure 30). These post molds are spaced approximately 24-inches apart. The purpose of this portion of the concrete platform is currently unknown.

Artifacts Associated with Feature I-7

Many artifacts were encountered during the excavation, but most of the significant materials were located just above or in direct contact with the concrete platform (Table 1). These included primarily nails, unidentifiable metal fragments, and asphalt shingle fragments (Figures 31). One large metal piece was encountered in TP-Q (see Figure 32). Its function and identification are currently unknown. Additional items were recovered within the sediment column but included fragments of coral gravel (probably related to road fill) and bioplastic used to cover agricultural fields during fumigation. A single fragment of brown glass (probably the base of a beer bottle) and a fragment of blue glass (probably an insulator) were recovered from the 2016 TP-1 in 2016, but based on Scientific Research and Collecting Permit Study # HONO 2016-0001, Permit # HONO 2016-SCI-001 (dated 18 May 2016). These items were not retained and reburied in their original context in TP-1 (see Figure 33); both 2016 test pits (TP-1 and TP-2) were filled in at the end of the 2016 field season.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY

The 2019 UH West O‘ahu field school in cooperation and assistance with National Park Service were successful in training 12 students in archeological techniques and methodologies. Additionally, it is hoped that the students gained an understanding of the fragile nature of our republic as played out during World War II in Hawai‘i. The focus during this current field season was the excavation of Feature I-7 in Compound I, a probable POW mess hall platform. The platform had been buried from continuous sheet wash from the surrounding agricultural fields to a depth of between 68 and 95 cm. There are three 2-x-6 post molds and a track system documented in this platform of unknown function. Artifacts recovered from this year’s excavations included nails and other metal items. Other items that were documented included bioplastic from the agricultural fields and asphalt shingle fragments.

FUTURE RESEARCH AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Future research at Honouliuli should consist of continued assessment of all previously identified features from previous surveys (2008 to 2014). This assessment will follow the methodology and research design presented above. Additionally, pedestrian survey should be completed in Compounds VI and VII.

Although we have completed 16 square meters of surface area, we do not yet know the dimensions or extent of Feature I-7 (Compound I POW mess hall); continued excavation is necessary. Additionally, pedestrian reconnaissance and survey is necessary for Compounds I and II, particularly along the Honouliuli Stream edges, as this was not accomplished during 2019 field season.

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TABLES

Table 1. Artifacts Recovered from Feature I-7 Excavations

Artifact Lot No.*	Item Description	TP	Level	Season	Comments
	Unknown Metal Object	Q	8	2019	See Fig. 32
3	Glass Shards	D	4	2018	
66	Asphalt Shingle Fragments	B	7	2017	
67	Asphalt Shingle Fragment, Nail Fragments, Brown Glass Shards	A	7	2017	
68	Possible Asphalt Shingle Fragments	D	3	2018	
69	Nail Fragment	B	8	2017	
78	Nail Fragment (?)	D	9	2018	
	Clear Glass Shard	E	3	2018	
95	Asphalt Shingle Fragment	G	7	2018	
90	Clear Glass Shard	H	4	2018	
79	Light Green Glass	F	4	2018	
81	Unidentified Metal Fragments, Brown Glass Bottle Base (Beer Bottle?)	F	7	2018	
101	Asphalt Shingle Fragment, Nail Fragments	G	6	2018	
86	Nail Fragments	G	5	2018	
93	Asphalt Shingle Fragments	G	7	2018	
89	Beer Can, Miller High Life, Pull Tab	G	5	2018	
85	Metal Fragment (Nail?)	E	7	2018	
92	Nail Fragments	G	8	2018	
99	Nail Fragments, Unidentified Metal Fragments	G	8	2018	
98	Nail Fragments	E	8	2018	
80	Thin Brown Glass	E	8	2018	
	Ground Soapstone Fragment, Metal Fragment, Brown Glass Shard, Nail Fragments	I	9	2018	
82	Nail Fragments	E	8	2018	
83	Nail Fragments, Asphalt Shingle Fragments	E	8	2018	
87	Asphalt Shingle Fragments	E	8	2018	
	Metal Fragments, Concrete Form Fragment	I	8	2018	
	Brown Glass Shards	C	3	2017	
	Nail Fragments	P	7	2019	
	Nail Fragments, Unidentified Metal Fragments	L	8	2019	
	White Ceramic Insulator Fragment	Q	7	2019	
	Unidentified Metal Fragments	Q	7	2019	

Artifact Lot No.*	Item Description	TP	Level	Season	Comments
	Nail Fragments	Q	7	2019	
	Brown Glass Fragment	Q	7	2019	
	Asphalt Shingle Fragments	Q	7	2019	
	Brown Glass Shards	L	8	2019	
	Unidentified Metal Artifact	M	7	2019	
	Nail Fragments	N	6	2019	
	Unidentified Metal Fragments	L	Wall	2019	
	Brown Glass Shard	P	3	2019	
*Artifact Lot Numbers refer to catalogs done prior to the 2019 Field Season. Analytical numbers were not assigned due to departure of Dr. Belcher from UH West O‘ahu.					

FIGURES



Figure 1. General outline of Honouliuli National Monument.

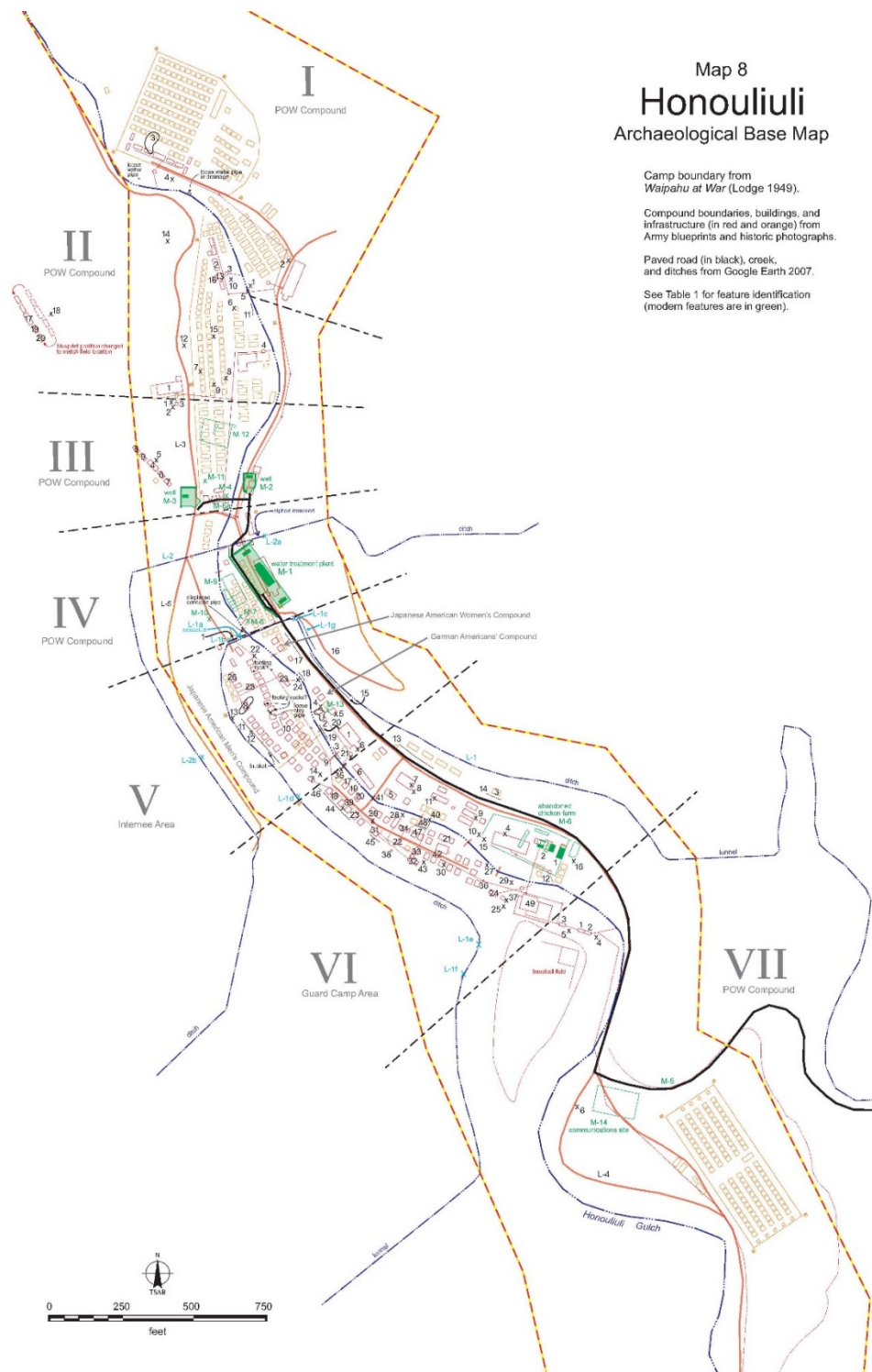


Figure 4. Overview of compounds and features based map from undated U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Sewage system blueprints (Figure 8, Burton and Farrell 2012).



Figure 5. Overview of Honouliuli National Monument, view is northwest towards Compounds I, II, and III, from UH West O'ahu Access Road; view in foreground is Compounds V and VI. May 2017.



Figure 6. Overview of Honouliuli National Monument, view is southeast toward Compounds V, VI, and VII from UH West O’ahu Access Road. May 2017.



Figure 7. April 1948 Aerial Photograph (UM Mānoa Geospatial Map Collection). Feature I-7 is circled in red.



Figure 8. General overview (2018) of Compound I area where Feature I-7 is located. Facing northwest.



Figure 9. General overview of excavation area for Feature I-7 (2019), facing north-northwest.



Figure 10. Marcela Bator screening sediment through 1/4-inch/6 mm mesh to search for small artifacts.



Figure 11. Excavating of a test pit in Compound I (Feature I-7) using small hand picks; Miranda Eddy, Rachel Williamson, and Jennifer Lai Hipp (left to right).

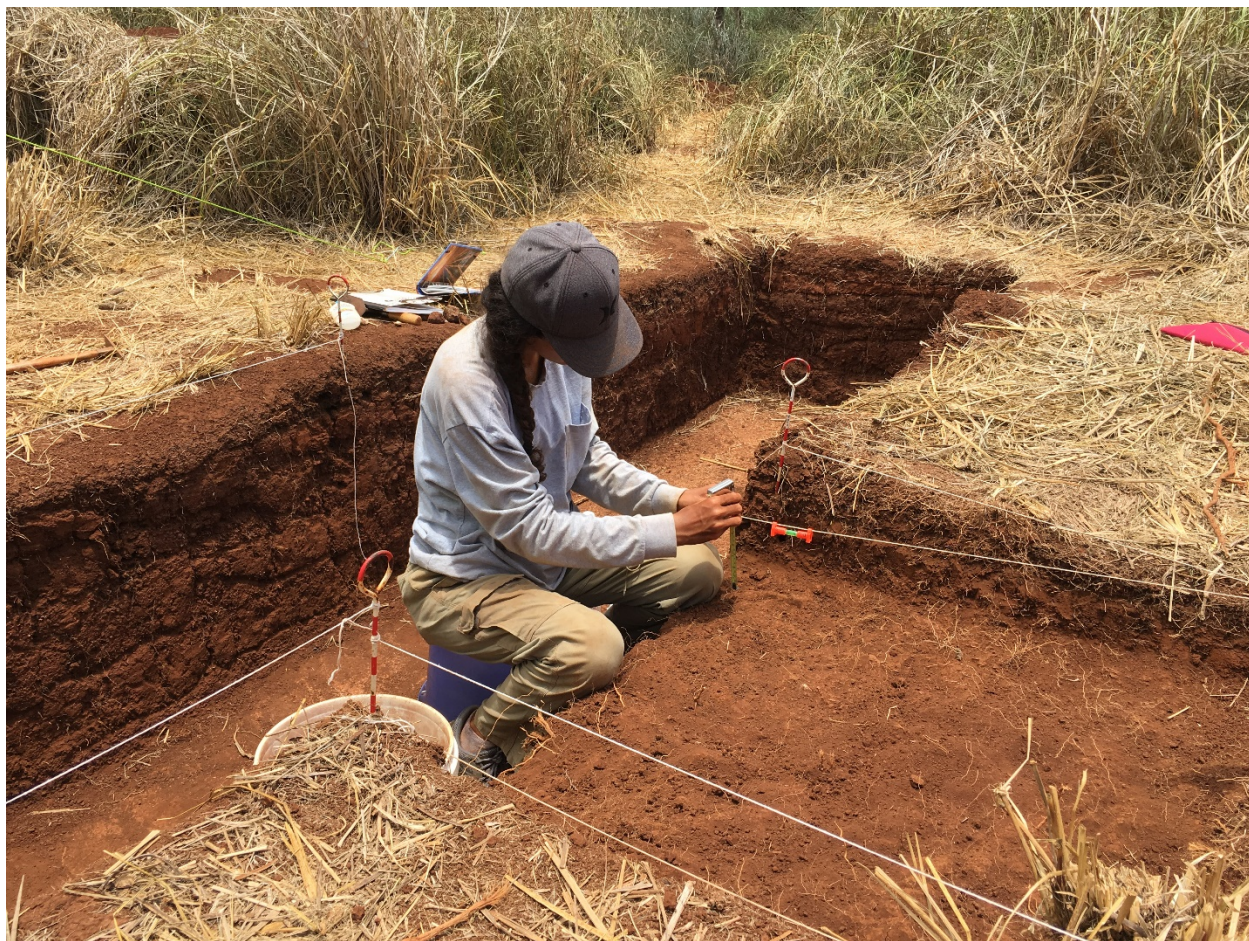


Figure 12. Checking levels during excavation; Sofia Benachour.



Figure 13. Drawing a section; Erika Peralta, Cyana M.V. Andres-Pagirigan, and Kennedy Chance (left to right).



Figure 14. Location of General Feature I-7 Area in Compound I.

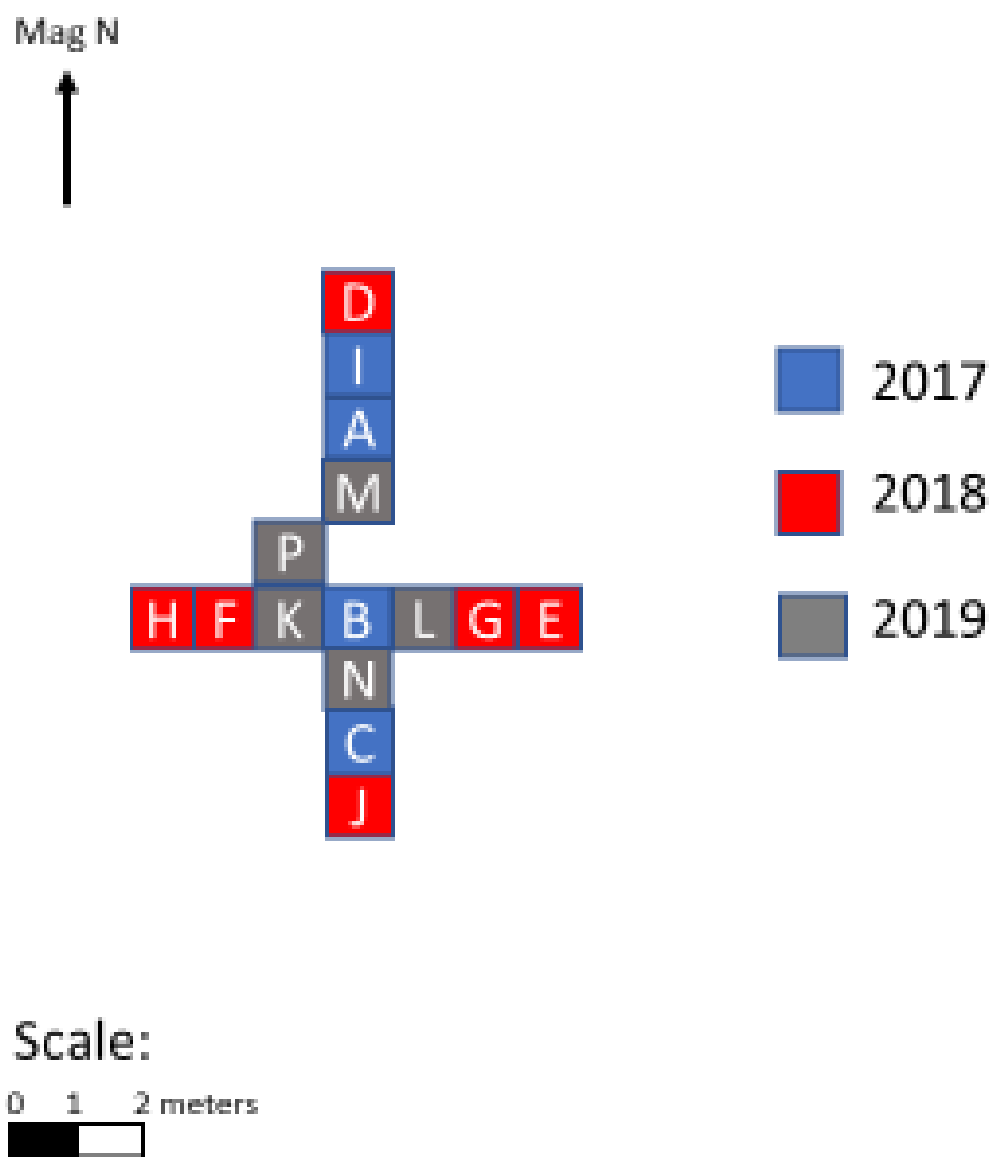


Figure 15. Excavation Map of Test Pits for Feature I-7.

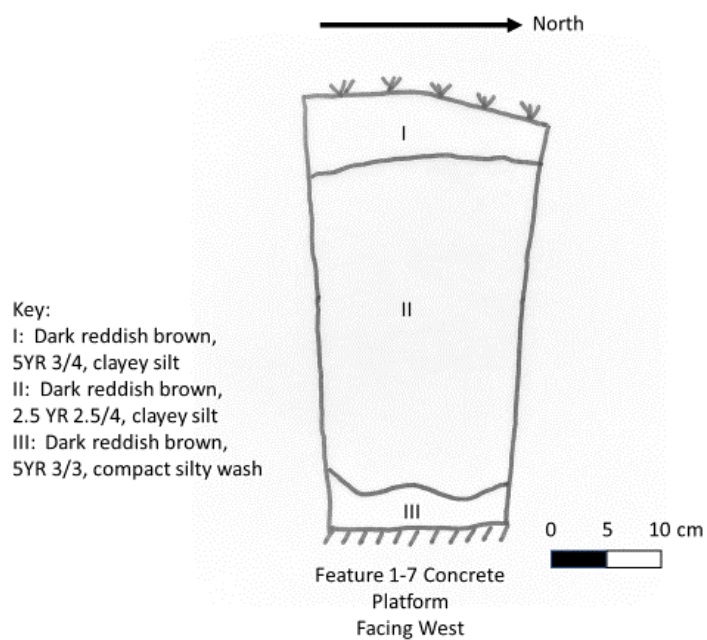
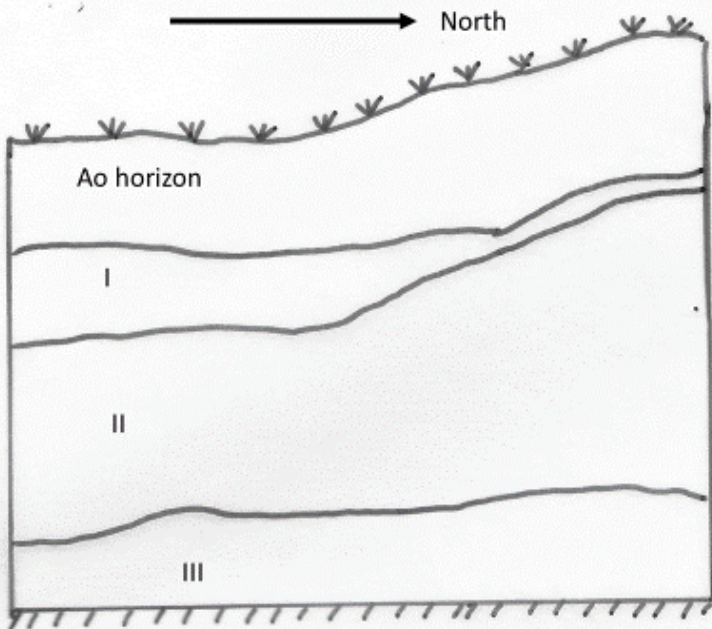


Figure 16. Feature I-7, TP-1 (2016); top – photograph (scale is in decimeters); bottom - section drawing.

Key:
 Ao: Loose yellow, red
 clayey silt; 7.5YR 4/6
 I: Loose yellowish red
 Silt with small gravel;
 7.5 YR 4/6
 II: Clayey silt with small
 gravel and large roots;
 2.5YR 4/4 dark reddish
 brown.
 III: Clayey silt with
 increasing small gravel;
 5YR 4/3 reddish brown



Feature I-7 Concrete Platform
 FACING WEST

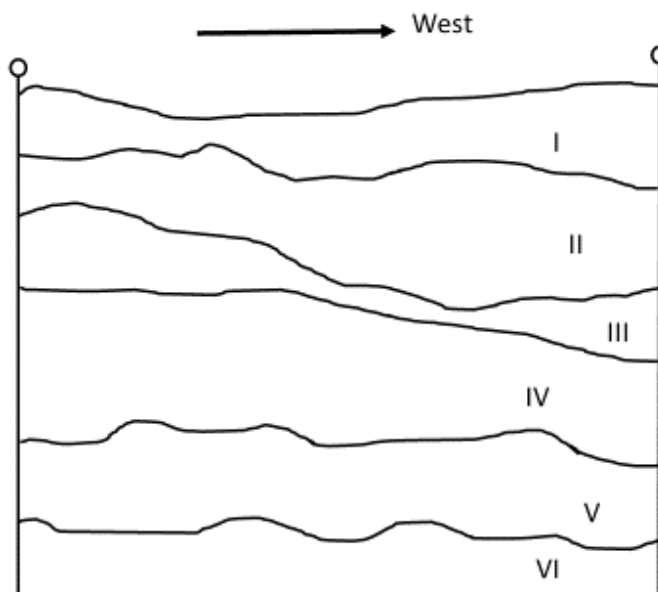
Figure 17. Feature I-7, 2017 Test Pit B, West Wall, Section Drawing.

Key:

- I – 10YR 3/3 Dark Brown, silty clay (dry and hard)
- II – 10YR 3/6 Dark Yellowish Brown, clayey silt
- III – 10YR 3/4 Dark Yellow brown, clayey silt
- IV – 10YR 3/4 Dark Yellowish Brown, clayey silt
- V – 10YR 4/4 Very Dark Brown, clayey silt
- VI – 10YR 3/4 Dark Yellow Brown, compact, laminated clay

Scale:

0 25 50 cm



Concrete Platform Feature I-7
Facing South

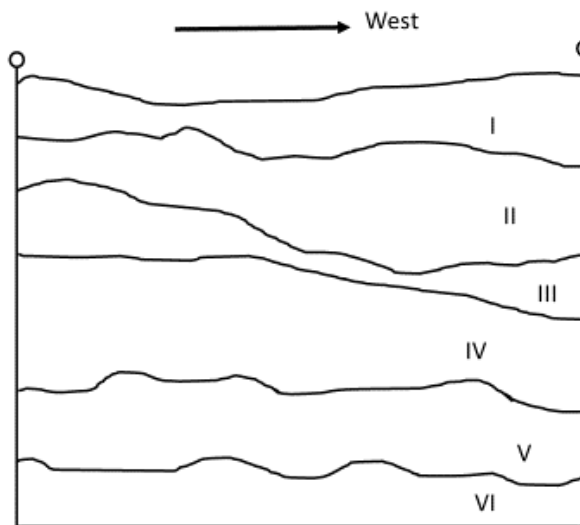
Figure 18. Feature I-7 2108 TP-J, South Wall, Section Drawing.

Key:

- I – 10YR 3/3 Dark Brown, silty clay (dry and hard)
- II – 10YR 3/6 Dark Yellowish Brown, clayey silt
- III – 10YR 3/4 Dark Yellow brown, clayey silt
- IV – 10YR 3/4 Dark Yellowish Brown, clayey silt
- V – 10YR 4/4 Very Dark Brown, clayey silt
- VI – 10YR 3/4 Dark Yellow Brown, compact, laminated clay

Scale:

0 25 50 cm



Concrete Platform Feature I-7
Facing South

Figure 19. Feature I-7 2019 TP-K, South Wall Section Drawing.



Figure 20. Photomosaic of Section of Feature I-7 – East Wall, Trending North (left) to South (right), Test Pits D, I, A, and M.

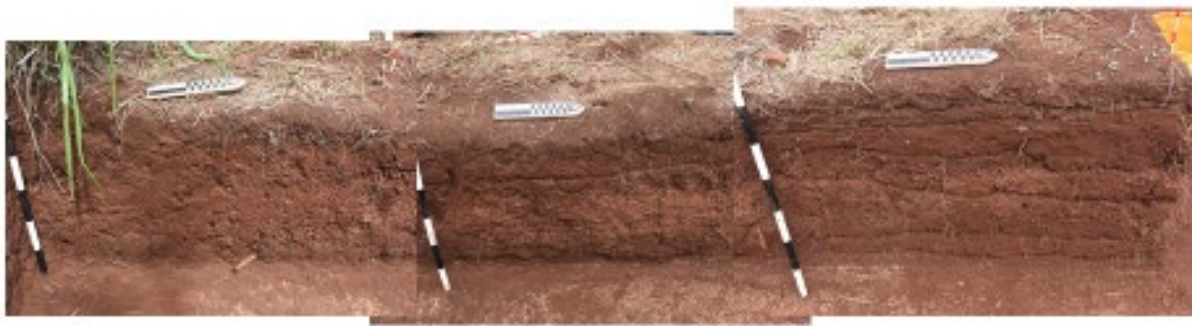


Figure 21. Photomosaic of Section of Feature I-7 – West Wall, Trending North (left) to South (right); Test Pits J, C, and N.



Figure 22. Photomosaic of Section of Feature I-7 – North Wall, Trending East (right) to West (left); Test Pits H, F, (K), B, L, G, and E; space is a non-contiguous wall of TP-K.



Figure 23. Map showing possible source of sediment that buried Feature I-7.



Figure 24. Photograph of “wooden” stain on concrete floor of Feature I-7, TP-H, facing south (2018).

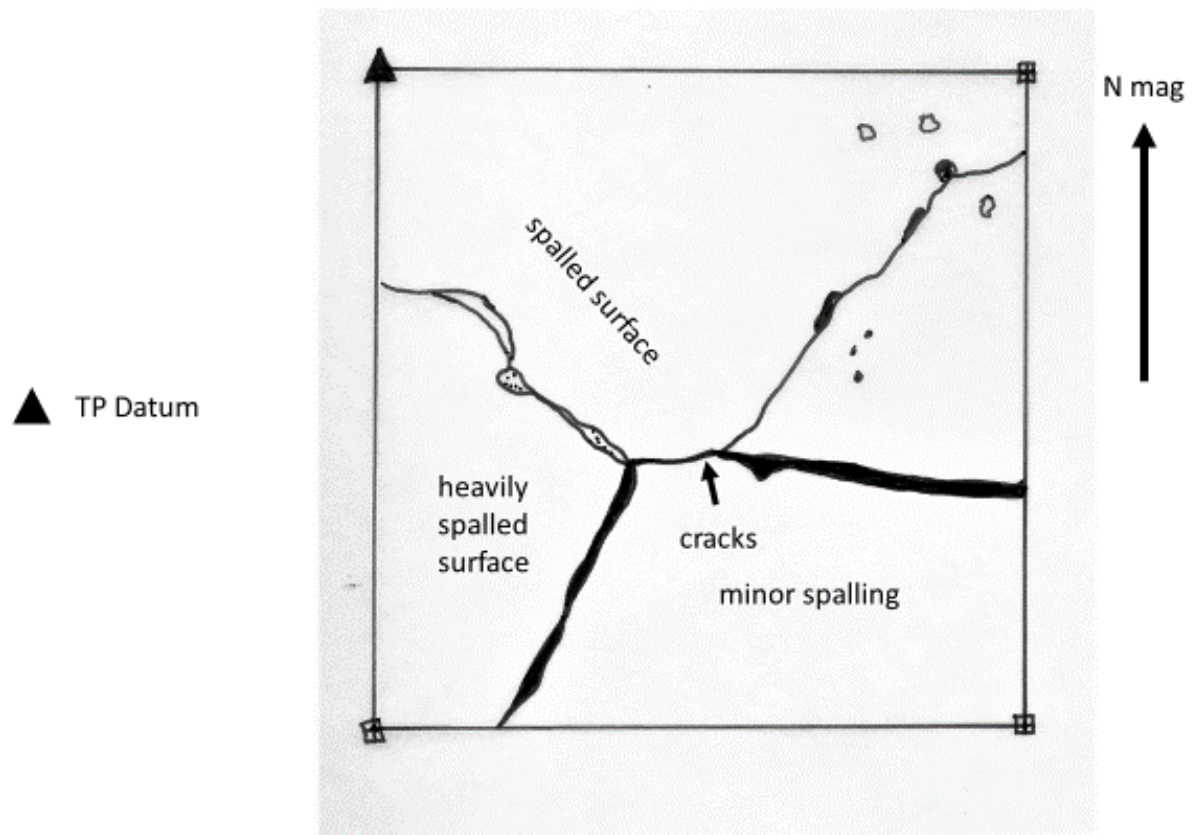


Figure 25. Feature I-7, TP-C Platform Floor/Plan Drawing



Figure 26. Completed 2019 Excavation of Feature I-7, facing southeast.



Figure 27. Detail of “tracks” and post molds in Feature I-7, facing northwest.

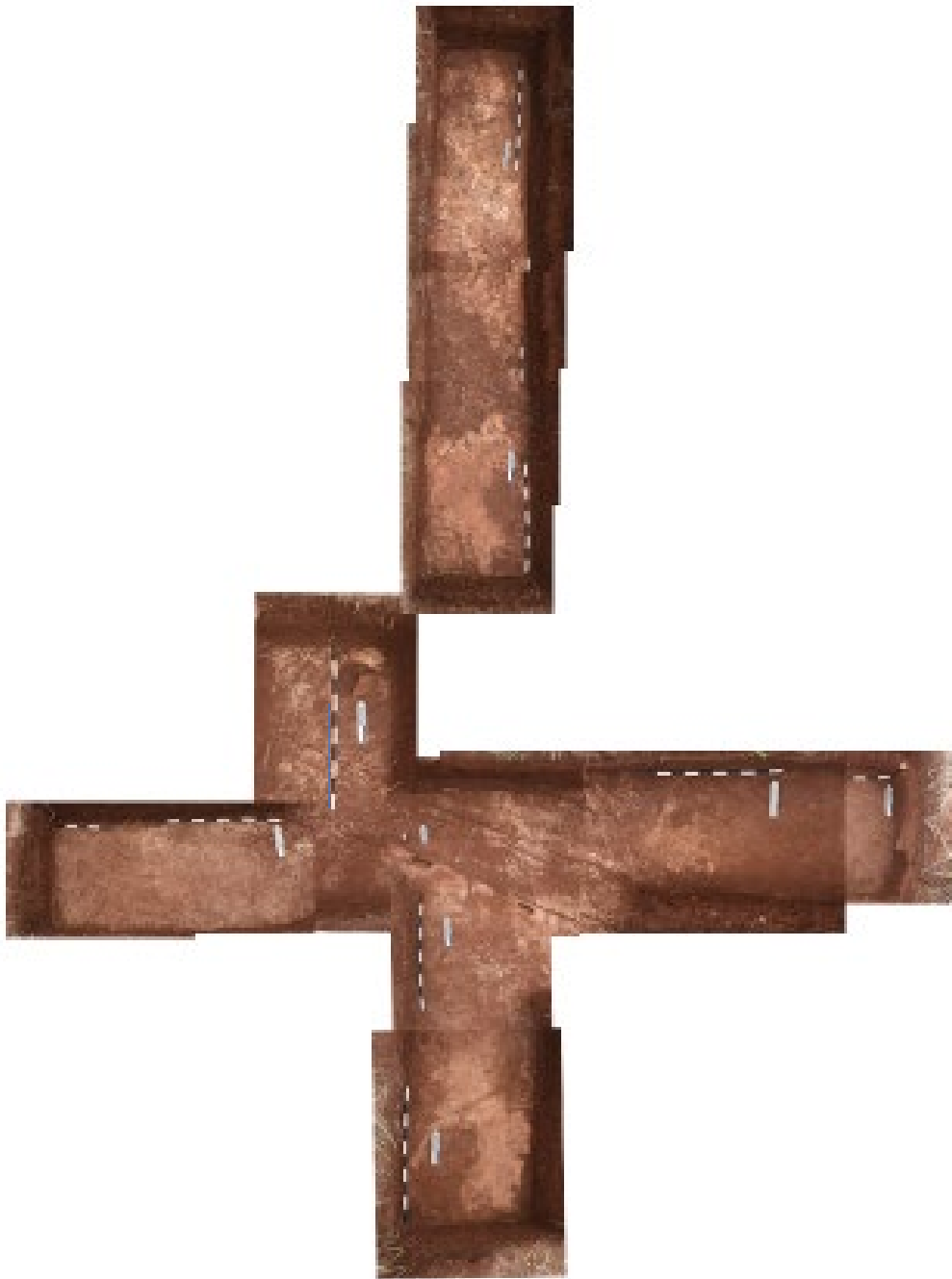


Figure 28. Photomosaic of completed 2019 excavation, Feature I-7.



Figure 29. Detail of center excavation of Feature I-7 showing post molds and “trough”.



Figure 30. Post Mold details.



Figure 31. Representative Sample of Nails and Nail Fragments. Scale is in cm.

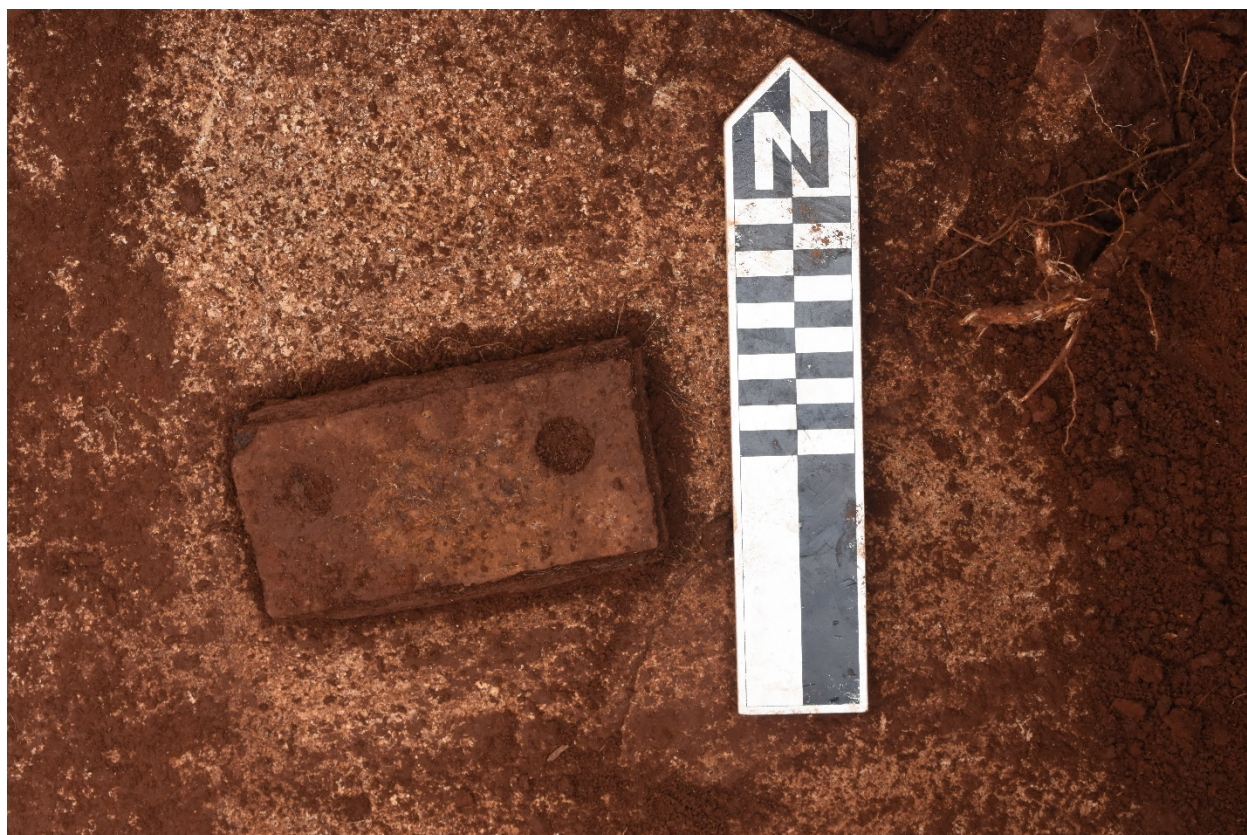


Figure 32. Unknown Metallic Object, *in situ*.



Figure 33. Glass Fragments from 2016 Testing from TP-1 (top – possible base of brown glass beer bottle; bottom – possible insulator glass fragment). Each square is a quarter-inch.