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ERRATA:

None noted.

COMMENTS:

Handwritten and difficult to read in places.

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Frank H.H. Roberts Jr.
4851

Archaeological Sites

Chaco Canyon, NM
Bc-53

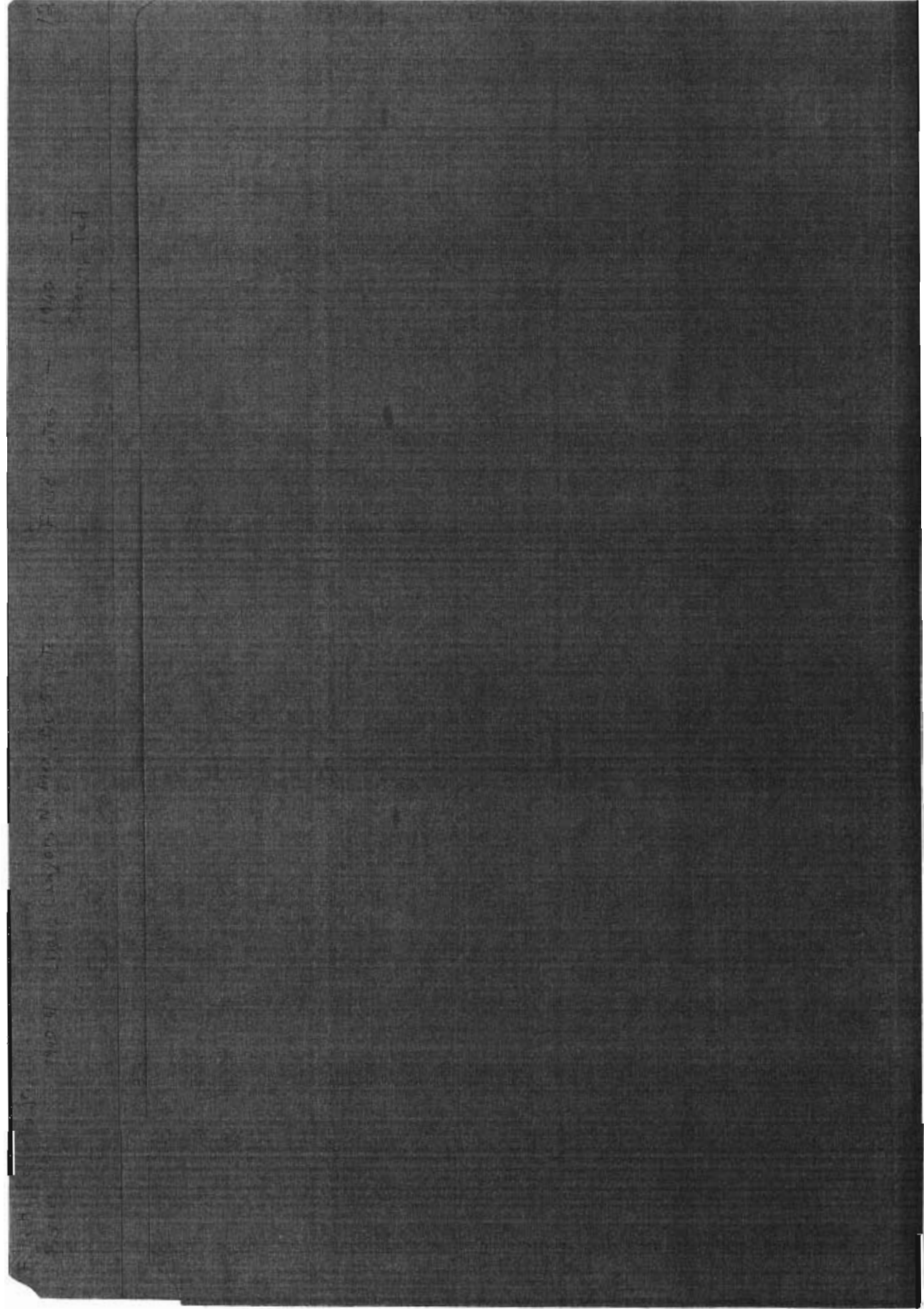
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Crew at work on BC 53 August, 1940

Director: Dr. F. H. H. Roberts, Jr.
Assistant: Walt Taylor

Section A: (Students)

Dorothy Kyle
Jack Anderson
Renart Hill
Armand Winfield
John Deacon

Section B:

{ Bart Greenwood
Dorothy Morgan
Ed Stern
Ray Baby
Florence Sunderland

Hands: 5 Navajo workers

Others: Dr. Wise
Mr. Jackson

August 5

Section A cleaned surface, picked up surface artifacts and Shards. A drainage trench was dug on the South side (workers) between canyon wall and site; trenches numbered E, F were started.

Section D.

Best Greenwood and Dot Morgan started their work locating North wall and the interesting ~~E~~ and W corners of that wall. Well paged out and a cross wall likewise. Located W corner. Found Mene.

Ray worked out the walls of a room toward the E. side of the ruin. He had located SW and SE corners by quitting time.

Miss Sunderland worked on an adjoining wall.

My work consisted in the following out of the W wall of the room adjoining Ray's. N W corner seemed reduced to rubble; deeper digging there did not resolve the original wall. Under orders I worked S., located S W corner by quitting time. Finds consisted of Shards alone.

(over for shards)

Surface Shards

	Indigenous		Trade			
	No	%	No	%		
BM III	Limo Gray	1	0.6			
P I	Red Mesa	6	3.5	Potterdale		
P II	Excavated	30	17.7	Snedgud	1	0.6
	Exhumed	54	31.9	McElmo	4	2.4
	Gallup	63	37.3	Deadman $\frac{D}{R}$	1	0.6
P III	Chaco $\frac{D}{W}$	5	3.2	Mesa Verde	<u>1</u>	<u>0.6</u>
	Chaco Corr.	<u>3</u>	<u>1.8</u>		7	4.2
		162	95.8			

Σ shards 169
 Σ % 95.8
4.2
 100.0

August 6

Section A: continued our work, seeming to produce few results.

Section B:

Bart and Pat followed well previously worked by them from NW corner to the SW corner, Bart followed around to the SE corner. Then dug \bar{E} along S. wall (all this inside.) Found 1 small grooved axe, 1 med. saw, 4 rubbing stones, 1 sandstone plaque with paint; 1 large mace, smaller, same, blades, red ochre.

Ray cleaned out along walls of his room. Nest. also Sunderland dug in her corner. Located for En. wall & mound.

E was ordered to locate walls of room to W. of Ray's. Started \bar{E} along low based portion, followed with trench $1\frac{1}{2}$ ' deep (ca.) for a yard, then raised about a foot, since surface was rising. Found N \bar{E} corner, took over from Walt, who had based \bar{E} wall to S \bar{E} corner and \bar{W} back along S wall. Since ground dropped rapidly toward \bar{W} periphery of mound, and since bubble complicated locatn. of walls, started S along \bar{W} wall, whose extension had been based by Ray. Worked along about a yard, was $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 feet down at quitting.

Outside Branch F (Shards)

		Endogenous		Extraneous	
		<u>N^o</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N^o</u>	<u>%</u>
P I	Red Mesa	3	8.3	Forestdale	
				Smudged	2 5.6
P II	Essexvale	2	5.6		
	Essexvale	22	61.2		
	Gallup	<u>4</u>	<u>11.1</u>	McElmo	<u>3</u> <u>8.3</u>
		31	86.2		5 13.9
Σ shards		36			
Σ %		86.2			
		<u>1</u>	<u>3.9</u>		
		100.1			

August 7:

Section A:

Jack Anderson followed up exterior of Room where P had worked Aug. 6 (E wall) (color) previously begun by Ray.

Dot Kyle dug where Sunderland had worked.

Winfield dug himself a burrow in the room P had worked in on the sixth, so deep as to endanger culture.

Others worked farther west.

Section D:

Rooms were named and assigned. Ray's is room 2.

This he cleared carefully down to an even surface, level with wall trenches and excavated a foot more, leaving an L of earth.

Bart and Dot have room 6. This they levelled and excavated leaving an L-section along the S, & E walls. Found 5 Maros (2 whole), 2 rubbing stones, 2 partially restorable pots, 1 intiate, shreds.

Sunderland dug in her corner, excavating E, & N walls of room, finding bone awl.

I was assigned a new room just ~~W~~ of Bart's and Dot's, numbered 7. Starting at N ~~W~~ corner, I followed the ~~W~~ wall S-ward at a 6" depth until I reached the S wall. Proceeding ~~W~~ along, I struck a place about 5 feet ~~E~~ where the wall had broken in. Surface dirt grew thicker as I proceeded ~~E~~ since this cleared the ~~W~~ periphery of the mound. Several times I succeeded in following short sections of the wall, but had to take my trench about 1 ft deep to do so. Struck charcoal fragments about 8-10" along the trench. Quitting time. Loot: few shreds, flake.

Room 7
Surface

		Indigenous		Trade	
		N ^o	%	N ^o	%
PI	Red M&A	1	12.5		
P II	Exuberant	6	75.0	McElmo	1 12.5
		7	87.5	1	12.5

Σ shards 8
Σ % 87.5
12.5
100.0

August 8 -

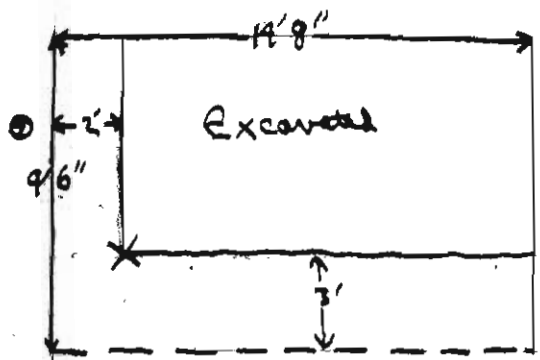
Section A:

Dr. Wise, set to work on my room (7), traced out the N wall, starting at NW corner. About 6 feet out he had an exploratory trench South to locate the Thruout S well. Failing this, he continued East along the North wall until he reached its intersection with the East wall. The latter he then followed to the SE corner. The South wall was left unexplored.

Section B:

I first measured my walls. North wall, counting from center of the corner, comprised $14' 8''$; West wall, similarly measured, was $9' 6''$ long. E well was not measured. Under instructions, I left an L-section in my room ~~comprising~~ $5'$ in breadth, measured from the visible sections of the South wall, against the South side, with the arm about $2'$ broad against the east side. The arm I dug down $\frac{1}{2}'$, left the South limb at original height. The digging out of the arm was due to forgetfulness. It did not expose culture. The rest of the room was taken down uniformly. Only a compact fill of roots, rubble, and solid clay was met. By order a pick was used to break this down. Final depth for Level 1, measured ~~at top~~ from ground level at the L-intersection (see sketch), was $1' 3''$. Only occasional, scarce sherds were encountered, scattered generally.

Level 1 corrected (see next page) = $15'' - 7'' = 8''$ BM7



X Measurements taken here from original ground level

N.B.: Measurements of walls were taken ~~from center~~ along center of walls; hence interior should be somewhat smaller than here represented. To avoid confusion, inner edges of walls were not drawn in.

N.B. Readings now collected to BM 7 (see Aug. 12):
 Subtract 7" from all measurements made from X
 ⊙ = BM 7

Room 7: Level 1
 Surface + Fill

		Indigenous			Grade	
		No.	%		No.	%
P II	Elevated	2	22.2	.		
	Exhumed	5	55.6			
P III	Chaco Corr	1	11.1	Wingate $\frac{D}{R}$	1	11.1
		8	88.9		1	11.1

Σ Shards 9
 Σ % 88.9
11.1
 100.0

August 9

Section A:

Section B:

Took down floor to 23", measured as before. Process, under direction of Walt, consisted of taking down trench along Eⁿ wall 1' broad, 1' deep. Striking no floor, took down level 6", then took down trench 6" deeper. No floor, so took down level 6" again. Fill only was found, consisting of loosely packed rubble at Eⁿ end, tending toward compact, very hard clay & rubble at Wⁿ side. Lattee was, with permission, reduced with a pick. Nothing was found today.

~~(Planned level 2 - 23" 7" & 16" JM 7)~~

Line 27" down (BM 7)
 94" \varnothing - NE corner (inside)
 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " N wall (inside)

Chisel \rightarrow enter & line
 dimensions 15" x 11" x 1"

Twigs \odot - N-S directn. roughly \parallel
 hanging plaster \odot fine level.

B.M. \rightarrow approx. 7" below previous marker

Height Level \approx 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ " BM 7

August 12

Work all day. Walt set me a bench mark (BM 7) on my W wall. Height of previous standard (intersection of L-section) above BM was approx. 7". All previous heights must be diminished by this quantity for correction.

~~(S)~~ Continued removing level 2. At depth of 27" (BM 7), 94" from NE corner (inside), 16½" from inside surface of N wall, lay an ash lens. Solid material consisted of small, straight twigs, lying in general parallel (N-S direction). ^{about} On the same level lay clay bearing impress of larger twigs. ~~(S)~~ All elements were chipped; sandstones in the same layer were oxidized red, but the neighboring ~~(S)~~ wall plaster was not discolored. There can be no doubt but that the lens represents the remains of roofing material and is not a ~~(S)~~ hearth. Dimensions: 15" long, 11" broad, 1" deep.

Level 2, when cleaned out, occurred 29½" below BM 7.

It was most conscientiously cleaned, in honor of the visiting firemen. In the course of clearing the wall edges and surfaces the long awaited SE corner was exposed. Skeleton was general. Final results: 1 bone ~~(S)~~ fragment, sans articulation, 3 sherds.

Room 7: Level 2

Pill

Indigenous

		<u>N:</u>	<u>%</u>
P II	Exuberant	2	66.7
	Gallup	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{33.3}{100.0}$

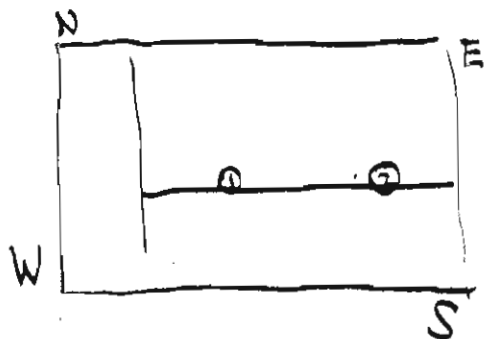
August 16

Worked all day. Level is level 3, lies between $29\frac{1}{2}$ " and 54".
 At about 30" deep rubble began to be seen, and the last foot of the level was removed without aid of the pick. Among usual objects, shreds, a ^{quartzite} pebble and a core were found. Great repairing arose at two unusual finds.

① Mano 90" W of the E wall x 48" S from N wall x

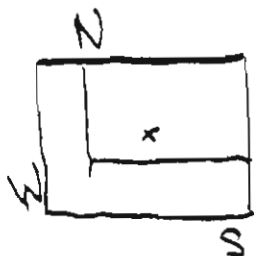
^{Depth} 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. Rectangular, w. Δ shaped cross-section

② ~~Protrude~~ natural (?) crystal. This, as with the mano, came from the L-section. Its position: 208" W of E wall x 47" S of N wall x between 29" and 46" BM 7. It was found in the straightening of the ~~way~~ L-section, hence its vertical location is somewhat uncertain.



Ash / Eng

84" W/E wall
 36" S/E N "
 56" - 61" BM7
 EW 14" x AS 15"



x = hole lens

Room 7: Level 3

	Indigenous	N°	%
P I	Red Mesa	1	25
	Escavada	1	25
P II	Gallup	2	50
		4	100

August 17

Worked morning. Level 4 taken almost all out. Charcoal was found on ash lens. It lay 84" W of E wall & 36" S of N wall & between 56 and 61" deep BM7. It will be seen that the lens was inclined, the inclination being NS, lower on the N side. General dimensions: 14" EW x 15" NS. Three carbonized bones were recovered for identification. Other elements were too disordered to be useful. Other finds: jackrabbit radius, mouse (?) bone, small vertebra; ~~bone~~ fragment of a polished black stone axe; 4 sherds. Level 4 incomplete, hence not measured for depth. Rubble thinning out, clay diminishing.

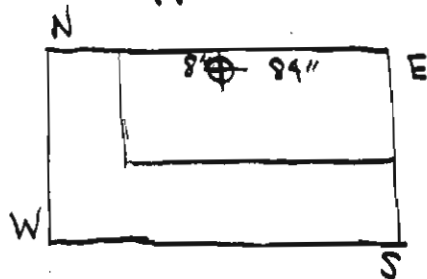
Room 7: Level 4

Indigenus

		<u>No</u>	<u>%</u>
P I	Red Mesa	2 (one as scrap)	50
	Line Gray	1	25
P II	Gallup	<u>1</u>	<u>25</u>
		4	100

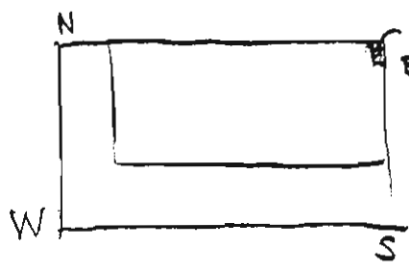
August 20

Finished clearing out level 4. Level ran to 64" BM7. A brick, from a channel line 60" W of E wall x 1" S of N wall x 65" down, was recovered for identification. The line was restricted to about 6" each way. A bowl, probably Gallup, was found in place: ~~(84")~~ 84" W of E wall x 8" S of N wall (each measured to center of the bowl x 65 $\frac{1}{4}$ " down. It was upright, measured approximately 10-12" in diameter. Earth pressure had cracked it in several places; my shovel broke off some pieces in one other place - shovel was being used according to orders, since finds thus far had been scanty, not enough to repay shovel-work. All pieces were recovered, placed in sack, put in bowl and covered over with boards for protection. A 6" section of soil was left behind the bowl as support.



August 21

Worked all day. Took down more of level 5, struck man in the NE corner 67" down. Man rectangular, whole. Below found ashes, light

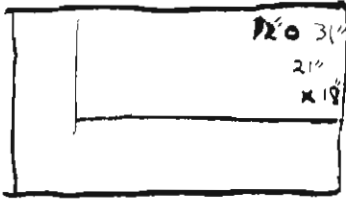


dust, jackrabbit and mouse bones. About 1" below struck floor. This was dirt or sand, well packed. Plaster, clay, and rubble, from walls and roofing were still to be found. Tarsion

Started a level across about $\frac{1}{2}$ " above floor, but struck a human metacarpal 18" W of E wall x 21" S of N wall. ~~Another~~ Another bone, still in position, suggested human remains. Partial confirmation was to be had in a first metatarsal 31" W of E wall x 12" S of N wall and at about the same level. Under directions from D R. Roberts (raised my level about 3" and left the metacarpal section as a block. Then continued my trench, which was about half ~~width~~ the width of the excavated area, until I reached the bowl previously uncovered. Here the supporting section was demolished, the adjoining area cleaned as far as the rocks contained would permit, and the advancing trench was deepened until ~~ground~~ floor was reached. This proved to lie $2\frac{1}{2}$ " below the bottom of the bowl. In the area about the vessel was abundant charcoal, part of the lens referred to August 20. From this another cavity was desired. The interior of the bowl was found to be filled with earth, some charcoal, and nothing else. Although the exterior bore fire clouds it is ~~probable~~ probably that they are attributable to primary firing and not to the adjacent charcoal.

The bowl was removed and bagged. All pieces were present. In general it was found that ~~the~~ accidental shreds as well

as ~~(was)~~ animal bones were markedly more common just
above the floor.



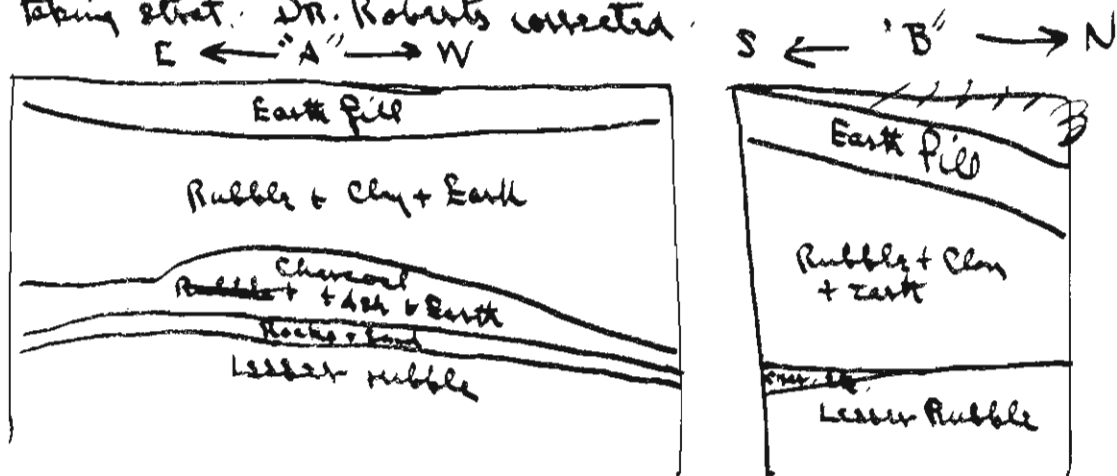
o Metatarsal
x metacarpal

August 24

After rain, worked on ~~the~~ Trench, my room being too wet for excavation. With Windy & cleared out a suitable drainage gradient for that Trench. Worked wheelbarrows, shovels, engaged in clearing up heaps from excavations.

August 25

Cleaned up corner of strat. section to obtain stratigraphy.
Discovered large shard Dr Roberts suggested had been worked.
It later turned out not to have been. Spent rest of morning
taking strat. Dr. Roberts corrected.



August 27

Located human rib (prox. end only) $68\frac{3}{4}$ " below BM 7 x 59" W of E wall x 29" S of N wall. I left this bone as perhaps part of a burial, returned to E part of bone-column and removed distal end of a human fibula $59\frac{1}{2}$ " below BM 7 x 20" W of E wall - 31" S of N wall. Presuming a burial there, I dug into the side of the column between these two places. Working in toward the spot of the rib I recovered a piece of matting stuck to a stone 68" below BM 7 x 60" W of E wall x 34" S of N wall. This was preserved with shells.

Meanwhile a Navajo, set on the job, took down my stratigraphic. Few shreds were found.

August 28

Clearing away what remained of my strat section "B"
 I came upon a human metacarpal $69\frac{1}{2}$ " below BM 7 x 23"
 E of W wall x 24" S of N wall. Continuing along with care I
 uncovered a human phalange + 2nd molar $69\frac{1}{2}$ " below BM 7 x 23"
 E of W wall x 36" S of N wall. At the same depth a wrist bone
 was found 12" E of W wall x $36\frac{1}{2}$ " S of N wall.

What was considered by Dr. Roberts as worked wood
 was found at 67" below BM 7 x 26" E of W wall x 40" S of N
 wall. It was preserved with shavings. Shape: long
 and tapered. Shards frequent but not plentiful.

August 29

Uncovered a restorable bowl, upper Gallup or Barky Chaco in egg type. 3 horizontal lugs perforated vertically. 4-6" diam. 73" BM 7 x 57" S of N wall and right against W wall. On floor or just above, upright, empty.

Nearby: Escavada or Gallup bowl, paint nearly all eroded away. Like the first bowl, just above floor, upright, empty. 4-6" diam. 73" BM 7 x ~~57~~ 15" E of W wall x 56" S of N wall.

Restorable Forestdale Smudged 6-7" diam. Upright, empty, sitting on part of the remains of the pot next described. 72" BM 7 x 48" E of W wall x 67" S of N wall.

Part of perhaps wholly restorable Forestdale Smudged bowl. Underlying in part the pot just described. Main part 73" BM 7 x 66" S of N wall x 17" E of W wall. Remains principally scattered S to the S wall. What may be part of it was found just S of the skull to be described.

All this found working along the street section "B". At the S end found part of pubic symphysis (human) on floor 72" BM 7 x 10" N of S wall x 12" E of W wall.

Adult skull was located, resting on right eye, cranium to N. Under it a strip of wood, flat. Pressure of earth & my shovel had demolished up-jutting posterior section the day before. Just behind it lay one of its incisors (both missing from socket). 75. BM 7 x 56" S of N x 59" E of W. Preserved with alcohol-acetone, removed.

Small sandstone pot-cover 6" diam (broken) found: 70" BM 7 x 19" N E S x 65" E of W wall.

Large hammerstone; floor (72" BM7) x 54" S-E N
x 48" E-W.

Distal End of Fibula (dexter): 72" BM7 x
34" N-E S x 70" E-W.

All this in working E along my A section of
Strat. column. Next recovered another small testable
Forested Smudge (~~4~~⁵" diam.). This tested on floor,
upright, empty: 72" BM7 x 7 1/2" N-E S x 79" E-W wall.

Matting was uncovered on the floor and varying
to about 1" above it. First (approx) measurements showed it
72" E of W wall; but its continuous extension was traced
from 12" N of S. to 63" N of S, a spread of 51". Part of
the pelvis had tested on this. The E limit has not yet been
reached. Although it was too badly disintegrated to be saved
in full, 2 samples were taken, each of which revealed a
simple checker weave. The fact that the sample from
Aug. 27 (60" W of E wall x 34" S-E N wall) shows the
same weave suggests that the matting may have extended
to there.

Human Rib (prox. fragm.) floor: 72" BM7 x 29"
S-E N x 65" E-W wall



Pelvis (human) - right half; lying over or actually
on a piece of the matting; floor 72" BM7 x 36" S-E N x 76" E-W
while I was digging on the matting my hand went
through a soft spot in the floor. Wall advised me to clean
up around it, dig it out. But inspection showed that
there was another (or a) burial beneath what we for the

then assumed to be floor work. This night, from the side of the ribs exposed, as a child burial. Covered it up again. ca. 76" BM 7 x 21" N of S x 60" E & W wall.

Thoracic vertebrae (Transverse ^{process} ~~only~~):
72" BM 7 x 45" S & N x 62" E & W wall.

Remainder of pelvis + humerus (this with bit of matting adhering to it near proximal end) + 1st premolar ~~below~~ below it - this could not come from our skull which had 10 premolars - + articulated vertebrae. ~~BM 7~~

22" BM 7 x 78" E (W wall) x 33" S of N wall.

Under pelvis - articulated vertebrae. Humerus, tooth mount. Rest covered again.

Restorable pots near these bones. Questionable type: Mesa Verde designs, iron³ paint. Pitcher or jar, small, in bowl of 10-12" diam. Covered up again.

All bowls cracked primarily by earth pressure.