VI. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIVE METHODS

Following this section of the report are Figures 16 through 33 which illustrate the Lockville site during excavation and show the archaeological features and structural remains documented during the archaeological investigation. The archaeological data recovery effort involved several phases of site preparation and investigation. After initial definition of the area that was to be impacted by the road construction, and marking of NCDOT Right of Way and property, the site was cleared of vegetation. The lower part of the site was covered with a very dense cover of small trees, briars, and weedy undergrowth (Figures 4, 5 and 7). Members of the NCDOT archaeological team and NCDOT construction inspectors and surveyors cleared approximately 2500 square meters of the lower terrace with hand tools, including bush hooks and machetes, and a chain saw. The remainder of the lower terrace and parts of the hill slope north of the main retaining walls were cleared of thick undergrowth by a group of inmates from a North Carolina Correctional Facility, using bush hooks and axes. Care was taken to define and expose the faces of the stone retaining walls and other obvious landscape features (Figure 5 and 23). Following these efforts, the archaeological team, consisting of two to four people, used rakes, bush hooks, shovels and trowels to clear additional areas, including exposed brick walks and retaining walls, and other areas which required specific investigation or assessment (Figure 23).

The first phase of the archaeological investigation involved shovel testing of the lower terrace area. To guide the placement of shovel tests, a tile probe and 1-inch soil cores were used to determine the depth of topsoils and fill, and to test for possible subsurface foundations. Probing and shovel tests eventually led to the discovery of buried building piers made of large stones, and the existence of an former ground surface buried under modern fill. The piers were later found to be part of a store building (see description below).

Twelve excavation units were placed in selected areas within the lower terrace to assist in the exposure of buried foundations and piers and to examine the associated stratigraphy. These units varied in size from 1 by 2 feet to 2 by 9 feet (Figure 23 and 27). None of the excavated soil was screened, since it consisted of clay fill placed in the site in modern times (probably during construction of the extant U.S. Highway 1 bridge in the 1960s). At the conclusion of the archaeological investigation, the area around these excavation units was scraped out with grader cuts so more of the foundation stones could be exposed and a clear view of the original ground surface could be obtained. Units were hand excavated within the grader cut (Figure 27).

Because this project focused on the definition of structural remains (foundations, wall, etc.) and landscaping features, little effort was given to recovery of artifacts. While the investigators were prepared to document artifact bearing contexts if found, no attempt was made to avoid these contexts, and as expected, few artifacts were encountered. Those that were recovered were mostly twentieth century items with little or no interpretive value. Artifacts recovered were returned to the NCDOT archaeological offices where they were washed, labeled and catalogued. An artifact catalog number (96-080) was obtained from the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology (Raleigh) for the labeling of artifacts and curation purposes. A list of the recovered material is presented in Appendix 2.

Selected features and other potential feature areas within the site (brick walks, retaining structures, and depression features), some quite extensive in size, were exposed by removing ground vegetation and forest matting. This involved the use of various hand tools, including trowels, shovels, rakes, and bush hooks. Features were individually numbered or labeled (Lower Terrace, First Terrace, etc.). Shovel tests or small (24x24 inch) test units were excavated within depressions to determine whether fill was present.

Mapping of the site was accomplished with a contractor's level and stadia, augmented with hand-held tapes (Figures 23 and 24). The map was prepared by laying out a north-south base line through the center of the site and running reference (grid) lines perpendicular to the base line when needed. The locations of individual features and specific points on the ground were triangulated from the base line or from one of the perpendicular runs. Elevation readings were taken from points along the baseline and from various points throughout the site, using NCDOT construction elevation data as reference points. The construction data were keyed to absolute elevations, thus it was possible to assign absolute elevations to features and points within the site. A profile view of the archaeological study area was prepared to illustrate the rise in elevation through the area (Figure 24).

One of the conditions of the archaeological data recovery plan (see Appendix 1) was to have an archaeologist monitor construction activity within the area of the archaeological ruins at the conclusion of the archaeological investigation. This would insure that deeply buried or unexpected archaeological features or remains were not present within the site. The specific goal of the monitoring was to examine the areas behind the large stone retaining walls. This activity was conducted on September 9, 1996. No unanticipated archaeological features were uncovered. The thickness of the wall was confirmed and the location of the former steps was determined.

a

b

Figure 16. Photographs of Ramsey's Mill Area of Site, Including Wall Ruins and Terracing. (a) Spill pond in foreground; archaeologist on left is standing on lower foundation wall; archaeologist on right is on corner of upper foundation wall; (b) both archaeologists standing in line with upper (south) foundation wall.

a

b

c

Figure 17. Close-up Photographs of Ramsey's Mill Area of Site Showing Archaeological Features. (a) Upper foundation wall, trees mark corner; (b) close-up of corner foundation stones; (c) iron bands from mill works, probably retaining bands around mill stones.

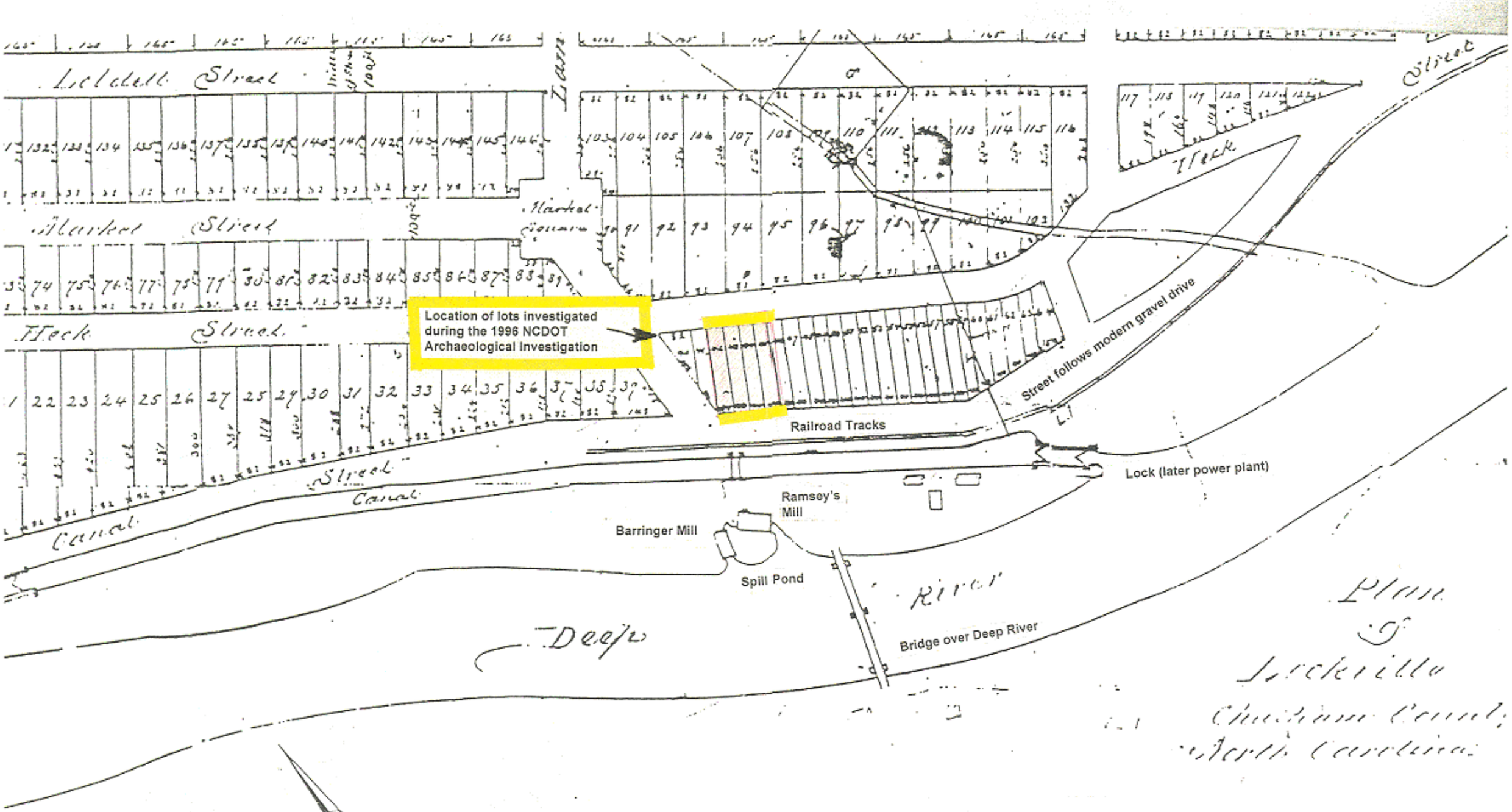


Figure 18. Detail of Lockville Plat, 1876, Showing Locations of Various Landscape Features.

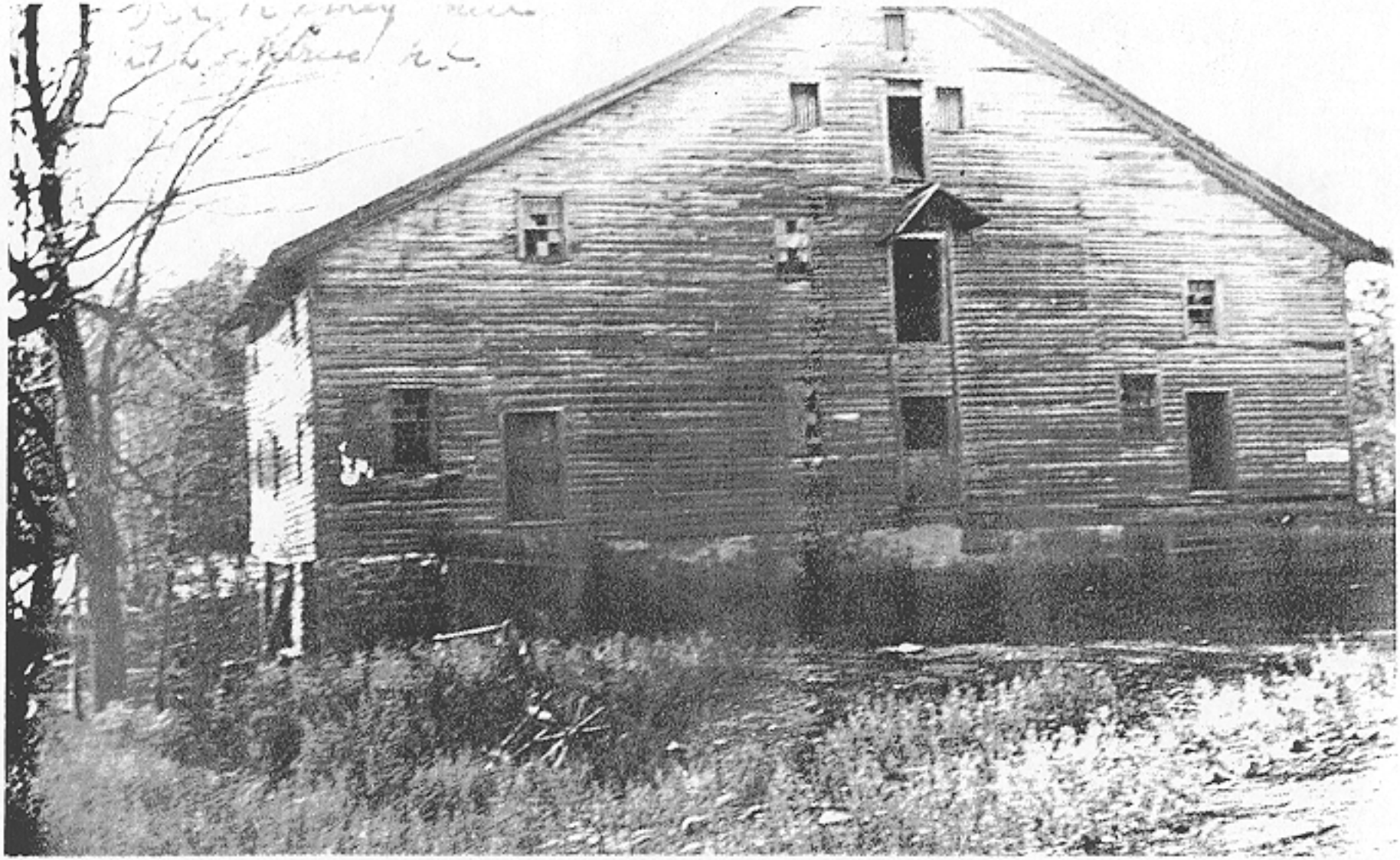
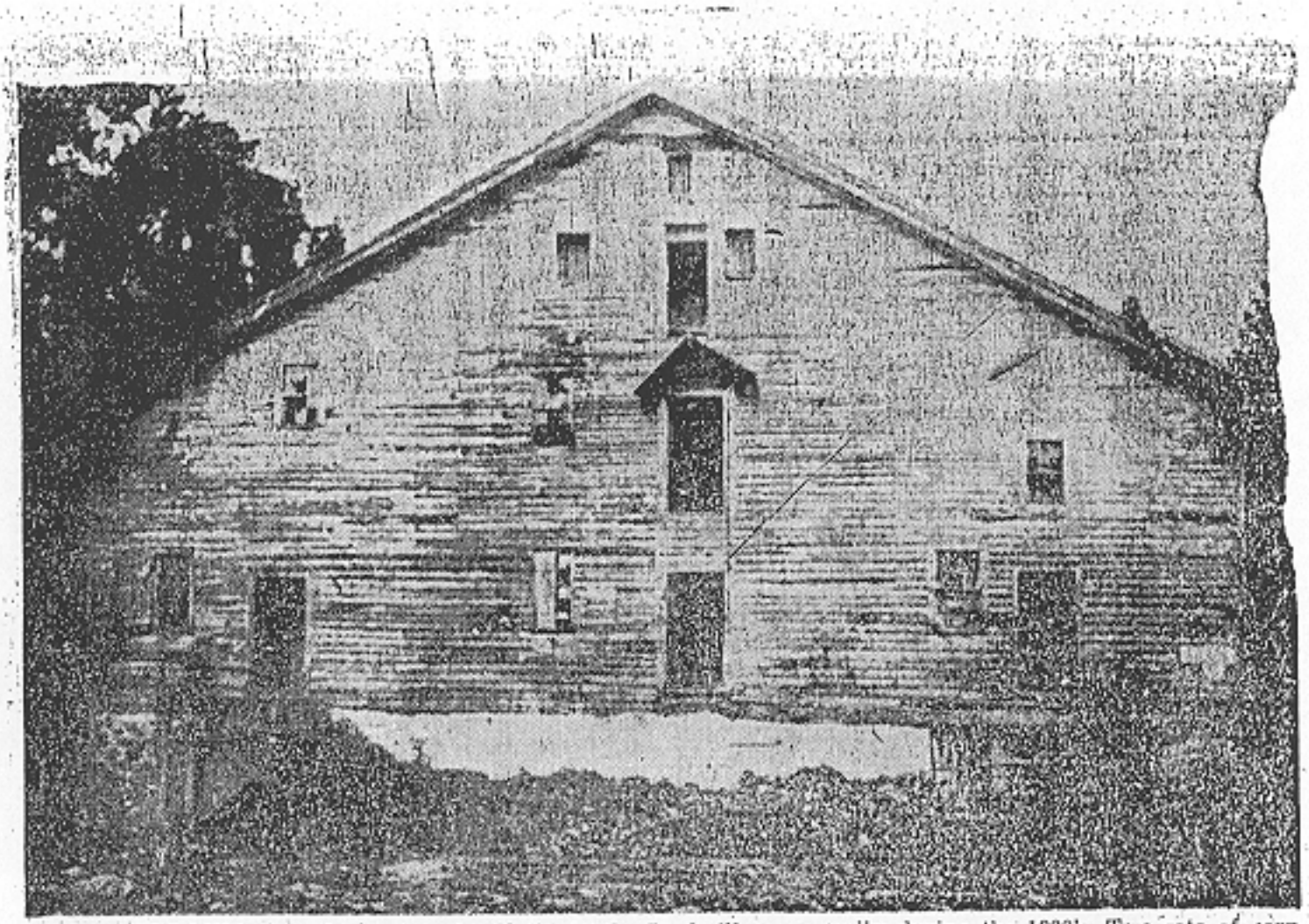


Figure 19. Ramsey's Mill Photograph, North Elevation (source: Hadley et al. 1976)



RAMSEY'S MILL was the center of activity in the Lockville community during the 1800's. Two sets of corn stones and two of wheat stones were kept busy grinding flour and corn meal the year round. The photog from which this picture was made belongs to Barringer.

Figure 20. Ramsey's Mill Photograph, North Elevation (source: Mudge 1957)

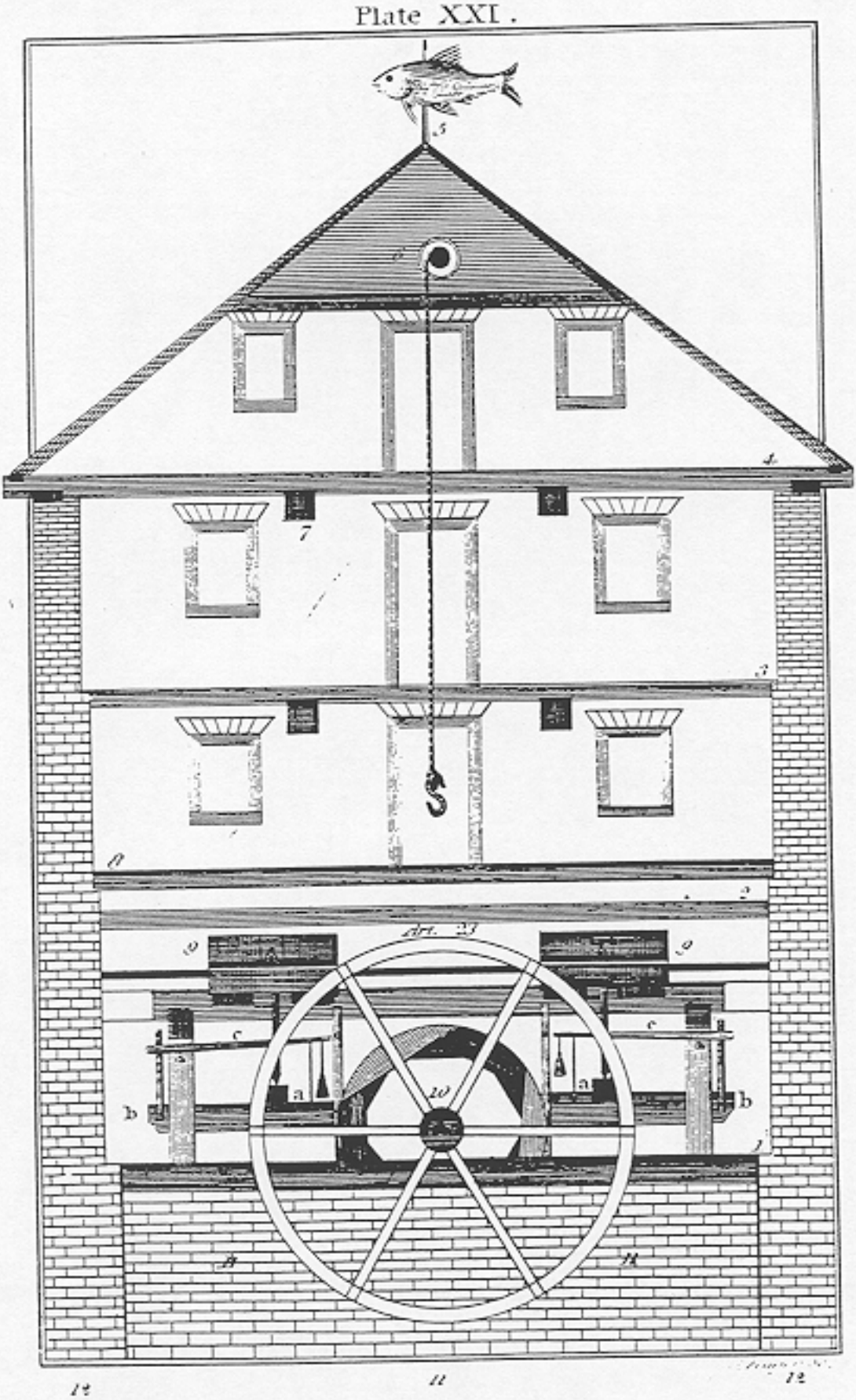


Figure 21. Drawing Illustrating Typical Nineteenth Century Mill Building (source:Evans 1850)

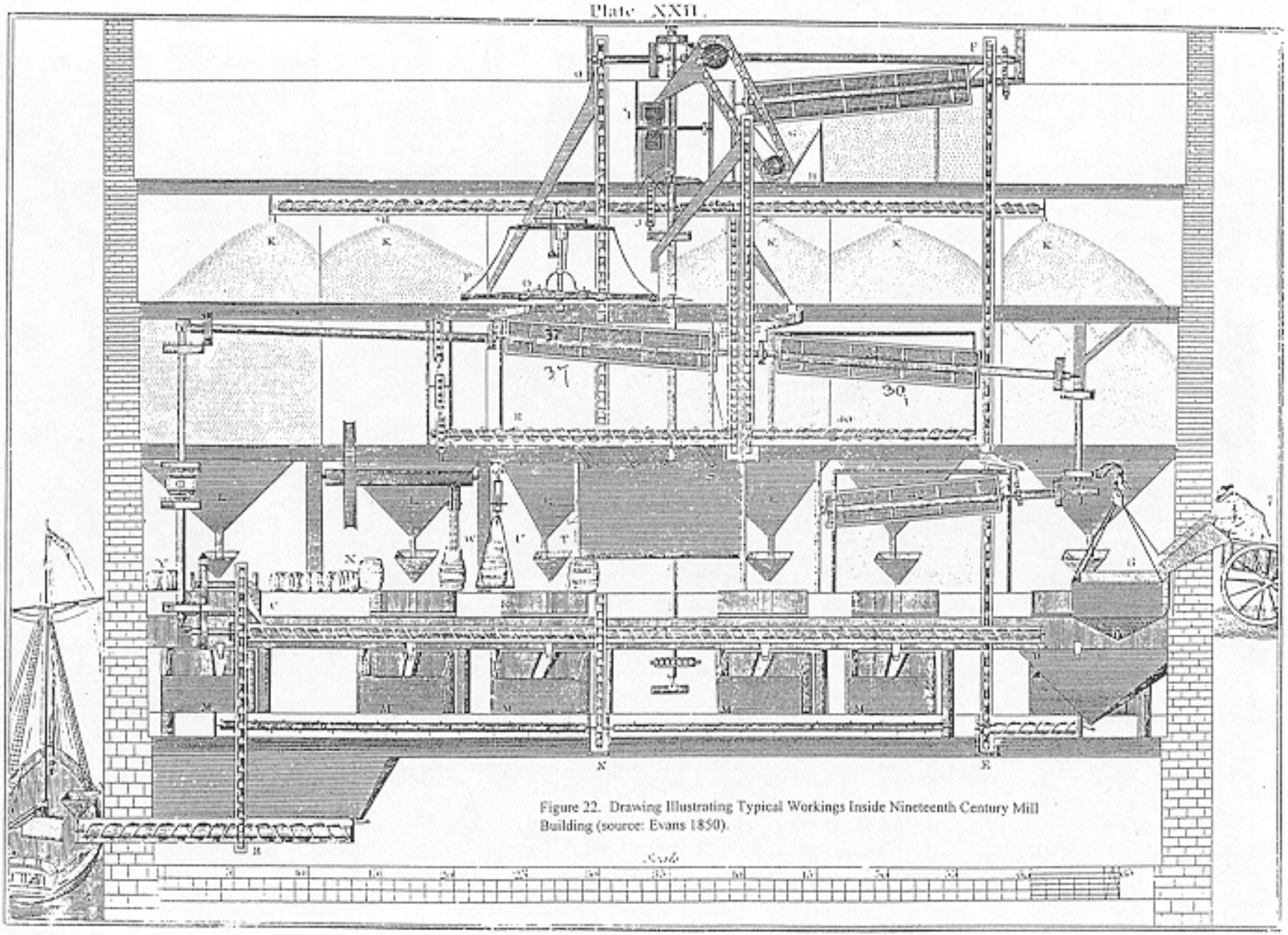


Figure 22. Drawing Illustrating Typical Workings Inside Nineteenth Century Mill Building (source: Evans 1850).

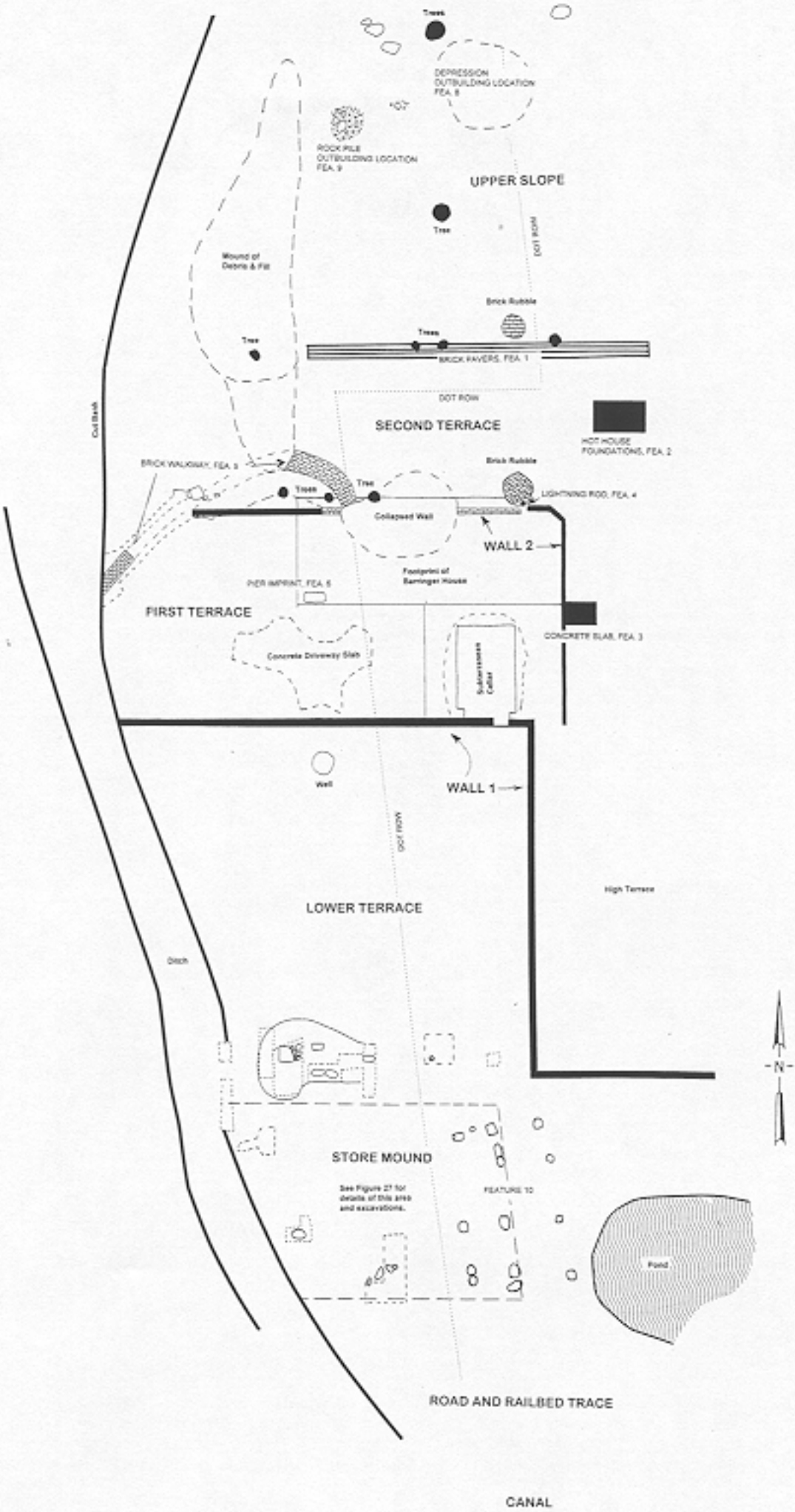


Figure 23. Plan Map of Archaeological Study Area Showing Major Features and Excavation Areas.

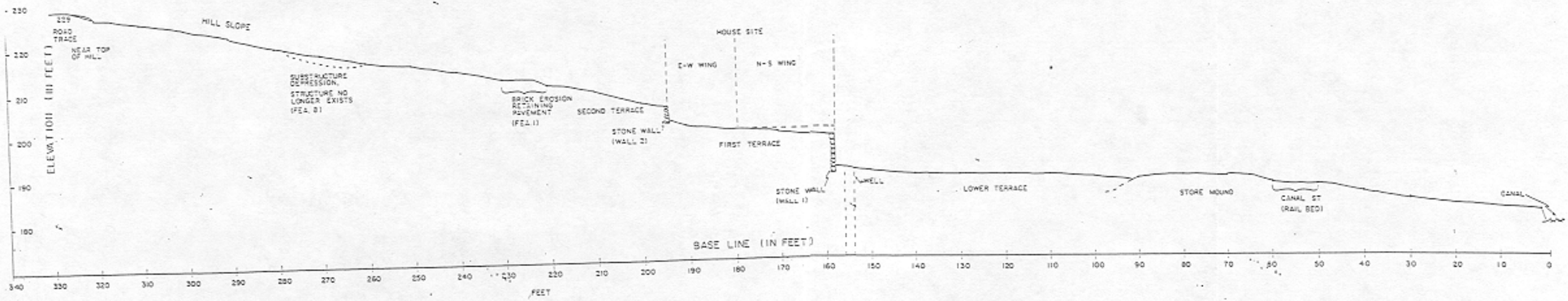


Figure 24. Profile View of Archaeological Study Area Showing Locations of Major Features.

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b

c

d

Figure 25. General Views of (a) Canal Towpath and Store Mound Area Next to Lower Terrace, (b) facing south, archaeologists are standing along line of buried stone pier footings, canal in background; (c) facing southeast; (d) close-up of rectangular stone feature on east side of

a

b

c

Figure 26. Exposed Foundation Stones in Store Mound Area. (a) From Foreground, Facing West, Excavation Units 1, 2, 3, and 5; (b) Unit 8; (c) Unit 9.

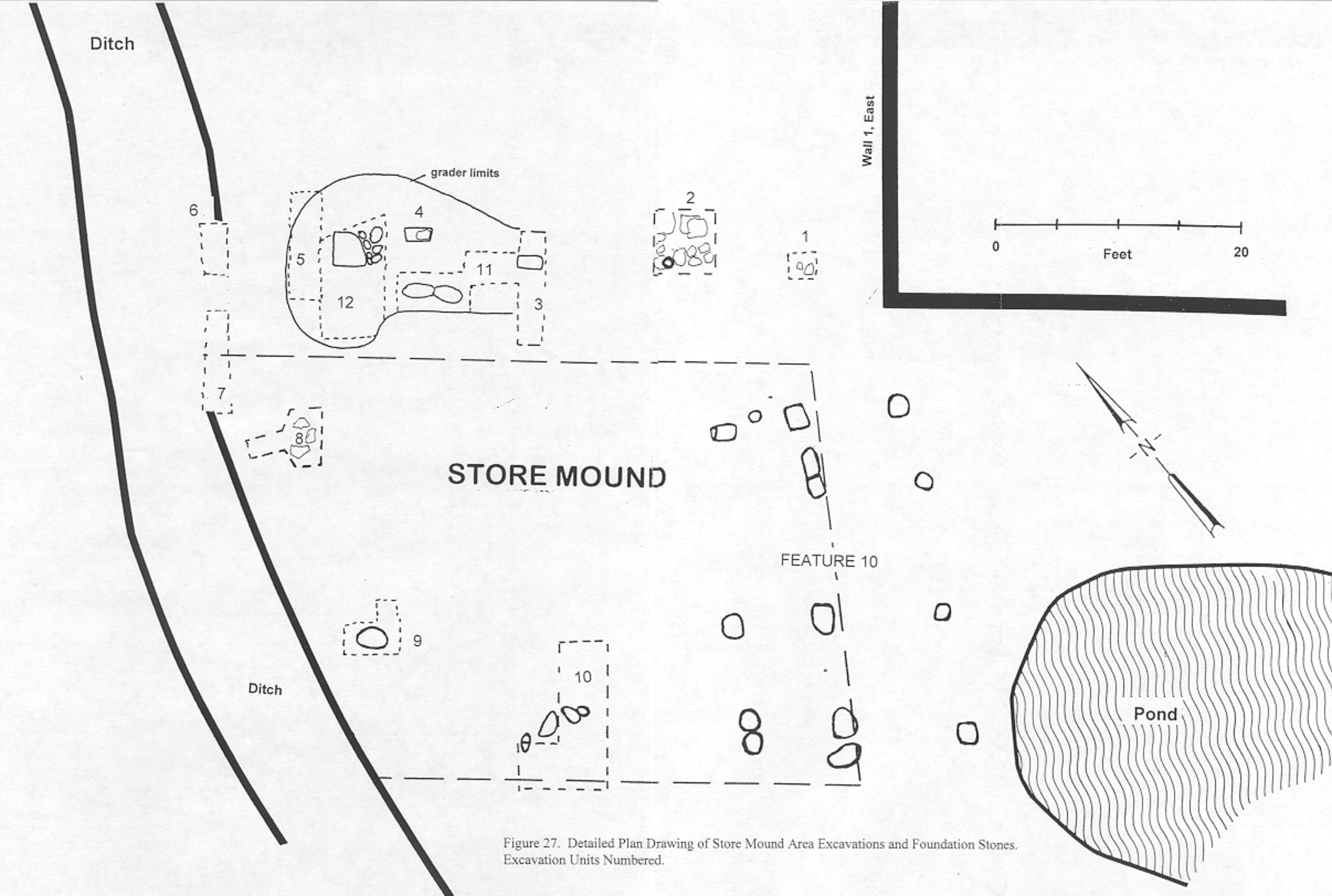


Figure 27. Detailed Plan Drawing of Store Mound Area Excavations and Foundation Stones. Excavation Units Numbered.

a

b

c

d

Figure 28. General Views of Archaeological Study Area Showing Major Walls and Terraces. (a) Lower Terrace, Wall 1, First Terrace and Wall 2 (facing northeast); (b) Store Mound, Lower Terrace and Wall 1 (facing north); (c) Lower Terrace on right, First Terrace with Drive on left; (d) Close-up of First Terrace with Concrete Drive; (c, d) ribbon marks former location of Barringer House.

a

b

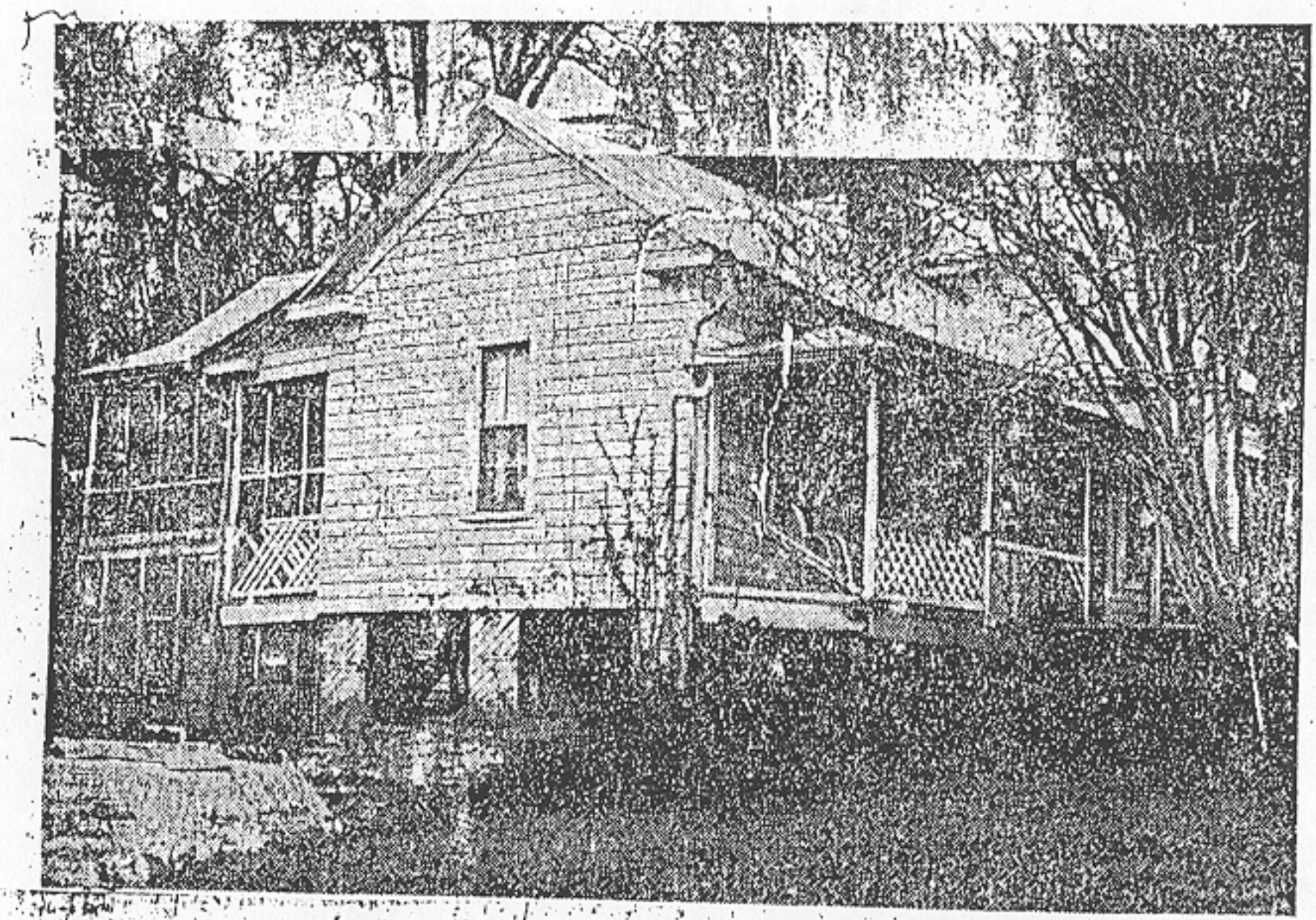
c

Figure 29. General View of Lower Retaining Wall (Wall 1) and Cellar Opening. (a) Tile Pipe in Foreground Marks Well; (b) Lower Terrace and First Terrace; (c) East Side of Wall 1.

a

b

Figure 30. Photographs of (a) Upper Retaining Wall (Wall 2), (b) Concrete Drive, and (c,d) Brick Walkway.



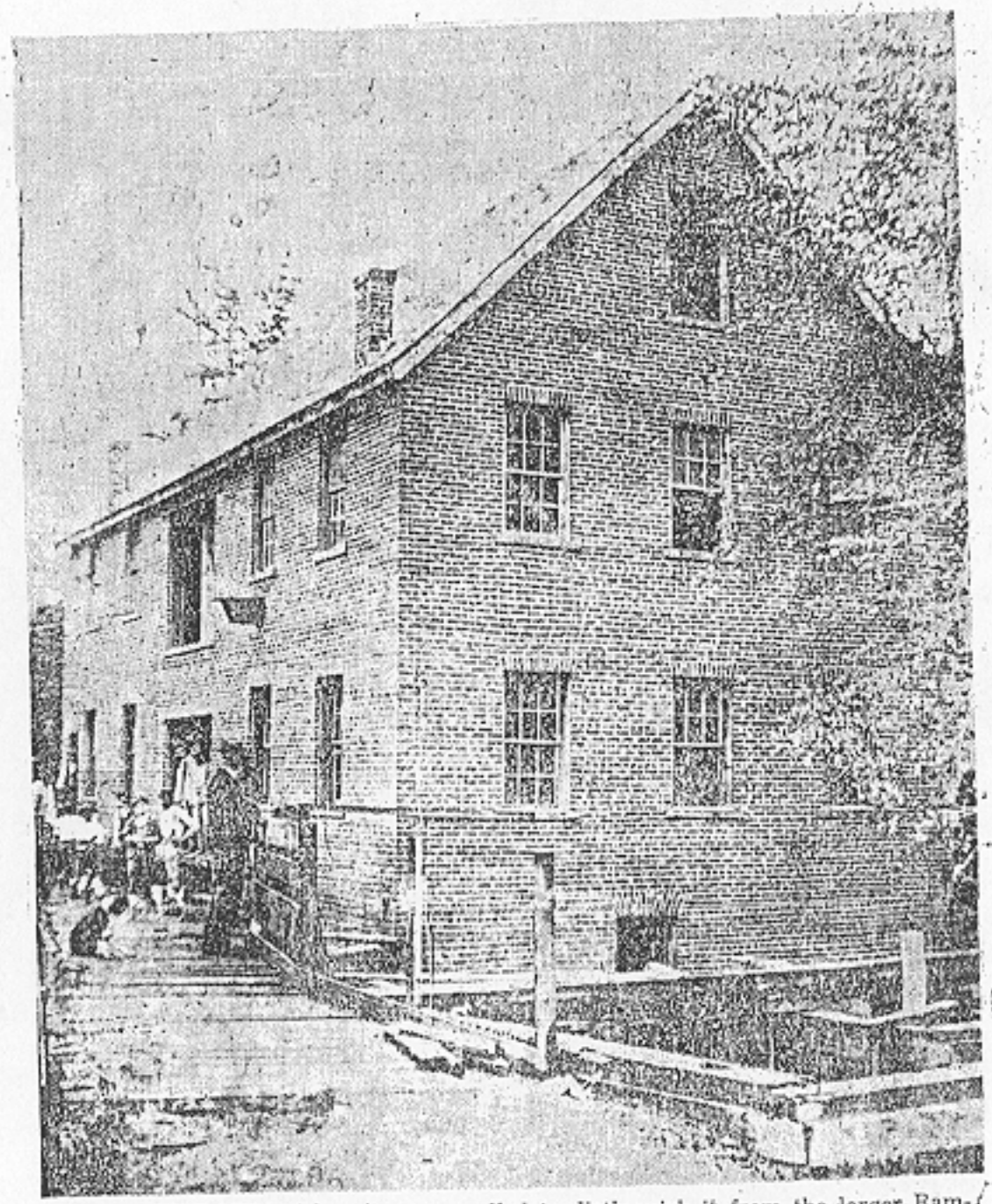
THE BARRINGER HOME, located not far from the Deep River bank and the site of the two old mills, is one of the few old Lockville residences still standing.

Figure 31. Photograph of the Barringer House,facing Northwest (source: Mudge 1957).

THE LATE JOHN BARRINGER, father of Paul Barringer and Mrs. S. W. Womble, of Jonesboro Heights, was a prominent citizen of Lockville village.

HERALD
FEATURE PAGE

SIXTEEN—HERALD, SANFORD, N. C., SAT., NOV. 2, 1957



THE LITTLE MILL (above) was so called to distinguish it from the larger Ramsey's Mill. This one was operated by John Barringer, an outstanding Lockville citizen and father of Sanford's Paul Barringer.

Figure 32. Photographs of Mr. John Barringer and the Barringer Mill (source: Mudge

a

d

b

c

Figure 33. Interior views of the Subterranean Cellar under the First Terrace. (a) South Wall, stone (facing south); (b) Southwest Corner showing arch and iron hook hanging from ceiling; (c) North Wall, brick, with platform in corner; (d) Top of Arch on South Wall.