

Archaeological Excavations at the Madison Steam Mill, 9Mg287

By

Marshall Williams, Mark Williams, and Clifton Hanes

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Abstract

This brief report outlines archaeological excavations at the location of a steam powered cotton mill in Madison, Georgia that took place in 1994 and 1995. This mill was also the location of a Prisoner of War camp run by the Confederate States of America in 1862. The foundations of the brick building were located and defined with the aid of a drawing of the building made by a prisoner there in 1862. The building was later used as a hospital during the Civil War, and was eventually destroyed. At the time of its excavation there were no above ground remains. A separate report detailing more of the history is planned.

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Brief Background

The project described and presented in this section has an unusual and complicated history. We believe it is appropriate to present it in sequence to explain how it came to fruition. First, it needs to be stated that Woody Williams and Clifton Hanes, with occasional help from Mark Williams had been conducting small-scale historical archaeology projects around Madison from 1980 forward. By the time the project presented here was conducted, this was just another in a long line of similar small projects.

Woody became the Morgan County Archivist about 1986 and thus had access to all the archives for Madison and Morgan County and worked with them on a daily basis. At some point in the late 1980s or early 1990s Woody noted documents and papers in the Madison Archives that related to an early Cotton Steam Mill located at some unknown location in or near Madison. All that was known was that it had been located at some location on a 20 acre tract near the railroad tracks through Madison. This knowledge alone was not of sufficient extent or interest to cause further investigation at that time.

In like manner, in the early 1990s Woody read in microfilm copies of an 1898 Madison newspaper (*The Madisonian*) an interesting account from the Civil War period in Madison. This account described medicine being sent from a drugstore on Main Street in downtown Madison to some unknown civil war prisoner of war camp located near Madison. This intriguing bit of information also did not lead to any immediate field investigation, since it was unknown where the camp was located. It also was not immediately recognized that these two stories were parts of one and the same story.

A copy of an article about a Civil War era canteen was published in *North-South Trader's Civil War Magazine* that had been written by Bill Erquitt was sent to Woody some time late in 1991. The article had been published in the September-October 1987 issue of the magazine, but had escaped Woody's attention until 1991. This vital canteen with a carved perspective view of the "Cotton Mill Prison, Madison Georgia" provided a direct connection between the two stories for the first time (Figure 1 and 2). The interest of Woody in the prisoner of war camp was ratcheted up several notches by this revelation.

Then the wife of the Japanese Consul to Atlanta, Mrs. Anami, contacted Woody at the Archives about her ancestor who had been a prisoner at the camp during the civil war. Phil Williams, Woody's son, became interested in the story and the camp and discovered much relevant information about the camp in the University of Georgia library, specifically an important essay about life in the camp from a former prisoner.

A third intriguing story line involved the May Hospital, a civil war era Confederate soldier facility located somewhere around Madison. Woody became aware of its existence from an old document listing patients and their problems that was held by the Morgan County Probate Office in the Court House adjacent to the Archives building.

All three of these stories soon converged into a single fascinating one. A two page document written by a Mrs. Mary Ware was located in the papers of the Morgan County archives which tied together the hospital and the cotton mill stories. More significantly, the document stated that this facility was located in Shaw's Woods near the Georgia Railroad in Madison. Woody quickly located a tract of land that had been owned by a Mr. Horace Shaw near the railroad in Madison during the first part of the 20th

century. The deed offered a clue as to the approximate location of the property. It appeared to be on a tract of land currently owned by A. B. Pritchard adjacent to the railroad. About 1992 Woody and Clifton walked this tract of land for the first time. They saw a large silo on the property and noted a few random brick fragments on the property, but little else.

Woody and Clifton became more convinced that the camp and the Steam Mill were located on the property of A. B. Pritchard and decided to obtain permission from him to conduct some limited archaeological testing of the site (Figure 4). This was in the early months of 1994. A large concrete silo was located at the site and caused confusion for a time until it was determined to post date the mill building (Figure 5). The major excavations documented here all took place during the spring and summer of 1994. The grid was installed in August of 1994 by Mark Williams and UGA students to permit mapping of the excavation units. These were all recorded in the fall of 1994 as the site map was constructed.

Limited additional work was conducted in 1995, including formal cleaning and photography. The final three excavation units were conducted in 1995. The site was backfilled for safety concerns about the many deep open holes by early 1996.

Incidentally, it was later learned that there were standing walls of the structure as recent as the 1930s or 1940s, but local land owner C. L. Mason had these remaining low walls knocked down and removed. The bricks would have had to have been hauled off at that time since they were not on the surface in 1994.

Woody wrote a brief progress report some time in late 1994 that has been filed in the University of Georgia Laboratory of Archaeology as Manuscript 450. That

manuscript is appended to this report. The delay in writing the present report can be attributed to the vagaries of life.

The Archaeological Excavation

The archaeological excavations at site 9MG287 began in April of 1994 and continued at an irregular pace for over a year. The major excavation units (1-31) were placed intuitively without the benefit of a site grid. After the building was essentially defined a grid of stakes was placed over the site on August 2, 1994. This work was performed by a University of Georgia Archaeology Field School under the direction of Mark Williams. Elevation data was gathered at the site at the same time by the UGA crew. The grid was used to facilitate mapping of the excavation units. The grid was established in feet rather than meters since this was an American historical archaeology site. A wooden stake placed in what became the grid northeastern area of the building was arbitrarily defined as 500 North, 500 East. The grid north was not oriented to magnetic north, but was oriented 35 degrees west of magnetic north so it would be aligned with the orientation of the building itself. In the following descriptions of the excavation all references to directions are referring to grid directions rather magnetic ones. Stakes were placed at 20 foot intervals around the site using a traditional transit and tapes. All the units were mapped by measuring distances to the corner stakes of an excavation unit from the two closest available grid stakes. This work was performed by Woody Williams and Clifton Hanes in the early fall of 1994. These measurements were then plotted on a large grid sheet using a scale and compass in the winter of 1994-1995. No screening for recovery of artifacts was conducted at the site and virtually no collections were made.

Woody Williams made a rough sketch of the building outline based upon the excavations in the early fall of 1994 and filed it with his Progress Report at that time. This report and sketch are included here as Appendix 1. Only 3 units (32-34) were excavated in 1995 after his initial report was filed. That report does not include a map of the units or the interpretation of their specific data. The entire site was re-cleaned on August 1, 1995 by another University of Georgia Archaeology Field School under the direction of Mark Williams. Photographs were made the following day. Much discussion and thinking about the nature of the western end of the building also took place that year. Although more work was needed in the site as a whole, no more was forthcoming by the late fall of 1995 and it was deemed prudent to backfill the site by early 1996. It has remained stable and untouched to the present. A brief visit in December of 2008 showed that it was growing up in small trees, but was essentially unchanged otherwise.

The following section provides descriptions of the 34 separate excavation units at the site. The numbering sequence is the same sequence in which they were excavated. This thus provides a simple narrative way of explaining the discovery of the outlines and details of the structure. It must be remembered that the building illustration from the canteen was always kept in mind as excavation progressed as well as the Van Duzee narrative. These items in a very real sense guided the excavation. In the course of this section, we present our ideas on the structure of the building as they were being discovered. The locations of all the units are shown on the main excavation map of the site.

Excavation Unit 1.

This initial unit was placed at a random location near a few bricks and brick rubble noted on the surface on the flat summit of the hill at the site. The unit was arbitrarily excavated as a trench to permit easier exploration at depths. The hope in starting the excavation was that some intact brick layers might be located at depth. No intact bricks were located in this unit and it was abandoned when sterile red clay soil was reached. The unit was 10 feet long by 3 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 2.

This unit was placed north of Excavation Unit 1. The rationale for this unit was exactly the same as same as number 1. It also located no intact brick layers and was abandoned at sterile soil. The unit was also 10 feet long by 3 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 3.

In hindsight, this was probably the most important excavation at the site. It was initially excavated, just as were numbers 1 and 2, as a randomly located test excavation. Intact brick layers were soon located, and, after a little expansion, an obvious corner was seen (Figure 6). This was the first evidence that there were buried intact wall layers and that it might be possible to completely define the building. This lucky accidental discovery of the corner also provided an immediate guide for tracking and defining the building. The intact brick layers of the corner were located at a relatively deep level in ground. In retrospect Excavation Unit 3 provided one of most complete sections of the building foundations found at the site. Had this unit located no intact brick as had

numbers 1 and 2, the entire exploration of the site might have terminated at that point. Once the corner was located, the rest of the excavations simply had to be completed. The unit was 16 feet long by 5 feet wide. The maximum depth was 5.0 feet.

Excavation Unit 4.

This unit was placed as the initial attempt to track what became the eastern wall of the building to the north from the corner seen in excavation Unit 3. The early projection of wall was off by half of the width of the wall, but did locate its inside edge. This permitted more accurate estimates of the wall location to the north. Rather than expand this unit, more units were simply placed to the north. The unit was 4 feet long by 3 feet wide. The maximum depth was 2.5 feet.

Excavation Unit 5.

For a short time there was a question of whether the building continued to the east from the corner seen in Excavation Unit 3 and thus a small unit was excavated to the east of this unit. Excavation Unit 5 quickly confirmed that the building did not continue and all that was seen in it was more brick rubble. This unit was abandoned quickly and backfilled. No drawings or photographs were made. The unit was 5 feet long by 5 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 6.

This unit was placed further to the north of Excavation Unit 5 and designed to continue tracking the eastern wall. It was successful and the intact wall base was located

in the unit (Figure 7). This set the stage for attempting to discover the northeastern corner of the building. The unit was 6.5 feet long by 2.5 feet wide. The maximum depth was 4.3 feet.

Excavation Unit 7.

Van Duzee's narrative had related that the room he was held in was 50 feet by 80 feet in size. Woody and Clifton reasoned that if the smaller of these values was close to the width of the entire building, then an excavation unit placed at this distance on line from the corner found in Excavation Unit 3 should find the next corner. Luck continued to be in good supply when this unit, Number 7 came down on the northeastern corner of the building. Intact brick layers were located deep in the ground. By this point it became clear that defining the entire building was a very real possibility. The unit was 5 feet long by 5 feet wide. The maximum depth was 5.0 feet.

Excavation Unit 8.

The next excavation was located down the hill to the west in an attempt to locate and follow the projected long northern wall of the building, based upon the corner located in Excavation Unit 7. Several intact bricks were located near the surface and it was decided to expand this excavation following the intact bricks. No intact wall was located here, and the brick feature that was located caused some confusion. The feature that was revealed in Excavation Unit 8 appeared to be a floor area of laid brick with two small pillar-like brick structures on the eastern side (Figure 8). There was much ash in the area, and one likely explanation for the feature was that of a fireplace. This was one of the

only places in the excavation where white ash was located. An alternate potential explanation for the structure is that of a mount for a small boiler. The unit was 11 feet long by 10 feet wide. The maximum depth was 1.1 feet.

Excavation Unit 9.

This unit was a continued attempt to locate the northern wall of the building after the confusion associated with Excavation Unit 8. It was becoming clear that much of the northern wall was gone, but this unit provided some decent documentation of its location. What was located was a layer of laid flat granite stones, with a single layer of bricks intact on top of some of the rock. This represented the first layer of bricks on a foundation of laid rocks. The unit was expanded to the south in the area inside the building, and a deep area with much burned material was located. It also revealed an intact earthen wall. The clear explanation was that this was the location of a level change in the under side of the building, and implied that the area to the west from this point had been artificially dug out as a room under the building. This room or basement would have included the feature located in Excavation Unit 8. The black burned material was confusing since there did not appear to be sufficient charred material over the entire building to imply that the wooden parts of the building had completely burned at some point. Possible the building was partially burned at some point in its history. The unit was 13 feet long by 11 feet wide. The maximum depth was 4.9 feet.

Excavation Unit 10.

This simple unit finally completely confirmed the presence and location of the back (northern) wall where it was suspected. Excavation Units 8 and, to a degree, Excavation Unit 9, had caused confusion about the existence and location of the back wall and this unit gave confidence to the building projections. The unit was 5 feet long by 4 feet wide. The maximum depth was 3.7 feet.

Excavation Unit 11.

Our attention then turned to defining the probable southern long wall of the building. It had been clear from Excavation Unit 3 that the wall likely went toward the huge concrete silo located on the site. A gap in the silo wall showed a deep hole filled with water on its interior. This brief and uncompleted excavation adjacent to the eastern side of the silo confirmed that the silo was stratigraphically over the brick wall construction and thus post dated the building (Figure 9). We did not wish to conduct more than minimal excavation near the silo however, for fear it might become unstable. The unit was 4 feet long by 3 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 12.

This unit was placed to attempt to define the long southern wall on the down-hill side of the silo. It soon became clear that this would be one of the easiest excavation units on the site to interpret. It revealed a set of formal steps that entered what had to be the underside of the building (Figure 10). Careful examination of the canteen drawing showed that there was indeed a door located here into what had to be the basement of the building at this location about halfway down the southern side of the building. There

were three wide steps, each formed from a single cut-granite slab. The staircase for the steps was surprisingly complex, with a curved brick entryway into the building. The location of this set of steps was also directly opposite the curious feature revealed in Excavation Unit 8 on the other side of the building. Coupled with the information from Excavation Unit 9, these three units and the canteen drawing strongly suggested for first time that the center underside of the building was an actively and frequently used location at the building. Indeed, the best interpretation was that this room was some sort of shop location. A very large granite slab was used as the actual door step into the room under the building. There was charcoal on earth landing between the bottom step and the granite landing. This obviously implies that some burning of the building took place at some time in its history. The unit was 14 feet long by 10 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 13.

This small unit was placed further west on the southern wall from the steps revealed in Excavation Unit 12 to define the wall in that location. It showed a section of intact brick wall base as expected. By this point some three fourths of the building had been defined, and we were confident of defining its complete form. This unit was 7 feet long by 4 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 14.

This was dug to explore the floor area on the basement. It revealed the presence of much white wall plaster, and, at the western end of the unit, a narrow brick wall that was intact. The latter was completely unexpected, and clearly suggested the presence of

a cross wall under the building. It was not as wide as the outside walls. The unit was 16 feet long by 3 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 15.

This unit was dug by projecting the narrow brick cross wall found in Excavation Unit 14 with the protected line of the back northern wall of the building. Just as expected, a junction area of these two walls was located in this unit. This unit, then, accomplished two goals with a single small excavation. The unit was 7 feet long by 3 feet wide. The maximum depth was 4.3 feet.

By this point it had become reasonably clear that there was indeed a basement room in the middle of the building. It was delimited by the northern and southern walls of the main building, an earthen wall to the east, and the brick cross-wall to the west of the room. This room had a relatively elaborate doorway in its center through the southern wall of the main building, and possibly a fire place near the center of the opposite wall. The room would have had a height of at least 7-8 feet based upon inspection of the contours here and a flat dirt floor. It may have had white plaster on its walls that would have helped distribute the limited natural light that would have come through the doorway. There were no windows in the southern wall as seen on the canteen drawing. It is unknown, but not likely, that there were windows on the opposite northern wall. This room would have served well intuitively as a shop of some sort. The fire place could have been a source for light, winter heat, and might also have served as a small forge area. Certainly such a 19th century cotton mill would have had an essential need for a blacksmith to make and repair myriad metal parts. How smoke could have been

removed from the fireplace (if it was a fireplace) is unknown, although it could have exited through the north wall in some manner—perhaps with metal stove pipes. The brick wall on the western side of the room might have provided some limited protection against a steam accident of some sort.

Excavation Unit 16.

This was the largest and most confusing excavation unit on the site. It was clearly the location for the chimney base and probably the location of the main steam boiler for the building's power system. A series of east-west oriented granite slabs defined the location of the chimney base. None of the bricks that formed the chimney were in place, and without the canteen drawing it seems unlikely that we would have determined that this was the location of the chimney. To the south of the chimney base area several random placed granite slabs were located. A brick structure that looks a bit like a "fireplace" was also present (Figure 11). Our best guess is that these together formed part of the boiler tank support and heating system. If the brick structure is indeed a fireplace, the boiler would have been placed horizontally at some elevation off the floor area. Perhaps the stone slabs were part of the boiler support structure. No details of how the smoke might have been funneled from the boiler fire into the base of the chimney were recoverable from the excavations in this unit. The fact that there was no coal located anywhere in this area (or on the entire site) implies to us that the boiler was heated by firewood. The excavation unit was 25 feet long by 14 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 17.

This small unit was placed along the projected northern wall area between Excavation Units 9 and 15 to attempt to locate an intact layer of bricks at this location. None were found in this uncompleted unit, however. It was beginning to become clear, however, that the original excavation ditch that had been dug for the foundation could be used to define the building's location even if intact brick layers in its floor were no longer present. The unit was 4 feet long by 4 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 18.

This simple unit was used to define better the interior brick cross wall by projecting to the south from Excavation Units 14 and 15. This was successful. It was not possible to extend this cross wall by projection all the way to the southern wall and excavate the junction because the projected location was under several large granite rocks that apparently had been bulldozed over it earlier in the 20th century. This unit was 6.5 feet long by 6 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 19.

On the canteen drawing there appeared that there might be a second door further west from the first door into the "middle" basement. Given that it was now clear that the cross brick wall likely defined a middle room under the building, a western lower basement room became more of a possibility and the need for a door into it became more understandable. This excavation unit was placed here to attempt to test the possibility that a second set of steps were located here. The area was covered with many large granite boulders, as discussed above. Two granite slabs that were similar to the steps

located in Excavation Unit 12 were located in this small unit (Figure 12). This supports the presence of a steps and a second door here as shown on the canteen. The unit was 4 feet long by 3 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 20.

At this point attempts began to define the western short end of the building. It was known from the canteen that the chimney base should be located here and would potentially make the archaeological situation more confusing. It was also know that the cotton mill had been powered by a stem engine and boiler. Given the presence of the chimney at the western end of the building, it was likely that the boiler and engine would also be at this end of the building. In examining this area a small area of laid granite rocks was quickly noted down the hill in this location. By carefully clearing and using minimal excavation here a long stretch of these flat rocks was soon exposed. These rocks may have served as a base for a brick wall that was no longer in place, and likely formed the extreme western end of the building complex. As work on the western end of the building continued, it was found to be every bit as complex as anticipated. This unit defines the most western excavation of the entire project. Speculatively, this would have been a good area for a loading dock for wood for the boiler fire. The unit was 20 feet long by 3 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 21.

This small unit defined a corner formed by the junction of the southern extension of the laid rock layer defined in Excavation Unit 20 and a granite slab that was oriented

toward the east. The slab is similar to the steps found at other locations on the southern wall. At first glance this would seem to form the southwestern corner of the entire building, but it is offset from the main line of the southern wall as revealed in all the earlier excavation. The area just south of this "corner" was covered with boulders and not accessible, thus the detail is quite unclear. It is possible that the corner here is merely a corner for a back porch or addition to the building. The unit was 4 feet long by 4 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 22.

At this point work resumed back uphill in the main part of the building. This unit was placed along the southern wall of the building at the projected location where the basement earth wall, first located in Excavation Unit 9, would intersect with the southern wall. This earth wall defined the eastern end of the "Middle" basement room. This unit, of course, also well defines the southern wall at this location. This unit also shows the same burned floor of the "middle" room as was seen in Excavation Unit 9. The dirt wall is very compact and looks fired. This may have happened when building partially burned. The unit was 7.5 feet long by 6 feet wide. The maximum depth was 4.4 feet.

Excavation Unit 23.

This unfinished unit was excavated on southern wall between Excavation Unit 22 and the western side of the silo. Our nervousness about excavating so near the silo kept this unit from being completed. The unit was 9 feet long by 6 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 24.

A series of excavations were then undertaken under the upper crawl space on the eastern interior part of the building. This was to check on possible pillar locations and if the original floor level could be defined. Further, it seemed possible that there might be another cellar in this location. This unit produced nothing of interest, except confirming that the area was indeed shallow. The unit was 8 feet long by 3 feet wide. The maximum depth was 1.8 feet.

Excavation Unit 25.

This unit was randomly placed near Excavation Unit 24 and excavated for the same reasons it was. A large flat stone was located in the northwestern corner of the unit. It is not certain if this stone was naturally in place or was placed as part of a pillar under the floor, but the latter is possible. It seems likely to us that some pillars under this end of the building would have been present. The unit was 10 feet long by 5 feet wide. The maximum depth was 3.0 feet.

Excavation Unit 26.

This unit was placed, as were Excavations Units 24 and 25, in the eastern crawl space area of the building. It was placed between Excavation Unit 25 and the silo. A deeper hole filled with rubble located in part of the unit (Figure 13). This deeper hole might be interpreted as a hole of a pillar supporting the floor in this location. This unit and the hole in it are the same distance out from the outside wall as is the big rock in Excavation Unit 25. Thus the rock and the hole may support each other as pillar

foundation supports. The unit was 2.5 feet long by 2.5 feet wide. The maximum depth was 3.2 feet.

Excavation Unit 27.

This unit was placed to examine the possible floor in the western basement room of the building. By process of elimination we hypothesize that this room may have been the room in which the steam engine itself was located. Steam and water lines would have come into this room from the boiler located through the outside building wall to the west of this room. Some means of transferring rotational power from this room would have been transferred vertically to all the three floors above. This most likely would have been a system of belts and metal shafts. Although it does not seem to have been in position, a metal shaft or axle was located sticking out of the ground in the center of this unit.

Excavation was carried out to a depth of 7 feet to remove it, but the shaft never came loose and work was abandoned leaving the shaft in place. A dark curving feature was located in the southeastern corner of the unit. The excavation unit was not expanded sufficiently to determine the nature or function of this feature. The unit was 7 feet long by 2 feet wide. The maximum depth, as stated, was 7.0 feet.

Excavation Unit 28.

This unit apparently defined the junction on the western end of the long northern wall between the chimney base, made of granite slabs, and the actual western wall of the main building. The bricks that would have defined the corner wall structure were missing, but the original excavation ditch or wall trench that turned a corner here was

clearly visible. The unit was 9 feet long by 6 feet wide. The maximum depth of the excavation was 3.9 feet.

Excavation Unit 29.

After locating the probable line of the actual western wall of the main building with Excavation Unit 29, this unit was excavated to confirm the existence of that western wall. This unit also showed that a second wall had been placed outside the main building wall on the western end of the building. This second wall had a rock base with brick above the rock base and was built adjacent to and touching the main western wall. We hypothesize that this wall may have been built as a "blast" wall to strengthen the western wall of the building against any explosion of the boiler that might have brought down the entire western wall of the building. This hypothesis of course assumes that the boiler was located just west of this wall on the "back porch" of the building. This excavation unit was 7 feet long by 2.5 feet wide. Its maximum depth was 3.0 feet.

Excavation Unit 30.

This was a very confusing unit. It was excavated to try and better define the southwestern corner of the main building after following it south from Excavation Units 28 and 29. It shows the rock and brick outer blast wall, but none of the actual western wall inside of the blast wall. It also coupled with the data from Excavation Units 21 and 31 is very confusing on the buildings outside southwestern details. The details revealed here do not agree obviously with the canteen details. It is worth therefore speculating that all the detail revealed in Excavation Units 21, 30, and 31 may reflect walls or

structure that were torn down before the building was turned into a prison. This excavation unit was 10 feet long by 5 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 31.

This unit was excavated between Excavation Units 20 and 21 on the western extreme edge of the building and south of Excavation Unit 30 just discussed adjacent to the main western wall. It further reveals the confusion at this corner (Figure 14). It seems possible that there may have been a door here from the southern side of the building that came into the boiler room here? Perhaps a lightly constructed boiler room existed on something of a patio-like attachment to the western side of the main building. This sort of detail is not revealed on the canteen drawing. The unit was 5 feet long by 4 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 32.

This was placed between Excavation Units 24 and 25, joining the three of them into a single small block excavation. We are uncertain why this was placed here to join the two adjacent units other than general exploration of the area of the crawl space under the upper part of the building. Nothing of note was found in this excavation. The unit was 7 feet long by 2.5 feet wide. The maximum depth was 1.1 feet.

Excavation Unit 33.

This unit was placed in the center of the eastern wall, just adjacent to it. It was placed here to determine if any details of a porch or stepped entryway were present here.

This would have been adjacent to the main eastern building door as seen on the canteen drawing. No features of such a porch or steps were noted in the excavation. The unit was 5 feet long by 3 feet wide.

Excavation Unit 34.

The final excavation unit was placed on the floor of the "middle" basement as general excavation and to look for a possible pillar base that might have been located here. Nothing particularly located in the excavation. The unit was 7 feet long by 3 feet wide. The maximum depth was 1 foot.

Summary

This all too brief report presents the results of 34 excavation units that defined the form of a destroyed brick structure formerly in Madison, Georgia, that was originally created as a Steam powered cotton mill. It was used as a Confederate Prisoner of war Camp in 1862. Clearly the building was located and accurately mapped. All the units were backfilled and the site has grown up now in trees. Future excavations are certainly warranted at this important historic site.

Appendix 1

9MG287: THE MADISON STEAM MILL PROGRESS REPORT NUMBER 1

Work began in April, 1994, and has continued when possible until the end of that year. Excavators: Marshall W. Williams, Clifton Hanes, and occasionally, Patsy Harris. The site was in heavy underbrush, privet hedge, blackberry, poison ivy, pecan, and ailanthus trees. Much clearing had to take place before any digging could begin. The site is on a fairly steep slope above a small water course branch. In the late 1880s a railroad was built near the site, running between it and a still earlier Georgia Railroad track.

The Madison Steam Mill was a cotton mill, chartered about 1850, and went bankrupt about 1855. In 1862 the building was used as a prison for Union officers captured at the Battle of Shiloh. In 1864 it was used as a Confederate soldier's hospital, named the May (or Mays) Hospital. The building was definitely burned, though at the present time when this occurred is not known. One account says that it was burned by the Union General Slocum during his transit through Morgan County in November, 1864. Another account says that it was only partially burned by Slocum, and was refurbished after the war to function once again as a cotton mill. More research is needed on this question.

Much of the wall brick has obviously been cannibalized for reuse, perhaps in the town of Madison after the disastrous fire of 1869 when the entire business district was wiped out. There is still a great deal of brick on the site, though a great many more fragments than whole brick. In many places there is nothing left of the exterior walls except the wall trench. In other places laid brick is still in place, though usually at depths of three to four feet below ground surface.

At this time the perimeter of the building is pretty well delineated, though there is a problem with interpretation of the rear of the building. More excavation is needed here. One set of steps has been found, and the possibility of another. The enclosed drawing is not 100% accurate as to scale, but is an estimation of the accurate composite map made from field drawings.

The work projected for 1995 will consist of additional work on the rear of the building, as well as beginning work on the interior portions. It is hoped that such interior work will expose any steps, piers, walls, or other such as may still be in the ground.

A moderate quantity of artifacts are turning up, such as cut nails, bits of metal roofing, sherds of window pane glass, some bars from the boiler grates, a bearing cap, an occasional wine bottle fragment, and a few ceramic sherds (virtually all whiteware, except for one small cache of mocha and banded ware which seems much too early to be in this context). However, it is anticipated that when work begins in earnest on the interior portions of the building that more of such things will be exposed.

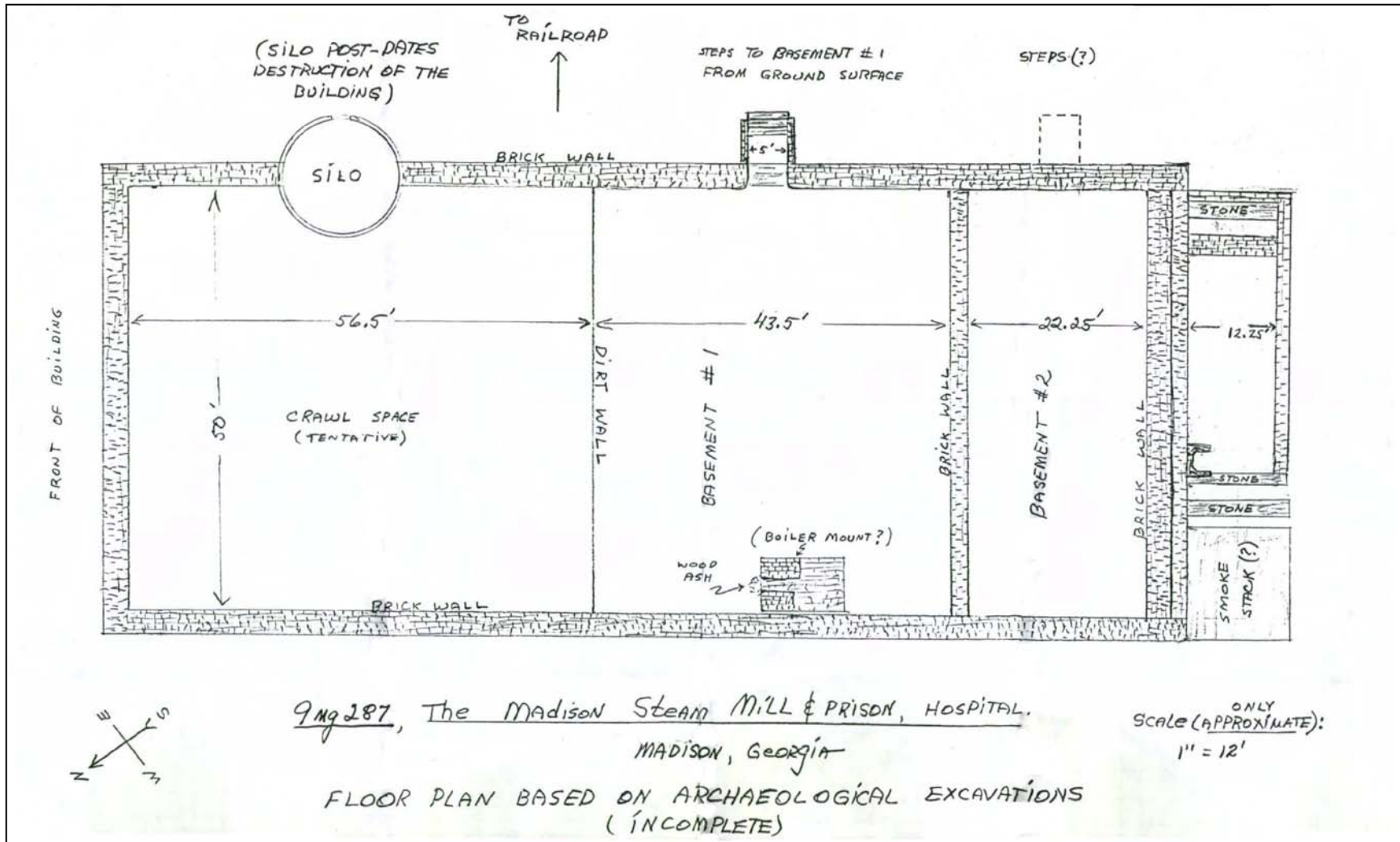
The approximate exterior dimensions of the building are 56 feet wide and 146 feet long. The silo shown on the drawing is a structure built after the destruction of the mill, for the silo foundation rests on the mill rubble.

A small fireplace on the south end of the building is as yet unexplainable, as is a possible "boiler mount" located in basement number 1. If it WAS a boiler mount it

possibly was used to furnish steam for heating the building. There perhaps are better explanations!

As seen from the carving made by the Union officer, the building was a three story one, and we know from other documents that it was brick (as well as from the archaeology!). The smoke stack on the rear of the building seems to correspond with our findings so far. As yet no effort has been made to find the stockade line.

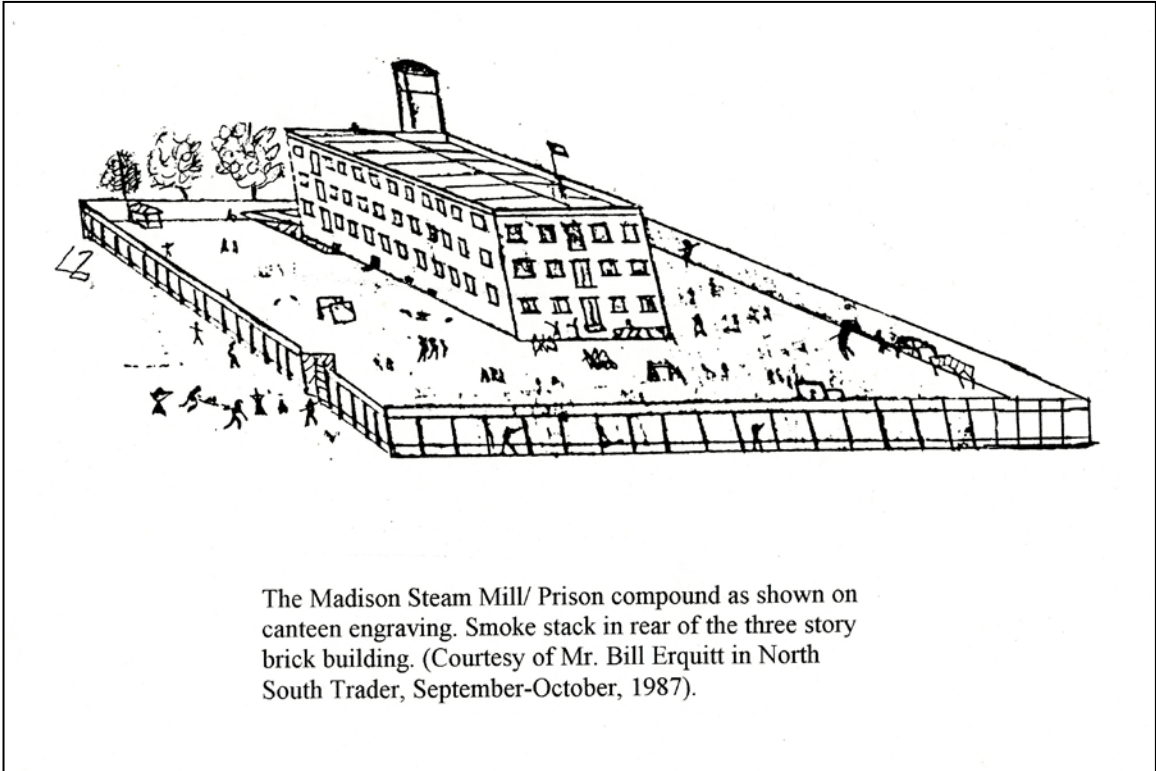
Marshall W. Williams
613 Foster Street
Madison. Georgia



Progress Report Number 1 Sketch



Figure 1. Canteen Front (Photo by Mrs. Virginia Stibbs Anami)



The Madison Steam Mill/ Prison compound as shown on canteen engraving. Smoke stack in rear of the three story brick building. (Courtesy of Mr. Bill Erquitt in North South Trader, September-October, 1987).

Figure 2. Canteen Drawing (By Clifton Hanes)



Figure 3. Calhoun House Near Site



Figure 4. General View of Site



Figure 5. Silo at Site



Figure 6. Excavation Unit 3



Figure 7. Excavation Unit 6



Figure 8. Excavation Unit 8



Figure 9. Excavation Unit 11



Figure 10. Excavation Unit 12



Figure 11. Excavation Unit 16



Figure 12. Excavation Unit 19



Figure 13. Excavation Unit 26



Figure 14. Excavation Unit 31

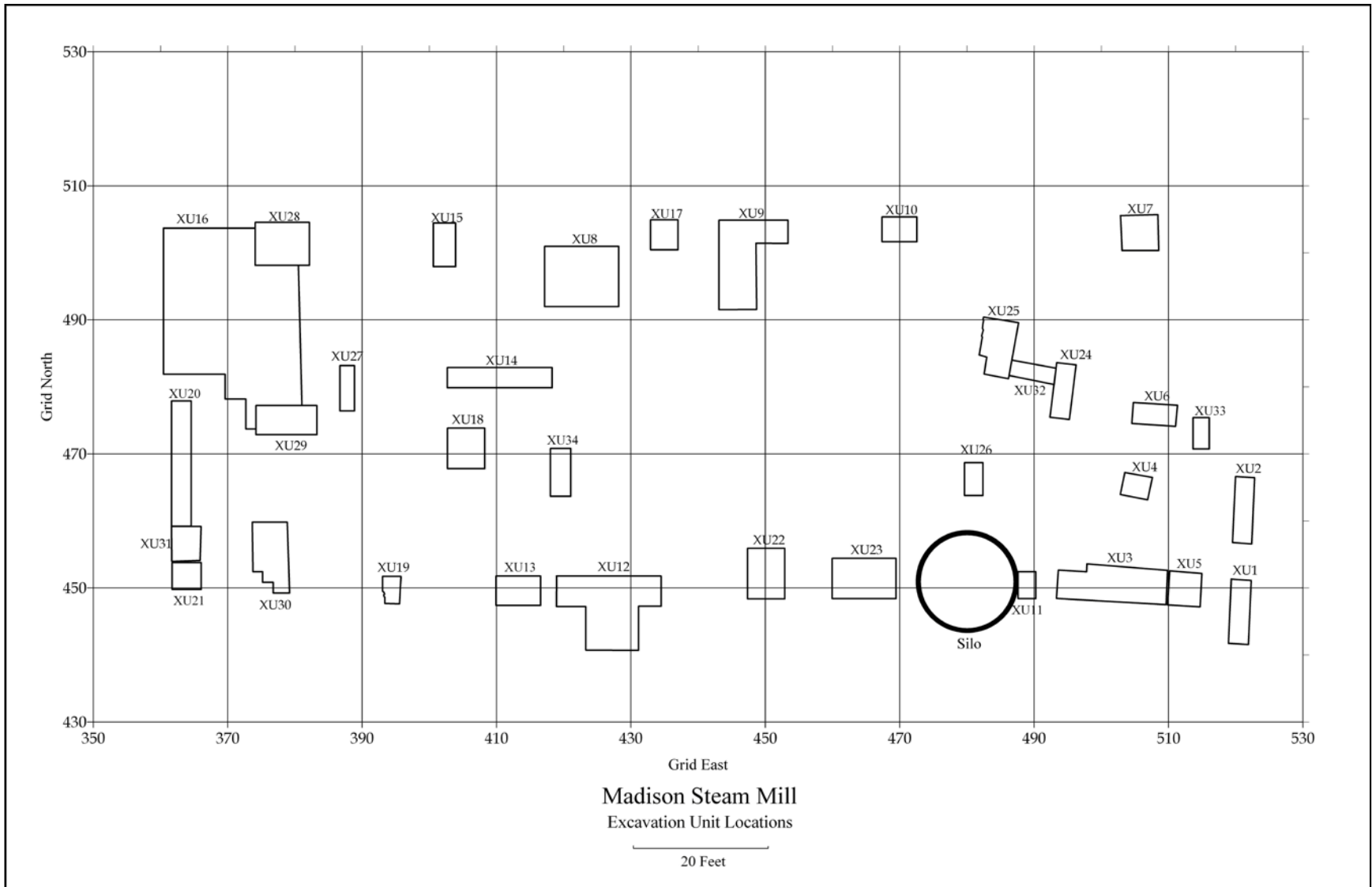


Figure 15. Excavation Unit Locations

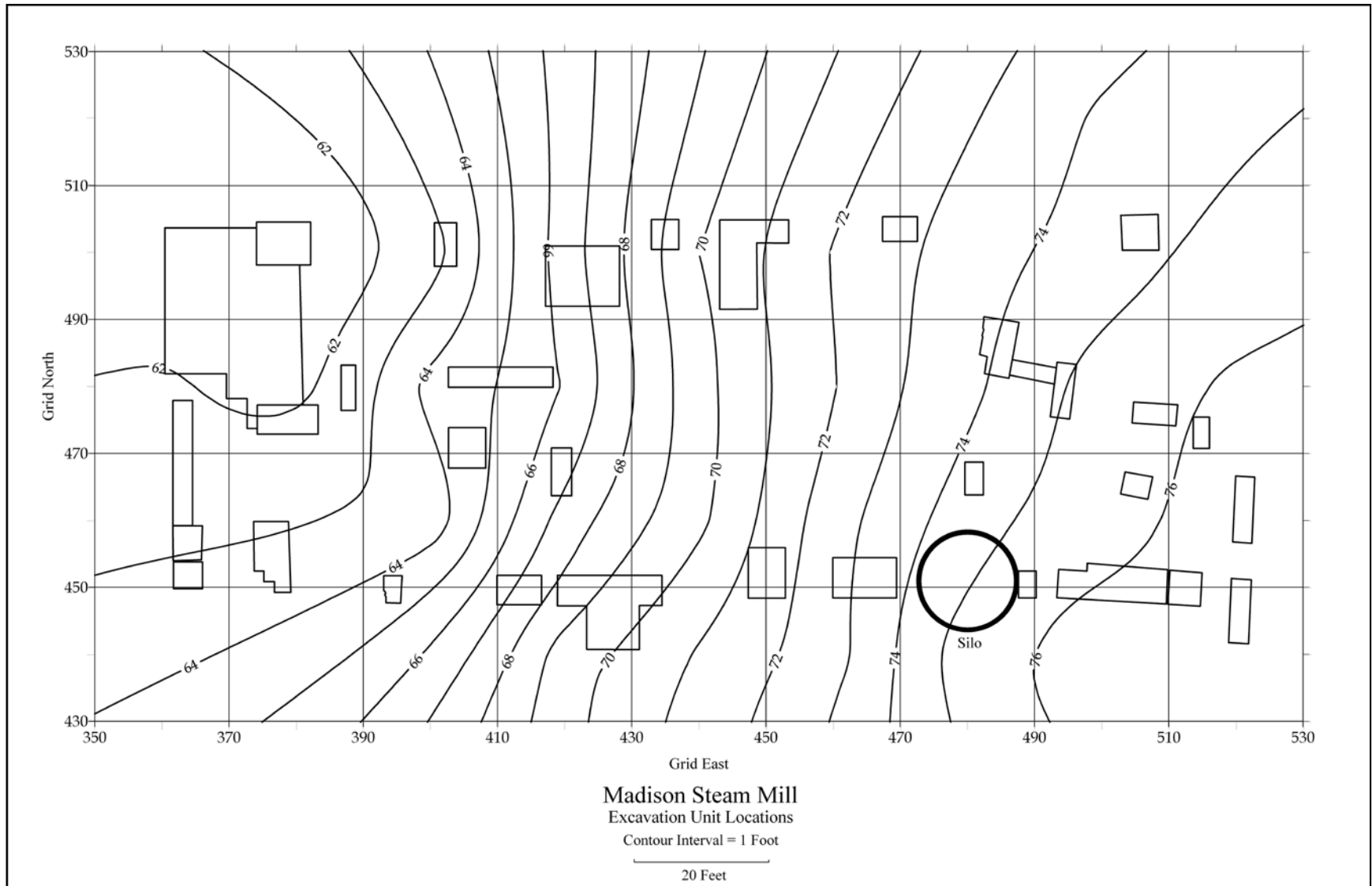


Figure 16. Excavation Units With Contours

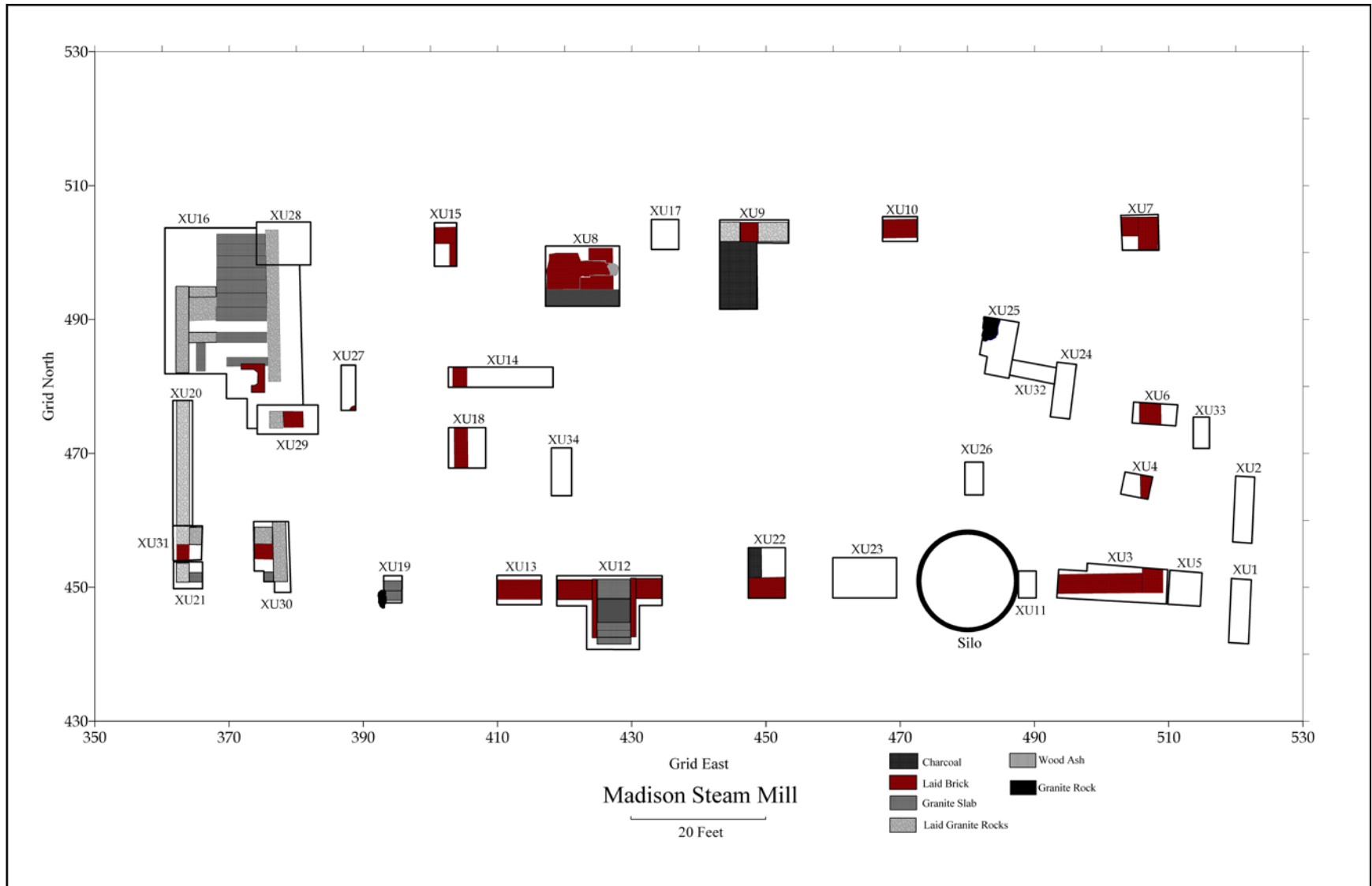


Figure 17. Excavation Units and Features

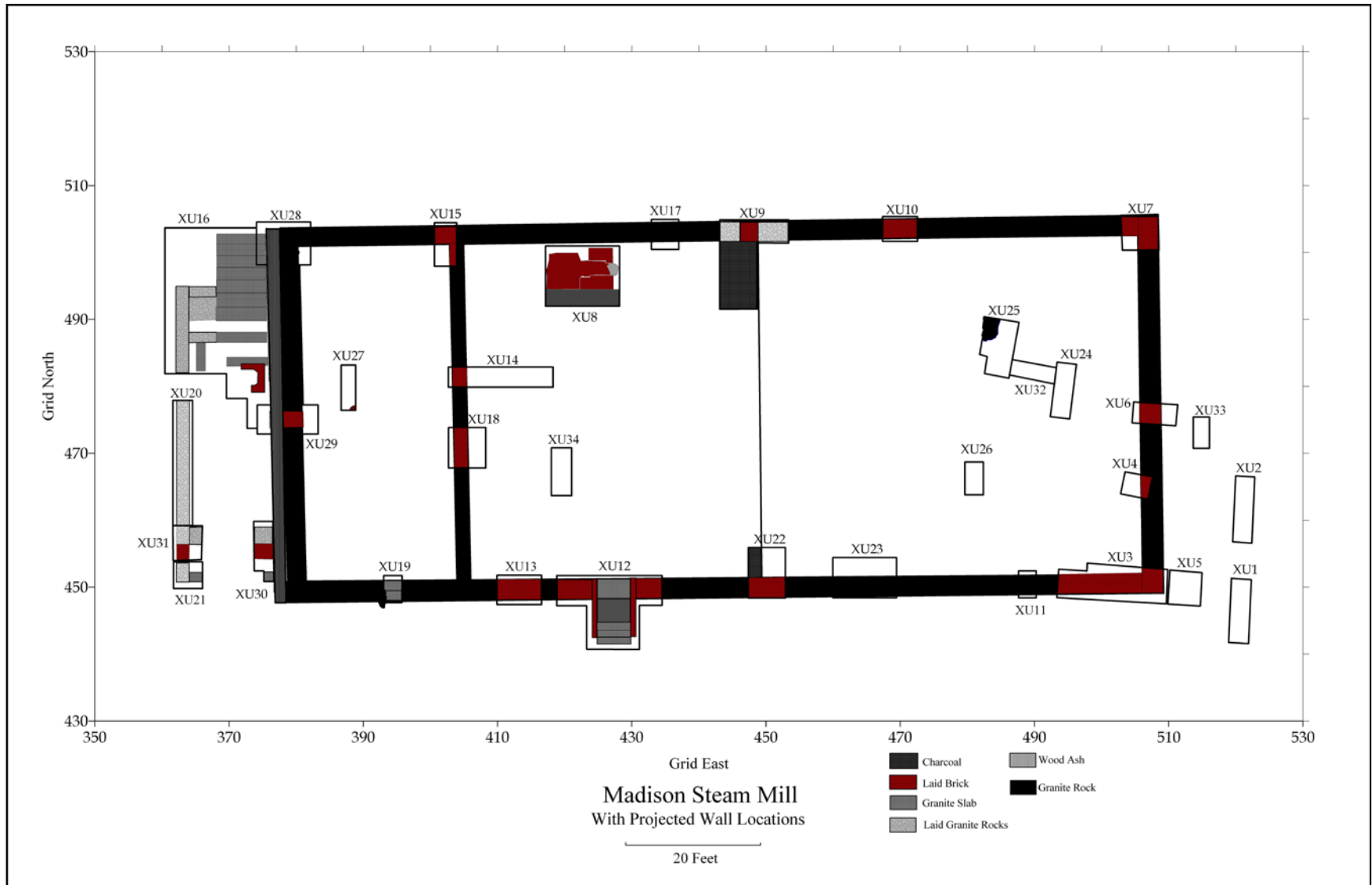


Figure 18. Excavation Units with Projected Walls

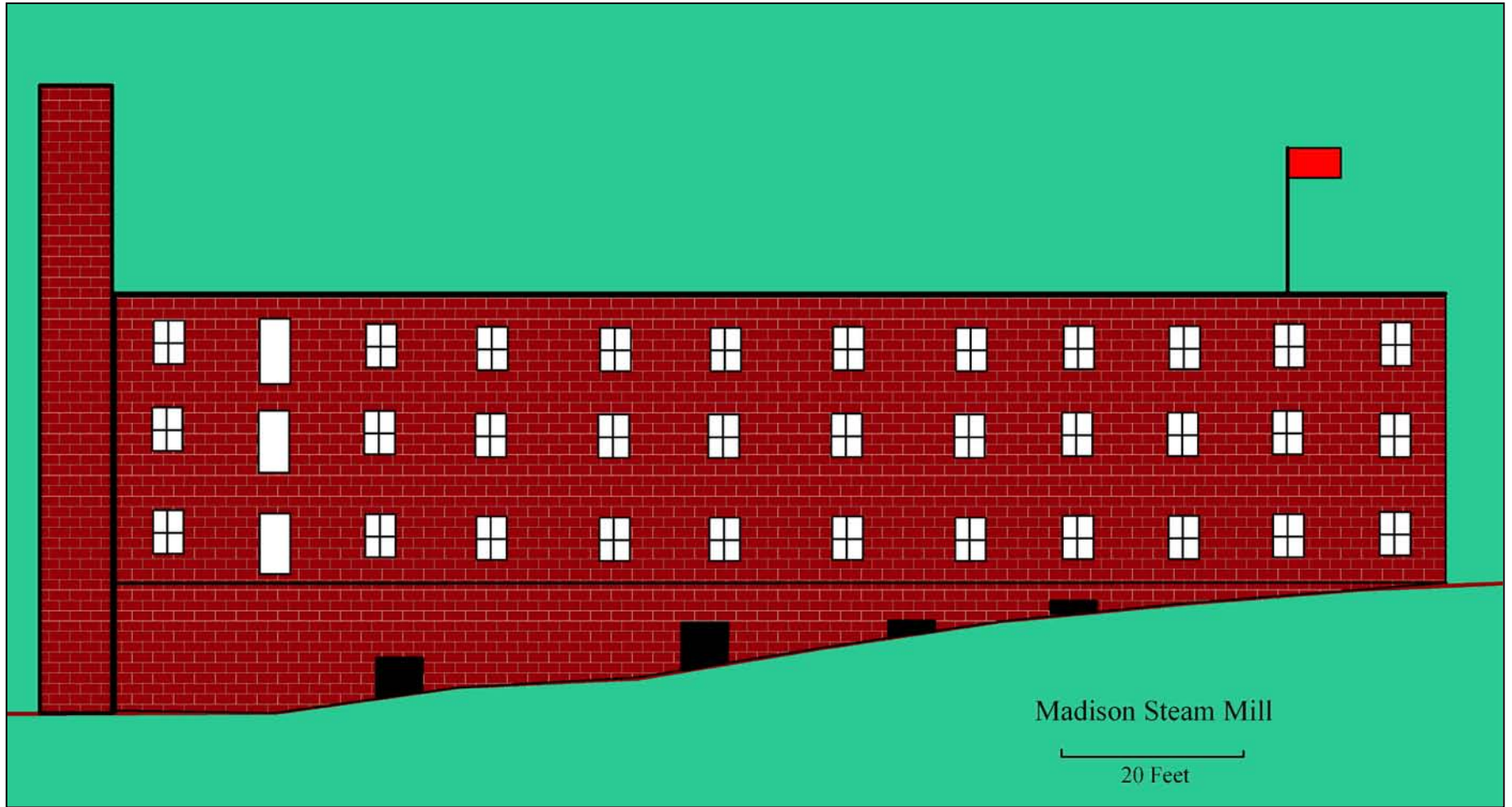


Figure 19. Building Side View Graphic Reconstruction

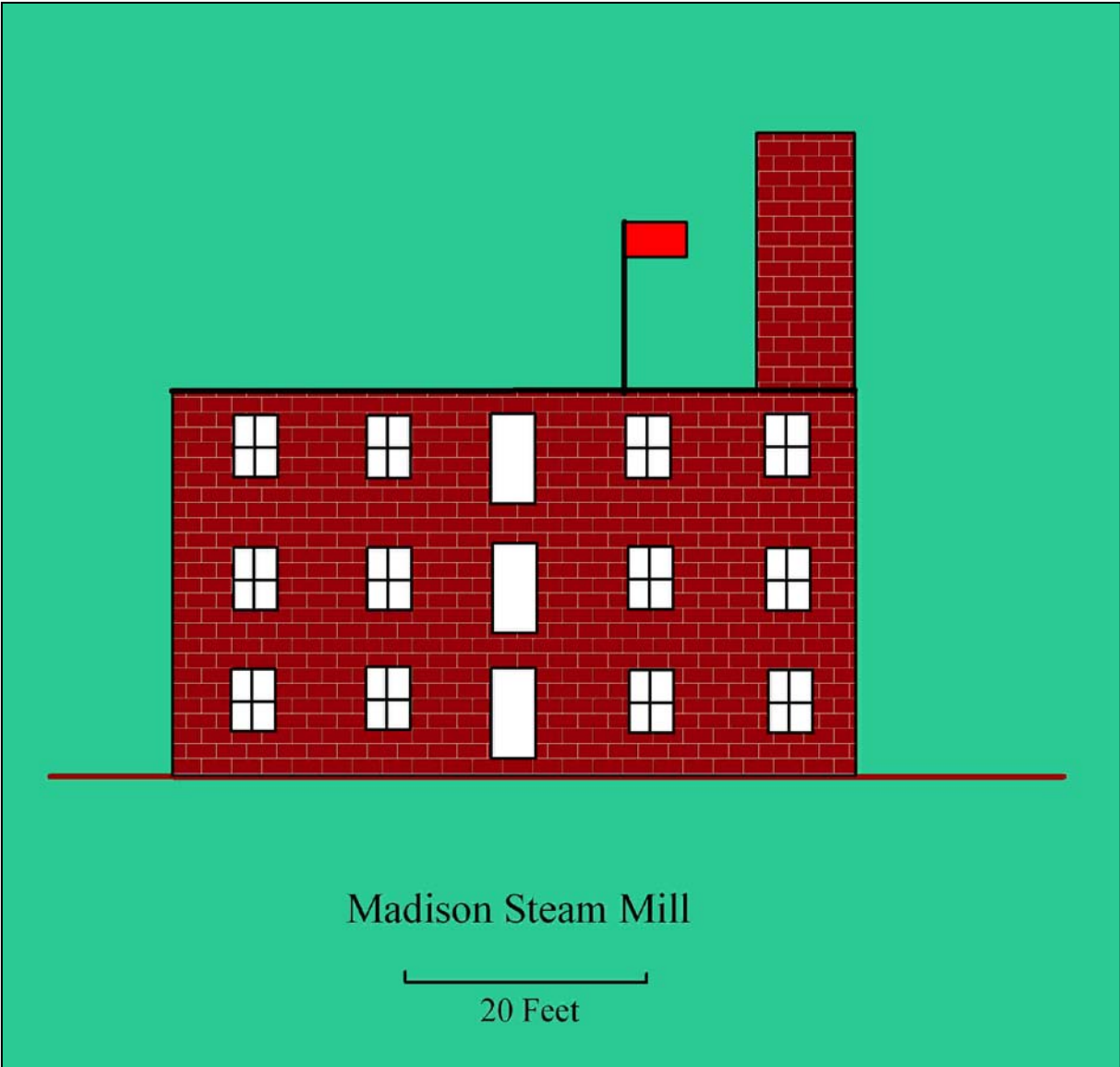


Figure 20. Building End View Graphic Reconstruction