

Interpretation: The feature is interpreted as some sort of fire-related cultural feature remnant, such as a weathered hearth or a stone boiling dump. Due to the absence of cultural associations, little significance is attached to Feature 4. It is possible that Feature 4 is the result of an earlier occupation at the site.

## FEATURE 5

Provenience: N109 E98 and N109 E97, Levels 2 and 3, 99.87-99.75.

Dimensions: Approximately 40 cm (N-S) x 50 cm (E-W).

Associations: An expanding stem arrow point (A2:1) and a body sherd were found in direct association with the feature along with several unburned bone and mussel shell fragments, 10 *Rabdotus* snails, 3 *Helicina* snails, and a tertiary flake.

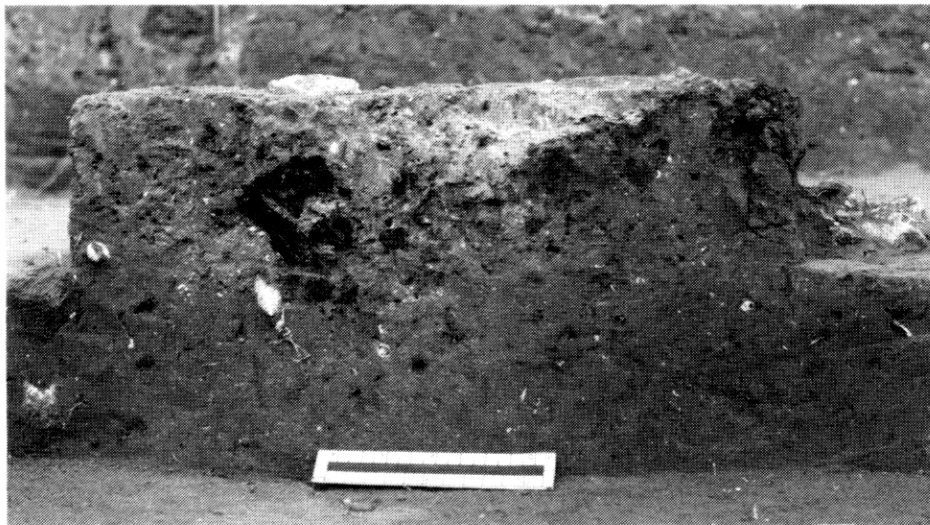
Radiocarbon Assays: TX-4652,  $520 \pm 90$  (see Section VII: Radiocarbon Assays).

Special Sampling: Four matrix samples were collected from various areas of the feature. Considerable quantities of cultural materials were recovered from the two samples which were water separated. Feature 5 was one of the trial cases for the axial interval sampling as described in Section VII (Soils Chemistry). High quantities of phosphate were found within and immediately adjacent to Feature 5 as is shown in Figure 15.

Description: Feature 5 (Fig. 20,b) was a small, tight cluster of charcoal-stained soil, ash, charcoal, and associated cultural material. In plan the feature was irregularly circular; the feature profile revealed a 12-cm-deep pit in which the cultural materials were located (Fig. 20,a). The upper portion (detection surface) of Feature 5 had an outer ring of charcoal-stained soil, and in the center was a very loose ash lens. The pit sloped from grid east to form a slightly undercut outline which reached a maximum depth on the grid west side of the feature. In addition to the charcoal-stained soil and ash lens, concentrations of intense charcoal staining, baked clay (not shown in profile), and large intact chunks of wood charcoal were in the pit fill. The feature matrix was further distinguished by mottling (snail, burned rock, and bone fragments).

Four faunal species contributed elements to Feature 5: coyote, cottontail rabbit, a small unidentified fish, and an unidentified large mammal (probably deer or bison). In addition, a number of unburned whole and fragmented *Rabdotus* land snails were recovered. The charred wood from the feature could only be identified as some type of hardwood. A charred seed coat was recovered during flotation of the lower feature fill, however, it could not be identified.

Interpretation: Feature 5 is believed to be the remains of a small fire hearth. The hearth appears to have been contained within a small pit. The presence of several pockets of bone and baked clay adjacent to but not within



a



b

Figure 20. **Views of Feature 5.** a, view to the northwest of the cross section of feature along dashed line shown in b; b, overhead view of pedestaled feature.

the pit suggests reuse of the feature at least once. The fact that the pit fill appears layered and undisturbed suggests that it was not cleaned out after the final use. The absence of intense soil discoloration around the pit edges and the small size of the feature suggest comparatively little repeated use in contrast to Feature 6.

## FEATURE 6

Provenience: N106 E97 and N106 E96, Levels 2 and 3, 99.96 (detection surface) to 99.88 (bottom of lowest plotted artifact); small pit below main feature extends to a depth of 99.81.

Dimensions: Approximately 80 cm (N-S) x 130 cm (E-W).

Associations: Numerous artifacts were directly associated with Feature 6: an arrow point fragment, two body sherds, an end scraper, two biface fragments, one trimmed tertiary flake, two modified secondary flakes, a modified decorticate chip, and various faunal elements. The 17 items that were piece plotted in Feature 6 are listed in Table 25 and shown in Figure 21. Additional flakes, sherds, and arrow points were recovered at the same elevation range in close association with the feature. Feature 6 was located on the east edge of Feature 11, the apparent living surface that was exposed in the western half of the Wagon Trail excavation area. Features 2A, 2B, and 3 were located just east of Feature 6 at lower depths. Feature 10 was located just south of Feature 6 and was first detected at about the same elevation.

Radiocarbon Assays: UGa-4541 ( $525 \pm 65$ ), TX-4653 ( $970 \pm 60$ ), TX-4886 ( $1090 \pm 110$ ), UGa-5289 ( $655 \pm 70$ ), and UGa-5280 ( $930 \pm 70$ ); all are uncorrected assays. See Section VII (Radiocarbon Assays) for a detailed discussion of these widely varying assays.

Special Sampling: Eleven matrix samples and seven charcoal samples were collected from various portions of the feature. In lieu of an axial interval sampling (due to the fact that much of the surrounding excavation area was already excavated below the feature level), a series of samples was collected along a grid north-south transect (grid line E97). Phosphate testing of the various matrix areas of Feature 6 showed comparatively high readings, ranging from 649 to 1597 ppm.

Description: A complicated fire feature, Feature 6 was composed of overlapping charcoal, *Rabdotus* snail shells, ash, baked clay, and charcoal-stained soil concentrations within and around a roughly circular cluster of burned rocks (Fig. 21). In addition, a small pit extended below the main feature level on the northeast edge of the feature.

Feature 6 was exposed, excavated, and removed during a one-month period (November 18-December 18). This rather lengthy excavation period was due to the following: (1) the feature was extended into two units and four levels; (2) we wanted to expose the entire western half of the Wagon Trail Area to the same level (thus we were able to confidently tie in Feature 6 with Feature 11); (3) we wanted to leave the feature exposed for the principal investigator, NPS, IAS-D and SCS representatives, and the news media to see;