

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

---

OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AT LA 902, THE FINE ARTS  
BUILDING, SANTA FE COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Charles A. Hannaford

ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES 148

---

SANTA FE

[1997]

NEW MEXICO

## CONTENTS

Introduction .....	1
Methods .....	1
Results .....	1

### Figures

1. Project vicinity map .....	3
2. Plan of excavation .....	4
3. North profile of excavation .....	4

## INTRODUCTION

On April 27 and 28, 1994, Chuck Hannaford of the Office of Archaeological Studies, Museum of New Mexico, monitored the digging of a trench adjacent to the northeast corner of the Fine Arts Building (LA 902) in Santa Fe, New Mexico (Fig. 1). The trench was necessary to expose the basement wall in a problem area of moisture penetration. Curt Shaafstma had summarized the cultural sensitivity of the area and the potential for encountering cultural remains in the historic district of downtown Santa Fe. The suggested treatment plan for the excavation was archaeological monitoring for the undisturbed deposits.

## METHODS

The final excavation measured 1.95 by 1.95 m (Fig. 2). The excavation was dug with shovels by two crew members of Borrego Construction. Chuck Hannaford monitored the digging and examined each bucket of fill with a trowel. A 75 cm wide trench adjacent to the brick foundation of the Fine Arts Building was excavated to a depth of about 2.40 m. A concrete foundation footing was encountered at this point. The concrete footing extends east an unknown distance. The entire trench was contained disturbed fill comprised mainly of concrete construction debris originating most likely from the demolition of Fort Marcy buildings during the construction of the Fine Arts Building.

## RESULTS

The eastern 1.20 m of the excavation was dug to a depth of about 1.15 m below the surface and served as a safety step-back for the deeper trench along the foundation (Fig. 3). Two utility lines pass through the excavation (Fig. 1). A 50 cm wide water-line trench dug to a depth of about 1.50 m passes through the center of the excavation from east to west. In addition, a 50 cm wide sewage line trench dug to a depth of about 1.35 m passes through the excavation from north to south. This left two roughly 75 by 75 cm undisturbed squares in the northeast and southeast corners of the excavation. The fill in these areas was characterized by dark humus soil typical of downtown cultural deposits, but no stratigraphy was recognized in the small exposed areas. No evidence of architecture was encountered.

In summary, the 1.95 by 1.95 m excavation was comprised primarily of cultural fill disturbed by the foundation trench of the Fine Arts Building and by the two utility lines. The dark humus soil contained a moderate quantity of butchered animal bone and pottery fragments. Pottery types include a minority of Santa Fe Black-on-white sherds from a prehistoric component, but mainly Historic period types representative of the Spanish Colonial and Fort Marcy periods. The deposits are thoroughly mixed with modern glass and plastic throughout the deposit. The fill can be characterized as domestic refuse, with construction refuse limited to the probable Fort Marcy concrete fragments deposited in the foundation trench of the Fine Arts Building. A small collection of animal bone and pottery was collected for use in Education Outreach activities. The small segments of undisturbed fill in the northeast

and southeast corners of the excavation reveal the presence of domestic refuse at least 1.15 m in depth. Considering the age of the refuse in this excavation, from the founding of Santa Fe through the Fort Marcy period, future excavations may encounter stratified deposits if larger areas are exposed.

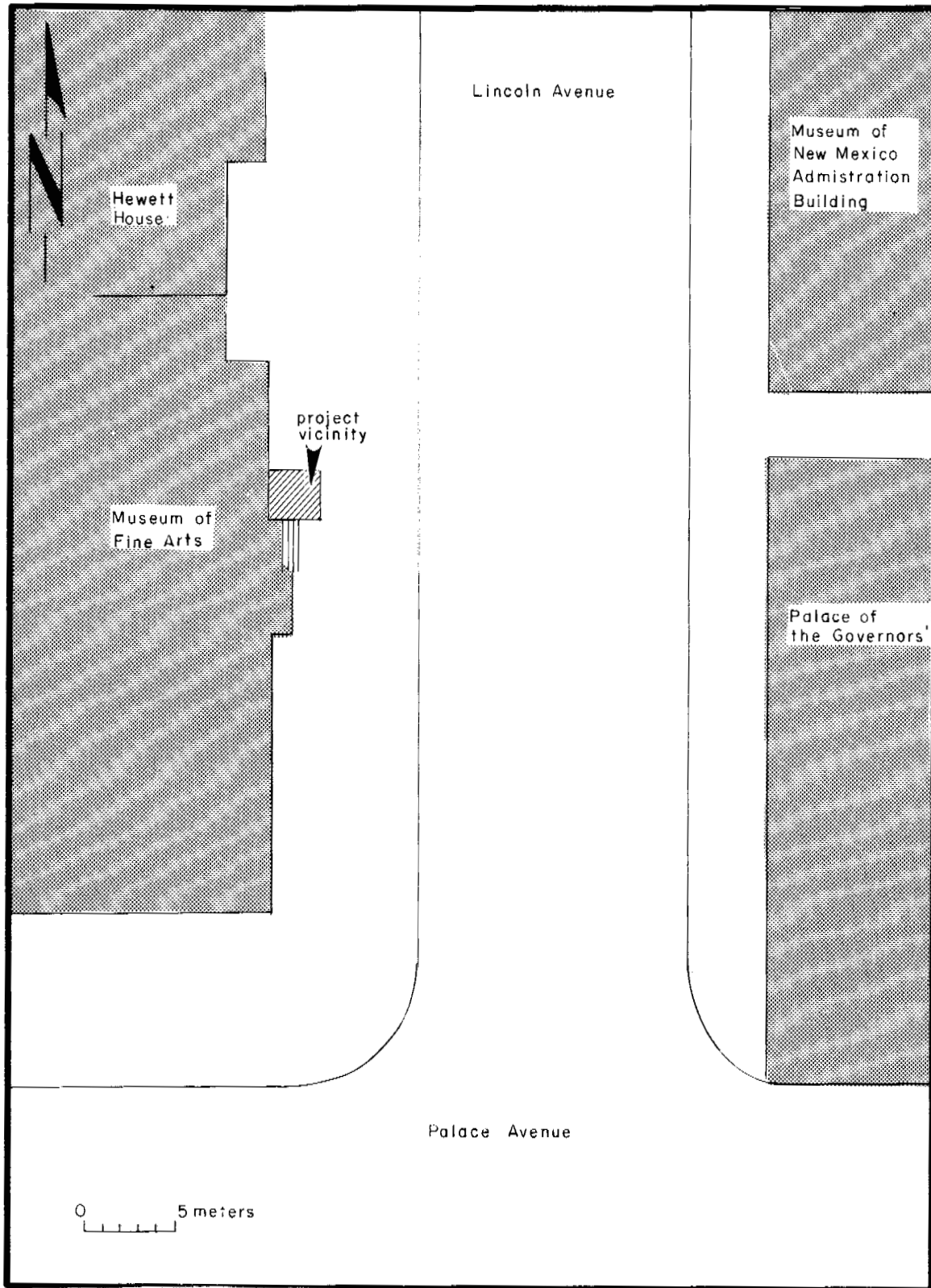


Figure 1. Project vicinity map.

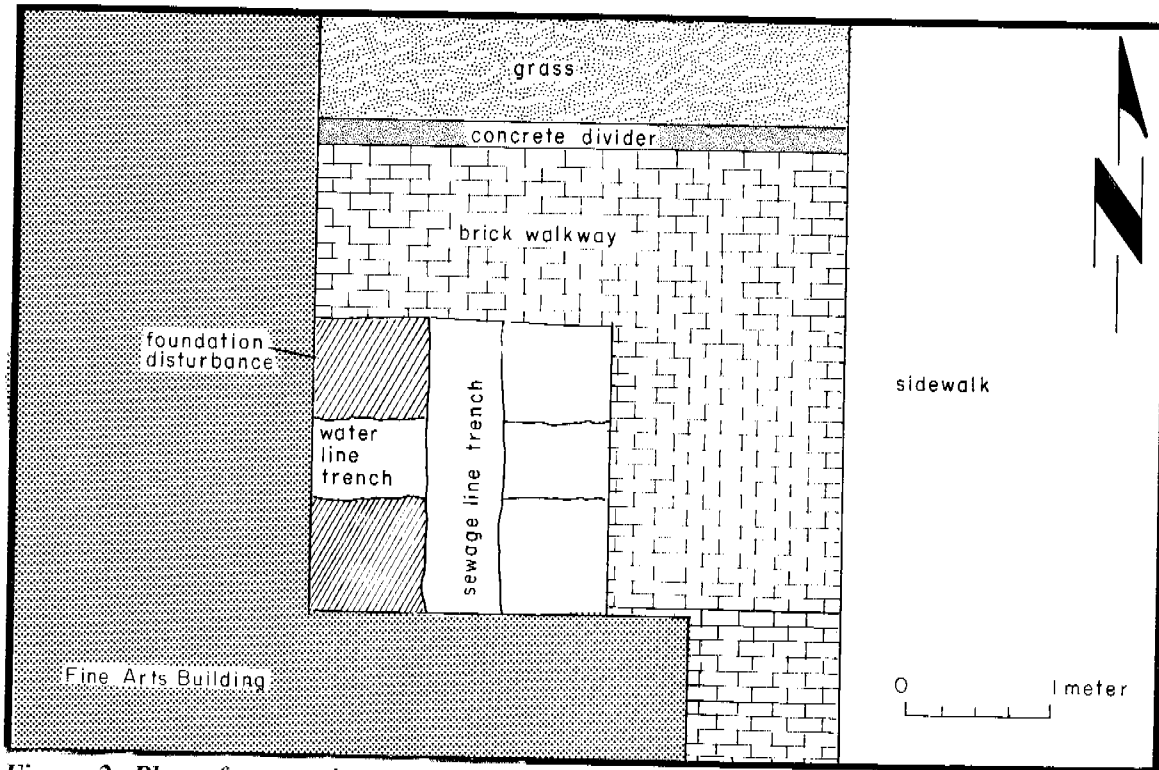


Figure 2. Plan of excavation.

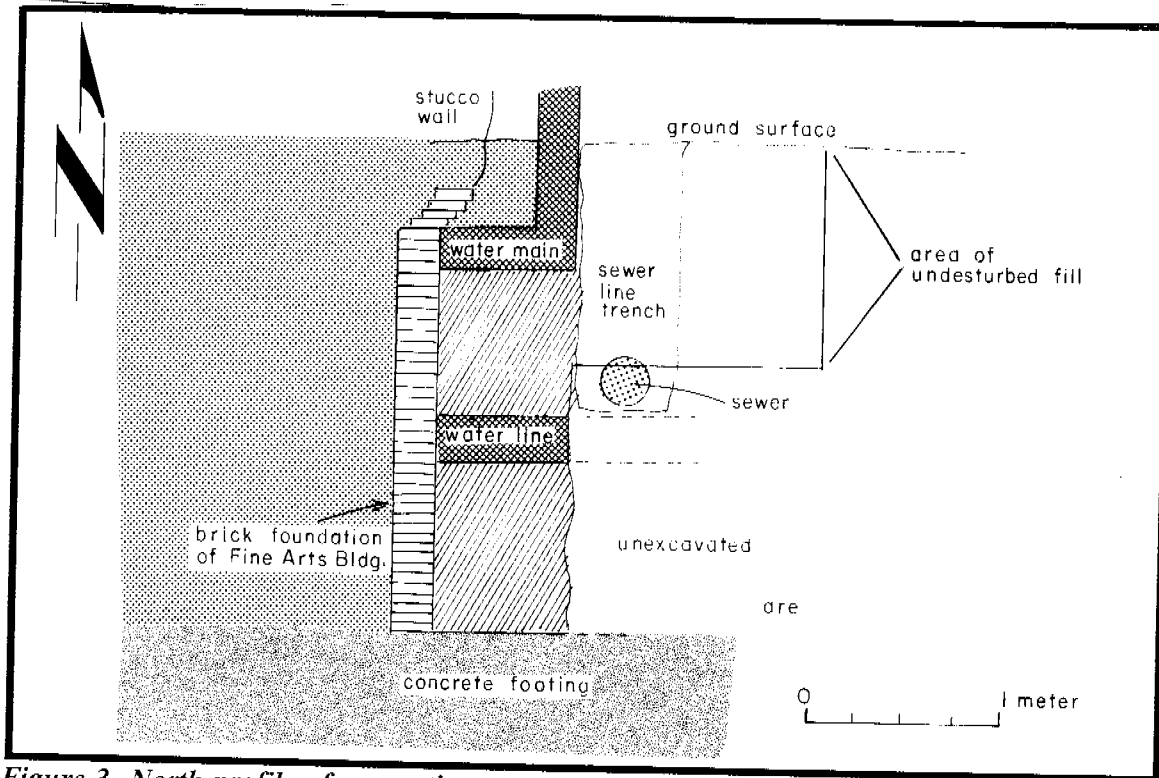


Figure 3. North profile of excavation.