

Anthropology 1030: Introduction to Archaeology

Project Based Research Assignments #2

Mapping and Taphonomy

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6/20/2011 - 6/20/102011

PROJECT: PBR # 2 Mapping and Taphonomy

Date: 6/20/2011

Site Location: Living Room at house in Utah

Altitude: North Salt Lake at 4624 feet in elevation.

Exhibit: 100259:35 (Site Map)

Low-Level Theory (Item Placement, Behaviors & Findings)

A room at the site (historically defined as a “living room” in the 21st century) was mapped for review and testing of Low, Middle and High-Level theories.

- 1) **Site measurement and description:** The Living Room was 13 feet x 12.8 feet, having walls on three sides and a window on the south side was field measured. Construction materials were of wood, insulation and sheetrock. Floor was carpeted with underlayment of OSB wood.
- 2) **Room Contents:** The follow items were documented.

Couch: 8 ft x 3 ft on west wall. **Materials:** Wood and fabric. **Behaviors:** *Wood carvings and colorful fabric patterns show cultural concern with artistic design and personal creativity*

Ottoman: 3 ft x 3 ft center of room. **Materials:** Wood and fabric. **Behaviors:** *Same as couch*

Chair 1: 3 ft x 3 ft on center of room. **Materials:** Wood and fabric. **Behaviors:** *Same as couch*

Chair 2: 3 ft x 3 ft on center of room. **Materials:** Wood and fabric. **Behaviors:** *Same as couch*

Credenza: 5 ft x 1.6 ft on west wall. **Materials:** Wood and fabric. **Behaviors:**

This furniture contained cutlery (perhaps for a more formal entertainment of guests) and two 5"x 10" metal frames on top with pictures of the inhabitants

Plant: 2 ft x 2 ft on west wall. **Materials:** Wood and ceramic. **Behaviors:** *The plant inferred the human need for a connection with nature*

Middle-Level Theory

Color coordination and furniture style indicate that the inhabitants appreciated the practice of selecting objects of their affection. Colors were bright reds and yellows, indicating the inhabitants to be possibly free spirited and positive in nature. Pictures on the credenza illustrate a family lived at this location and that they were religious in nature.

High-Level Theory

The room appears to be a more formal gathering location where the species engaged in leisure activities. Perhaps reading, practicing of music and interaction with other members of their species. This species seems to keep this room clean which may incite a high level of appreciation for the location. The furniture seemed to show little wear. Was the room used rarely? Was it possibly for some religious purpose? Perhaps it was because they simply had other, more practical dwelling spaces where eating and rearing of children took place. More low-level research will need to be performed to clarify. Finally, what happened to the family and indeed the entire human race...no skeletal remains have been found.

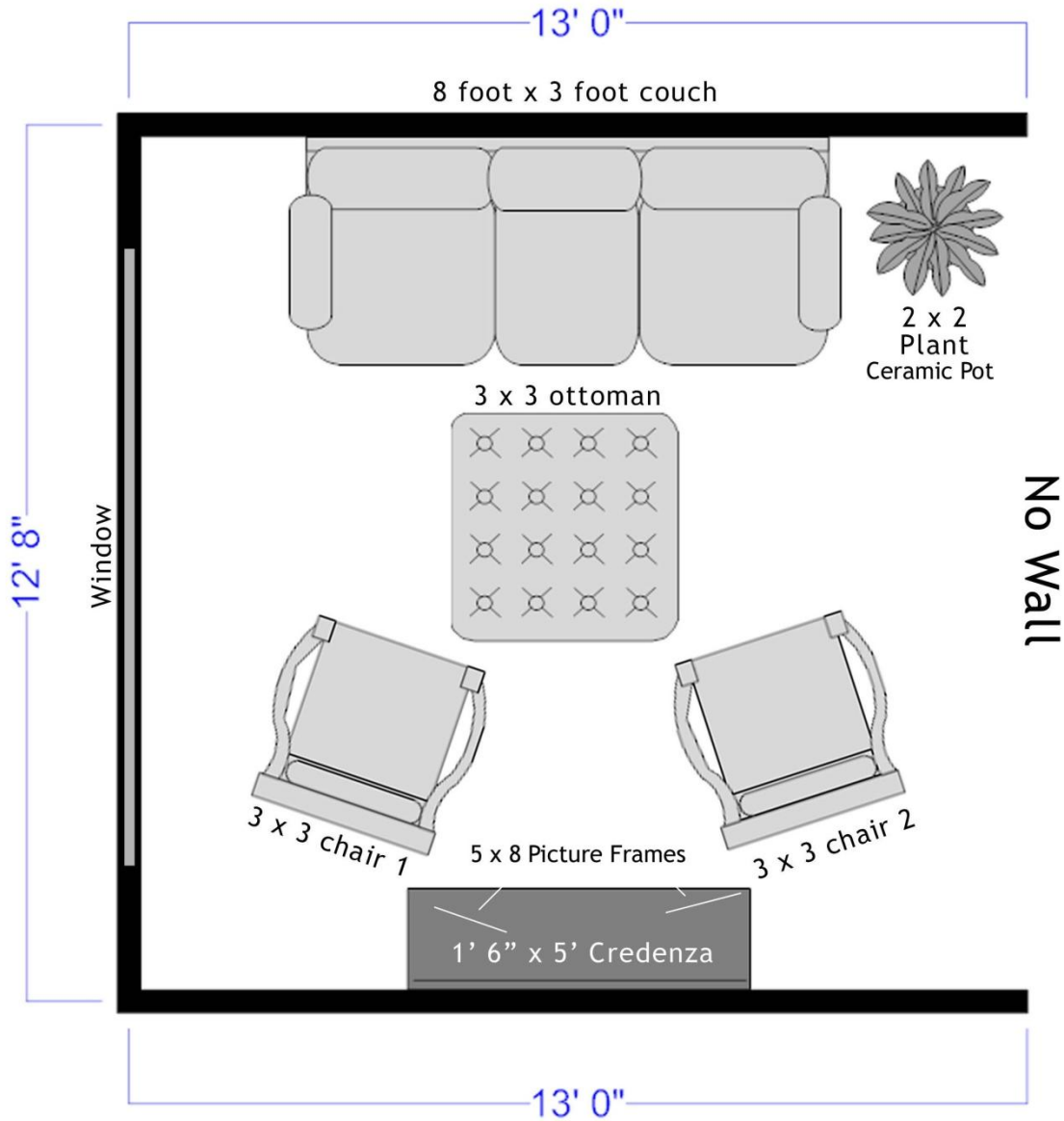
PROJECT: PBR # 2 Mapping and Taphonomy

Date: 6/20/2011

Site Location: Living Room at home in Utah

Altitude: 4624 ft above sea level

Exhibit: 100259:35 (Site Map)



PROJECT: PBR # 2 Mapping and Taphonomy

Date: 6/20/3011

Site Location: Living Room at house in Utah

Altitude: North Salt Lake at 4624 feet in elevation.

See Attached Exhibit: 95-387-55000 (Site Map)

Low-Level Theory (Item Placement, Behaviors & Findings)

The remains of a dwelling were mapped for review and testing of Low, Middle and High-Level theories.

- 1) **Site measurement and description:** Room approximately 12.8 feet x (unknown), having minuet visual impressions of walls on three sides. Construction materials may have been of wood and gypsum. Evidence of early stage wood petrification existed and particle residue of gypsum was encased in the core sample bored from the wood artifacts.
- 2) **Room Contents:** The following items were documented.

Decorative Wood Components: LOCATION – 1: A wood element with a scrolled end (2 feet x 3" wide x 3" deep), 2 wedge shaped piece about 6" in length 2" diameter were found at west end of the site in mounded heap. **Materials:** Wood (early stages of petrification). LOCATION – 2: A wood element with very worn leafy carvings (3 feet x 3" high x 2" deep), found in the center of the site in mounded heap. **Materials:** Wood (early stages of petrification). LOCATION – 3: flat weathered rectangular artifact (4 feet x 18" wide x 3" deep), found at east end of the site in mounded heap. **Materials:** Wood (early stages of petrification).

Behaviors: *Carvings in wood show cultural concern with artistic design. Possibly religious objects or merely decorative furniture components?*

Ceramic Components: Fragments on west wall. **Materials:** Ceramic **Behaviors:** *Unknown Use; possibly for decorative purposes*

Metal Components: 20 pieces of long but corroded metal objects with sharp or scooped ends; possibly a set of eating utensils. Several 6" pieces of rectangular metal that can piece together; possibly to frame another item. **Materials:** Silver, Stainless Steel **Behaviors:** *Perhaps this room was for eating purposes or a religious center where sacrifices were made and eaten.*

Middle-Level Theory

It is unknown what the purpose of this room was, based on the current artifacts found. In comparison to other preserved site, the conclusion may be drawn that it was a bedroom or other living quarter in a private dwelling.

High-Level Theory

The facts of volcanic ash indicate that the inhabitants of the dwelling had to leave the area, however, the absence of skeletal remains at the site or indeed anywhere on the planet has perplexed our advancement of knowledge regarding the human race. How could such a promising and evolving race of creatures simply disappear, without a trace?

PROJECT: PBR # 2 Mapping and Taphonomy

Date: 6/20/3011

Site Location: Living Room at home in Utah

Altitude: 4695 ft above sea level

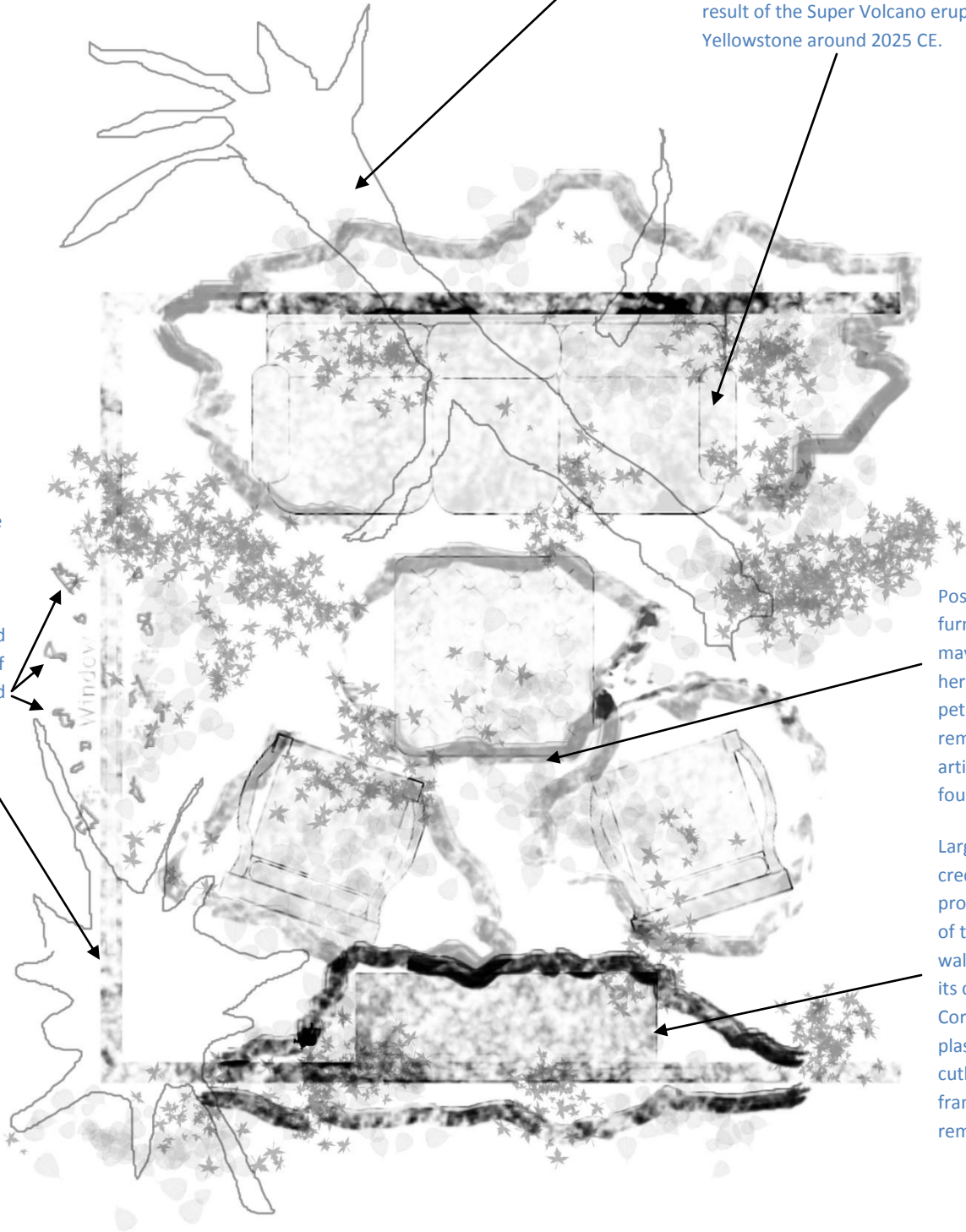
Exhibit: 95-387-55000 (Site Map)

Topped Tree across former location of couch that had soils mounded in its footprint. Only materials found were some remains of wood couch, preserved in ash. This occurred as a result of the Super Volcano eruption in Yellowstone around 2025 CE.

Large tree has grown in corner of room. Minimal wood fragments in the early stages of petrification remain at wall impressions; and broken shards of glass were found

Possible other furniture remains may have located here. Minuet petrified wood remains with visible artistic carvings were found in 3 locations

Larger portion of credenza was found, probably as a result of the strength of walnut woods used in its construction. Corroded knobs with plastic crystals, cutlery and rectangle frame artifacts remain.



PROJECT: PBR # 2 Mapping and Taphonomy

Date: 6/20/102011

Site Location: Living Room at home in Utah

Altitude: 4815 ft above sea level – 1000 ft below ice level

Exhibit: $A = \pi r^2 - \infty$ ЖЙГяНзФ-00001 (Site Illustration)

Low-Level Theory (Item Placement, Behaviors & Findings)

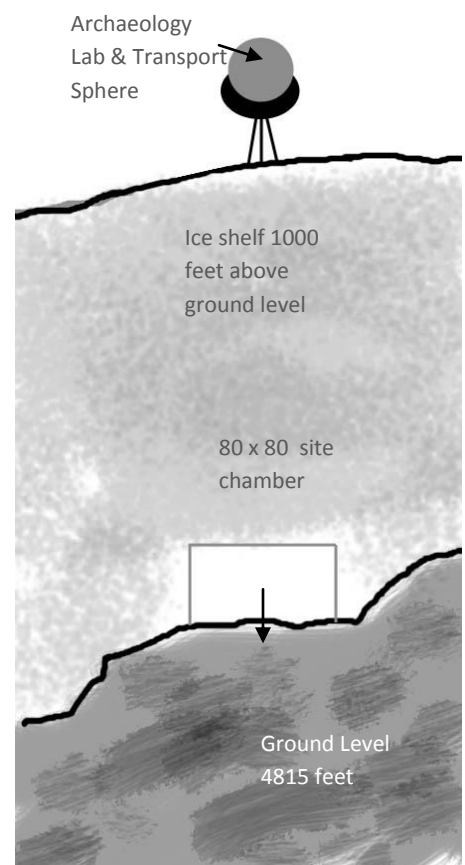
Earth has now relapsed into another Ice Age (brought on and exacerbated by 21st century global warming and then a rapid temperature drop after the super volcanic eruption north of the site). The site is now below 1000 feet of ice.

The local mountain range has risen approximately 191 feet due to tectonic plate shifting and a lowering of the sea level due to ice age (therefore the site elevation is now at approximately 4815 feet above sea level).

A Terra-5 Detonation Field Chamber was tele-ported to the site location to melt away an 80 x 80 chamber of ice above the site.

Researcher tele-ported to the site and made the following observations.

The site had been decimated under the pressure of ice for approximately 99,975 years. Some petrified wood elements having the appearance of carved decoration and some smooth fragment pieces of plastic were the only artifacts found at the site.



$A = \pi r^2 - \infty$ ЖЙГяНзФ-00001 (Site Illustration)

Middle-Level Theory

The species that created these artifacts must have had the desire to make objects of their affection in artistically creative means. Indeed, other sites at major population centers on this planet shown the species to be highly intelligent, but the question remains. What happened to the human race?

Side note: Taphonomy research at the site showed fossilized bones of a colony of mammals with a nesting hole underneath the petrified remains of approximately 3 feet length x 10"width x 2" depth.

High-Level Theory

No human remains were found at the site. One might presume that the humans originally inhabiting the site may have migrated southward to a more temperate climate before the final causes of their extinction were realized.

The human population may have been at the early stages of evolved intelligence and civilization (in comparison to the evolution standards of the galactic community), yet not evolved enough to deal with a series of natural disasters brought on by their own procrastination to deal with environmental issues of the era, known from other site findings.