

Interpretation: Feature 8 is somewhat difficult to interpret. The lack of any evidence of fired soil, ash, or baked clay suggests that the charcoal layer is not a primary deposit. The irregular rock clusters do not seem to form definite hearths such as the ring of rocks in Feature 6. On the other hand, some of the rocks are fragmented in place (in other words, two fragments found side by side fit together). Perhaps the rocks split after deposition due to root penetration along thermal stress fractures.

The faunal materials may suggest a discrete activity--the butchering of a large deer. A large quantity of deer bones was recovered from Feature 8 representing several parts of the body of an adult deer. The bone is fragmented and spiral fractured with butcher marks; all support the feature interpretation. However, while most of the deer bones are of an adult, it cannot be stated that they were of the same animal. Nor can we rule out the possibility that the faunal materials are the result of more than one disposal episode. The lower surface of almost all the bones was below the bottom of the charcoal layer, hence we can infer that the bone was deposited prior to the charcoal.

A plausible explanation for Feature 8 is that it represents a deer butchering episode (or the resulting disposal thereof), subsequently covered by a deposit of stained soil, rock, and charcoal. In the absence of any evidence of natural deposition, it is argued that the faunal remains were intentionally covered. The lowest fill deposit is represented by the northwestern rock cluster. From evidence on the opposite side of the feature, a profile suggests that a layer of mottled sandy clay loam was placed over a stable surface (which apparently the bones lay jumbled on). Within this soil layer were the charcoal layer and the southeastern rock cluster. It is suggested that the faunal remains were covered with a series of smaller deposits (basket loads?) removed from a fire hearth. The rock clusters, the mottled soil, and charcoal layers all seem to be different deposits (loads?). Features 5 or 6 could have been the source of this fill.

LIVING SURFACES

A living surface is a discrete surface with an accumulation of occupational debris. The surface may be recognized stratigraphically as a physical interface or by the exposure of associated artifactual material lying on a common surface. At the Hinojosa site, the living surfaces were recognized by large accumulations of artifactual material vertically clustered on more or less level surfaces. The actual surfaces were not stratigraphically distinct except for the increased cultural material.

Two living surfaces were recognized. Both were only partially exposed as it was observed that material continued into the excavation unit walls. The presence of small intact clusters of cultural material and well-preserved fragile artifacts, such as bone tools and shell ornaments, suggests that the living surfaces were buried fairly rapidly. Both living surfaces were exposed below the plow zone. The presence of large quantities of highly fragmented cultural material in the upper levels in several areas of the site suggests that later living surfaces have been disturbed.

The living surfaces were recognized at 41 JW 8 when concentrated cultural materials were exposed *in situ* in several excavation units at approximately the same elevation. An effort was made to record as much of the material in place as possible. Often, however, the concentrations were so dense that isolated bone fragments, snails, flakes, and burned rock were removed in order to allow exposure of clustered materials, identifiable bone, and diagnostic artifacts. Thus, the living surface illustrations and inventories are biased toward these materials. This bias can be partially overcome by looking at the cultural material frequencies for the unit-levels containing the living surfaces. It should be noted that without *in situ* exposure, living surfaces would show up as horizons (horizontal concentrations) in cultural material distributions.

The excavation of large contiguous blocks is necessary to recognize and expose living surfaces. The excavation areas at 41 JW 8 were large enough to detect two living surfaces; however, much larger excavations would be necessary to fully expose these "macro" features. Recent excavations at the Rowe Valley site in Williamson County by the Texas Archeological Society have demonstrated the value of exposing very large site areas (Prewitt 1982, 1983, 1984). Thus, it must be recognized that the interpretation of a living surface is limited by the lack of knowledge of the actual size of the feature and the surrounding and related "macro" and "micro" features.

FEATURE 7

Provenience: N75 E91 and E92, N76 E91 and E92, 99.68 to 99.62. The feature continued into the grid north, west, and south walls.

Dimensions: The dimensions were impossible to define due to limited excavation and problems with leaf cutter ants. The exposed area measured about 2 x 2.4 m.

Associations: Numerous artifacts and bones were found on the surface. These are shown in Figure 23, and the plotted items are identified in Table 27. The "bone bed" feature, uncovered in 1975, was located immediately grid south of the section of Feature 7 exposed in 1981.

Radiocarbon Assays: None.

Special Sampling: Two matrix samples were collected.

Description: Feature 7 (Figs. 23 and 24), a concentration of cultural material, was partially sampled in 1981 and possibly in 1975. The 1975 testing of the "bone bed" and associated materials was not recorded as precisely as the 1981 excavations, but the 1981 feature description is incomplete due to problems with a leaf cutter ant bed. Therefore, the following discussion is based only on a partial sample of the feature and limited information extracted from the 1975 field notes.

It is apparent that Units N75 E92 and N76 E92 were centered on an extremely dense concentration of cultural material found primarily within a 6-cm-thick layer. Within this concentration were a large number of bone fragments;

TABLE 27. PLOTTED ITEMS ASSOCIATED WITH FEATURE 7

Lot Number	Item Number*	Elevation	Identification
353-1	1	99.65	deer phalange
353-2	2	99.66	ceramic body sherd
353-3	3	99.64	ceramic body sherd
353-4	4	99.64	Anseriformes, left humerus shaft removed by cutting
353-6	5	99.66	cottontail rabbit left maxilla
353-7	6	99.61	deer metapodial epiphysis
354-1	7	99.66	mammal bone fragment
354-2	8	99.67	mussel shell pendant
354-3	9	99.68	ceramic body sherds (5)
354-4	10	99.67	irregular biface (FB1)
354-5	11	99.65	jackrabbit left scapula
354-6	12	99.64	deer right talus
354-7	13	99.63- 99.67	end scraper (U1), modified secondary flake (MD3), a snake vertebra, a fish vertebra, and three mammal bone fragments
343-1	14	99.68	tooth fragment**
343-2	15	99.64	bone fragment**
343-3	16	99.64	bone fragment**
343-4	17	99.66	bone fragment**, biface fragment (FB3), and an incised mussel shell fragment
343-5	18	99.63	bone fragment** and body sherd
343-6	19	99.64	bone fragments**
***	20	99.70	end scraper (U1)
***	21	99.67	core
454-1	22	99.60	bison left tibia fragment
454-2	23	99.54	bison-sized fragments
454-3	24	99.57	antelope lumbar vertebra
454-4	25	99.55	bison-sized fragments
454-5	26	-----	bison-sized fragments

*Items 1-21 are plotted in Figure 23. The lot numbers are used elsewhere in this report to provenience these artifacts.

**Faunal materials from Lot 343 were not analyzed.

***Items 20 and 21 were recovered from N76 E93, a unit which was not completed due to ant problems and is not otherwise analyzed. These items are not mentioned or inventoried elsewhere in this report.

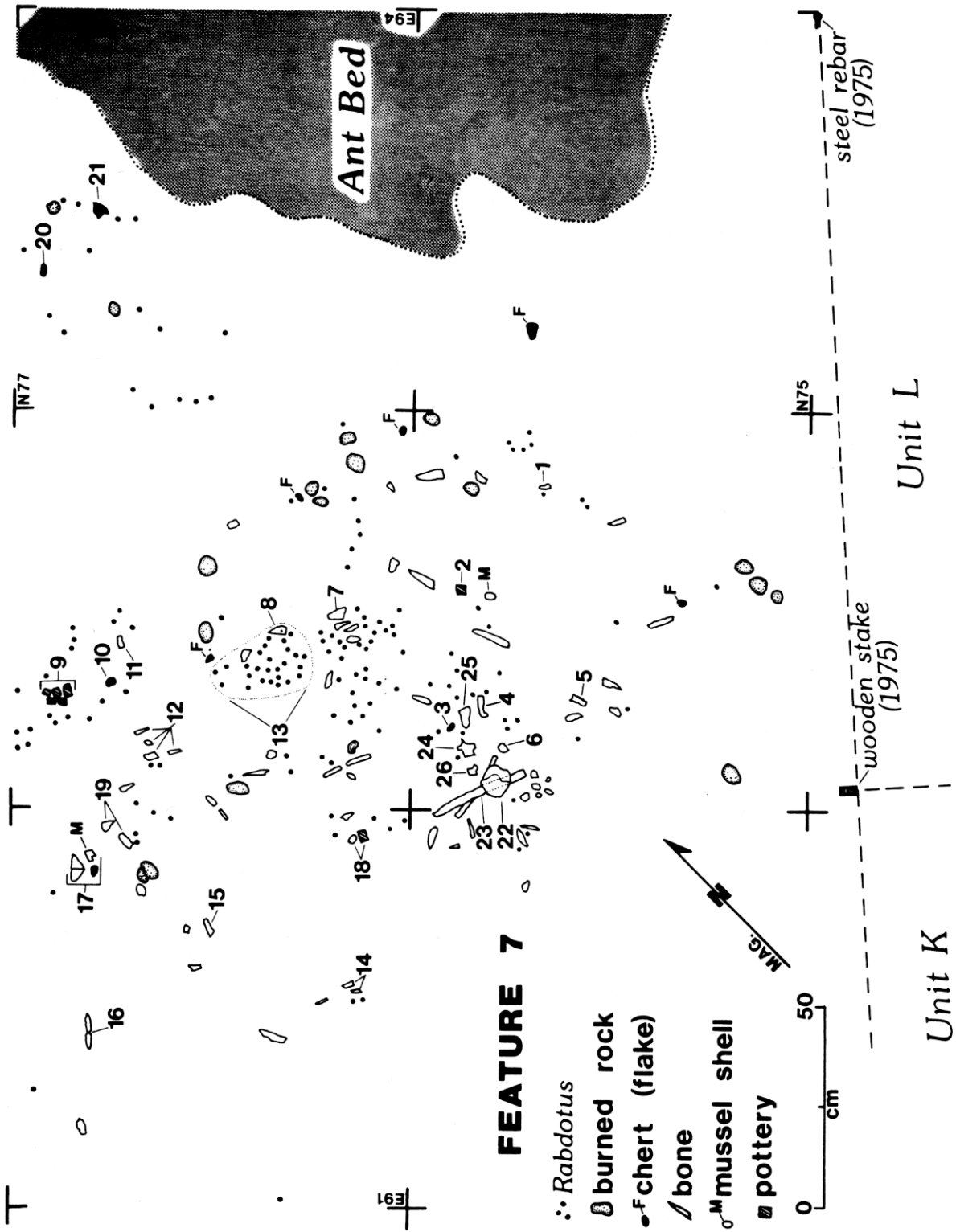


Figure 23. Plan Map of Feature 7. Numbered items are listed in Table 27.



Figure 24. **View of Feature 7.** Note concentrated **Rabdotus** and fragmented bone.

very large amounts of **Rabdotus** snails, including three clusters; a mussel shell pendant, a piece of incised mussel shell; pottery sherds; biface fragments; and many modified and unmodified flakes. In addition, a small cluster of bone elements was uncovered within and below the concentrated layer.

The small bone cluster was not given a separate feature designation, however, it was similar to the formally recorded cluster features. The bones represent a bison-sized large mammal and are badly fragmented. One bison bone and a pronghorn bone were identified with this fragmented cluster. The upper portions of several of the bone fragments were first detected at the same level as Feature 7.

Four of the mammal fragments found in Feature 7 (items 7 and 13) are spirally fractured and have butcher marks. This suggests that the area may have been used for butchering animals.

Several hundred **Rabdotus** land snails were recovered in association with Feature 7. Three clusters were apparent. The central cluster (Fig. 23, item 13) had 36 large snails, several artifacts, and bones. The **Rabdotus** clusters are comparable to those found within Feature 11.

Two incised mussel shell artifacts and a goose or duck humerus with a cut and snap brake, indicating the shaft was purposefully removed, were recovered from Feature 7. One of the mussel shell artifacts is a complete pendant (Fig. 12,d). The other is a fragment that may represent manufacturing debris. It is possible that the Feature 7 area was a mussel and bone working area.

Interpretation: Feature 7 is thought to represent a living surface or activity area deposited in a single occupational episode. This living surface is associated with the small cluster of bison bone found within and below the feature and possibly with the "bone bed" found in 1975. The "bone bed" was located about 1.5 to 2 m to the east of the central area of Feature 7 (as exposed). It is suggested that the "bone bed" was a large bone disposal feature (cluster), i.e., a small erosional gully filled with butchered bone (mostly bison) and covered. Feature 7 may be the center of the butchering activity area from which the "bone bed" materials were derived. Due to the aforementioned problems, this interpretation must be considered tentative.

FEATURE 11

Provenience: Across most of the western two-thirds of the main Wagon Trail Area excavation block between approximately 99.95 and 99.85 m in elevation.

Dimensions: The defined portion of Feature 11 covers an area measuring 6 x 5 m (NW-SE x SW-NE). The living surface obviously continues to the south and west. Most of the plotted items were found between 99.92 and 99.88 on a more or less level surface.

Associations: Features 6 and 10 occurred within Feature 11 and are considered to be contemporaneous. Numerous artifacts were recovered from